Technical Committee Work Plan

*2021-06-17 revised*

The purpose of the Technical Committee is to model, render, maintain, and update the DDI specifications to meet community needs and align with Alliance strategic goals. The TC receives input from substantive working groups of the Scientific Board, DDI users and developers, and other interested parties. This includes the development of conceptual models, implementation of models in various technical forms, monitoring the metadata landscape and related developments, and initiate and plan possible future directions for the standard.

# Highlights of July 2020 – June 2021

* Publication of the new DDI product SDTL on 2020-12-01
* Provision of a web presentation to voting membership improved voter response and clarified the role of SDTL in the DDI Product Suite
* Solicited participation of over 20 members interested in addressing issues for Codebook and improving its interaction with DataVerse and the CESSDA network
* 27 of 40 issues have been resolved
* DDI Alliance web pages
* Initial revision of all pages under Products; update of the Metadata Examples; review of Tools, Profiles, and Relationship to other standards
* Preliminary work on high level coverage model of DDI
* Review of COGS system for development work
* Validating input and output and identifying required changes

# Work Plan July 2021 - December 2022

Continue work identified in DDI Roadmap as approved in 2019 within minor 2020 updates

Roadmap document: <https://ddi-alliance.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DDI4/pages/491555/Technical+Committee?preview=/491555/1998258178/DDI_Roadmap_2021-02-25_update.docx>

**Product Maintenance and Development:**

* DDI-CDI review, vote for publication, and publication if approved. CURRENT STATUS: This has been shifted from the last quarter of the current fiscal year due to adjustments in the DDI-CDI workplan following feedback from presentations/review.
* Codebook 2.6 review, vote for publication, and publication if approved CURRENT STATUS: Group has been working on outstanding issues since June 2020 and has addressed approximately 65% of 2.6 issues
* Long term discussion on the Codebook future structures
* XKOS support – work with group managing XKOS maintenance and development and ensure clear expression of the role of XKOS in DDI Suite
* SDTL support – work with SDTL group to ensure effective use of SDTL with other products as appropriate

**Technical Processes:**

* Lifecycle 3.4 – Complete the move of Lifecycle to the COGS modeling base, testing of input and output for coverage and consistency. This will include testing multiple outputs (XML schema, RDF, JSON, UMI to begin with). CURRENT STATUS: Evaluated input issues and are currently correcting that script. Output scripts accurately reflect stored content.
  + COGS as a processing tool has advantages for Lifecycle as noted when agreed on in 2019 including; auto generation of output structures based on translation rules from object descriptions stored in structured CSV file; ability to add new output formats as needed; ability to generate output and test new content as created;
  + Review implications of multiple outputs on modeling, incorporating discussions and approaches from the Moving Forward work where appropriate; this may require minor remodeling of some choice or sequence usage
* Complete work with CV and ICPSR in setting up the publication process for CVs to DDI space including resolution support
* Resolution process for DDI URNs – HTTP agency resolution service that allows users to create HTTP service definitions using the registry web application for agencies and sub agencies CURRENT STATUS: Discussed requirements

**DDI Product Suite:**

* Comparison and mapping work – continue work from 2020/21 creating a content model for overall DDI coverage, product coverage, and mapping. Includes exploring means of expressing mapping for various needs. CURRENT STATUS: Created a content model as a basis for comparison. Working on specific areas of comparison; Classifications, Variable Cascade
* Continue revision work on DDI Alliance web pages under Products and resource pages under Learn (Metadata Examples, Tools, Profiles, and Relationships to Other Standards
* Integrate update of assigned DDI Alliance web pages into standard publication processes

# 2021 through 2023 (plans continuing into next work period)

* Defining roles of individual products
  + How products work together
  + How advances/changes in one product affect other product development
  + Role of products needs to be clear - use case driven rather than content coverage
  + CDI has a goal of integration to other standards (a hub for integration)– how does this impact current standards and their development - Relatively urgent question in terms of funders - is it a stand alone thing, an integration thing
  + Get feedback from people using CDI to see exactly where and how it’s being used and who that community is
* Inclusion of common functionality
  + where to integrate from CDI
  + Review of Moving Forward work to identify areas of improvement (Questionnaire, data description, geographic description, separation of logical and physical clarification and simplify, descriptive content for codebook)
  + Clarify how products work together
* Mapping between products
  + Moving content across products - Identify content that should and can move between products or subsets of products
  + The needs to be a unified approach with expressions of mapping appropriate to needs of target audiences
* Recruitment of new additional members both on TC part and SB part
  + more people, more use cases,
  + integration of technical contacts
* Review Moving Forward content and organize for easy mining of content and discussion

# General Goals from TC perspective:

* We need to have a discussion of how products work with each other to meet overall goals
* The TC perspective regarding each product is presented on
  + [Overview of Current Products | Data Documentation Initiative (ddialliance.org)](https://ddialliance.org/products/overview-of-current-products)
  + [Developing Products of the Alliance | Data Documentation Initiative (ddialliance.org)](https://ddialliance.org/products/developing-products-of-the-alliance)
* Mapping is a TC level activity which should involve the groups supporting existing and new products
* Recover the discussion of issues over time and layout points and decisions over time
* Align different product implementations over time - how does that work and what does it look like