Controlled Vocabularies Group Report 2010/11

Submitted by Sanda Ionescu, Chair

Accomplishments

The Controlled Vocabularies Working Group, with technical assistance from the Technical Implementation Committee, has published a first set of vocabularies on May 5, 2011. These vocabularies are designed for the following DDI 3 elements:

- Analysis Unit
- Character Set
- Commonality Type Coded
- Lifecycle Event Type
- Response Unit
- Software Package
- Summary Statistic Type
- Time Method

They are published as independent products, external from the DDI 3 schema. They are designed primarily for DDI 3, but they can also be used with previous DDI versions as well as other documentation standards, as appropriate. The vocabularies are published on the DDI Alliance site, and are available for viewing / download both individually and as a zipped package containing all of them.

They are expressed in Genericode, an XML specification that documents code lists using a tabular model. The vocabularies are thus fully machine-actionable, and the use of codes (rather than natural language entries) will facilitate their translation in other languages.

It is currently anticipated that the Controlled Vocabularies Working Group will maintain and update the published lists, and create new ones as needed, while translations may be organized as a distinct activity, perhaps within, or with support from the Council of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA).

While the first set of vocabularies was being prepared for publication, the CVG has proceeded to finalize enumerations for a few more DDI 3 elements:

- Aggregation Method
- Data Type
- Category Statistic Type
- Date: Calendar

- Publisher Role
- Contributor Role

These will probably be published in the second round, after DDI 3.2 is released, as some changes in the DDI schema are needed in order to support them.

The group is currently working on creating controlled vocabularies for

- Data Source Type
- Mode of Collection
- Kind of Data
- Intended Frequency (of data collection)

Current Members

- Sharon Bolton, United Kingdom Data Archive (UKDA)
- Sanda Ionescu, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
- Taina Jääskeläinen, Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD)
- Chryssa Kappi, National Center for Social Research (EKKE), Greece
- Meinhard Moschner, GESIS -- Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences
- Hilde Orten, Norwegian Social Science Data Service (NSD)
- Randy Michael Raphael, University of Utah, US