

Dataversity

Charter

Authors	Dan Randow
Contact	Dan Randow dan@onlinegroups.net
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Organisation	Dataversity http://dataversity.org.nz
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Purpose of this Charter

This Charter is the founding document of Dataversity. It defines the purpose, goals, membership and structure of Dataversity. The Dataversity Steering Team is accountable to the Governing Body of Dataversity to uphold this Charter.

The intended audience of this Charter is the Steering Team, Members, Governing Body of Dataversity, as well as organisations that have relationships with Dataversity.

This Charter [will be] put into effect by the Interim Steering Team for Dataversity, in the second half of 2010¹.

Overview of Dataversity

Dataversity is a Community of Practice² of around a hundred biodata practitioners from local government, DoC, CRIs and other government, non-government and private sector organisations, as well as some independent consultants.

Participants in Dataversity share knowledge, tools and assistance, and at times collaborate to develop new resources. There is potential for Dataversity to become the recognised voice for the New Zealand biodiversity and biosecurity data management community.

Biodata managers participate in Dataversity to gain benefits for their own practice. Their participation also benefits others, and therefore the entire biodata sector in New Zealand. This has positive flow-on effects for the data that is available to support biodiversity management nationally and globally.

Strategic Role of Dataversity

Dataversity is an initiative to assist New Zealand local government organisations to cost-effectively improve their practices and systems for managing data related to biodiversity and biosecurity in their region.

Improving biodiversity depends on useful data to support biodiversity and biosecurity management activities, locally, nationally and globally. This biodata is often complex and difficult to manage. New Zealand local government staff who are charged with managing this data, often do so with very limited resources, and limited access to assistance.

CRIs and other agencies provide some biodata systems that are intended for use by local government. The Department of Conservation also operates systems that potentially interact with CRI and Local Government systems. The flow of information about these systems is,

1 <http://dataversity.org.nz/r/topic/3WKmHQgkDoWmRmZ07bEoV3>

2 A community of practice is group of people who collaborate to improve their practice in a specific area.

however constrained by the wide distribution of the organisations and individuals involved.

Dataversity aims to address this problem by supporting collaboration among New Zealand biodata managers from all sectors. That collaboration includes face to face and online conversations, and projects to develop of shared resources. The intended result of this is that local government biodata managers have better access to tools and to assistance to solve problems, and more feedback flows from users to the providers of systems.

If access to assistance and improved tools enable local government biodata managers to improve data management, this will result in more useful data being available to support biodiversity management, locally, nationally and globally.

The way that Dataversity works can be expressed in terms of collaboration producing outputs, that are adopted to produce outcomes,¹ as shown in the following table.

Collaboration →	Outputs →	Adoption →	Outcomes
Greater coordination of efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversations, face to face and online • Development of shared tools • Engagement with related groups 	Better access to tools and assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to assistance, through relationships • Better access to tools, resources, and practices Better understanding of system requirements	Improvement of data management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better Local government systems and practices • Better national systems • More integration between DoC, CRIs and Local Government systems 	Better data available to support biodiversity management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better quality data • More shared data, locally, nationally and globally

Aims for Dataversity

Dataversity aims to be the recognised New Zealand:

- forum for biodata management conversations,
- provider of shared biodata tools for local government, and
- representative voice for biodata managers.

Structure of Dataversity

Participation of Dataversity members is voluntary. A Coordinator encourages and supports participation in line with the strategic role of Dataversity. The Coordinator is accountable to a Steering Team, who manage the activities, and resourcing of Dataversity. The Steering Team that is accountable to a Governing Body that provides a legal structure for Dataversity.

¹ This model is adapted from the PRUB (Projects, Results, Uses, Benefits) model developed by Open Strategies. <http://openstrategies.com>

Members

Membership of Dataversity is open to everyone interested in biodiversity and biosecurity data management in New Zealand. Dataversity has a focus on supporting biodata management within local government.¹

Coordinator

The coordinator may or may not be a member of Dataversity. All members of Dataversity may carry out coordination roles from time to time.

The Coordinator of Dataversity encourages and supports participation. The role of the Coordinator is to:

- engage new participants in Dataversity,
- initiate and support participation in online or face to face conversations,
- manage projects to develop shared resources,
- secure resources for Dataversity,
- engage with related organisations, and
- report on activities and progress to the Steering Team.

Steering Team

The Steering Team supports the ongoing functioning and development of Dataversity. Its role, membership and structure are defined by a Terms of Reference. The steering team is accountable to the governing body for managing of Dataversity, in line with its strategic role.

The main tasks of the steering team are to:

- determine the strategy for Dataversity,
- ensure that conversations are maintained within Dataversity,
- ensure that adequate resources are obtained for Dataversity, and
- represent Dataversity in dealings with related organisations.

Membership of the steering team includes representation from the local government, DoC and CRI sectors.

Governing Body

The Governing Body provides the legal structure under which the Steering Team obtains funding and undertakes projects. The relationship between the Steering Team and the Governing Body is defined by a Governance Agreement.

Related Organisations

Dataversity maintains relationships with related organisations, such as the Biosecurity Institute, the Biodiversity Forum, the Biosecurity Managers Group, and Local government New Zealand.

¹ There is some background to the scope of Dataversity at <http://dataversity.org.nz/r/post/6TiKW07v5tF9uAqCw2XUJG>