Data are rarely understood in isolation.

To read and understand data codes and categories that make up most scientific datasets, you need metadata and documentation.

DDI (or the Data Documentation Initiative) is used all around the world.

DDI is a rich metadata standard that describes data in a consistent and structured way, using a standard vocabulary.

Datasets provide opportunities for rich analysis and reuse, often beyond the original research intent. Applying metadata, that appropriately document data and data elements, helps to ensure that data can be discovered, independently understood, shared, and reused.

DDI enables data to be shared and exchanged effectively at varying levels, including the study level, the file level, and the variable or concept level.

DDI helps researchers, survey managers, librarians, and archivists to document the full production lifecycle of a research dataset, from data collection, through analysis and processing, to publication and dissemination, and finally to reuse.

Funders, data repositories, data centres, libraries, and archives all have a vested interest in improving access to data. And DDI enables greater discovery and access to data through the use of internationally accepted standards to describe and capture data.