

The International DOI Foundation

Washington & Oxford

News release – Project announced to develop DOIs for scientific data: German National Library of Science and Technology joins IDF

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The International DOI Foundation is pleased to welcome a new member, the German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB/UB), the world's largest library of science and technology. TIB is to act as IDF contact for a major project, initially of one year duration from 1 October, made possible by a grant from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation), which will implement the use of DOIs to persistently identify scientific data sets. The project is co-ordinated by the World Data Center for Climate (WDCC) at the Max-Planck-Institut für Meteorologie in Hamburg.

This follows from earlier work by a National Committee of CODATA, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology of the International Council for Science (www.icsu.org), resulting in a report "Concept of Citing Scientific Primary Data" in May 2002 recommending the use of DOIs. A continuation through a one year project for pilot implementation has now been made possible by a grant from DFG, the central research organisation that promotes research at universities and other publicly financed research institutions in Germany.

A team from several data centres, led by Dr Michael Lautenschlager at the World Data Centre for Climate, will focus on providing a means of publicly registering data sets with a persistent identifier and structured basic description. The pilot deployment will use geo-reference data (e.g. from observational stations, satellites, and climate models), but will in principle be extensible to any scientific data. This use of DOI will provide for the effective publication of primary data using a persistent identifier for long-term data referencing, allowing scientists to cite and re-use valuable primary data. The DOI's persistent and globally resolvable identifier, associated to both a stable link to the data and also a standardised description of the identified data, offers the necessary functionality and also ready interoperability with other material such as scientific articles.

Dr Michael Lautenschlager said: "This development will ameliorate current shortcomings in data provision and interdisciplinary use, where data sources may not be widely known and data are archived without context. It will enable citations of data in a standard manner, and also facilitate links to more specialised data schemes. The DOI system offers us a proven well-developed system which is already widely deployed and enables us to focus our efforts on the scientific data aspects of the project."

Dr Norman Paskin, Director of the International DOI Foundation, commented: "The IDF has long shared this view (see "Digital Object Identifiers and Digital Preservation of the Record of Science": <u>http://www.doi.org/topics/020210 CSTI.pdf</u>). DOIs are already widely used for the identification of scientific journal articles, through the organisation CrossRef, which recently registered the ten millionth



DOI, and we see this as a natural complementary activity as well as an important development in its own right".

Dr Irina Sens, Deputy Librarian of the TIB, said: "TIB is constantly increasing the ready access of scientists to electronic publications, and to items such as "grey literature" which are not otherwise easily available, and this project is a further step in TIB's role since 1959 as a source of information in all areas of technology and sciences. Access to digital sources via subject gateways and virtual libraries is already significant and datasets are a further vital resource for the scientific community".

For further information:

Dr Irina Sens, TIB: <u>Irina.sens@tib.uni-hannover.de</u> Tel: (+49) 511 7623426

- Dr Michael Lautenschlager, WDCC Hamburg:<u>lautenschlager@dkrz.de</u> Tel: (+49) 40 41173297
- Dr Norman Paskin, International DOI Foundation: <u>n.paskin@doi.org</u> Tel: (+44) 1865 314033

About the International DOI Foundation

The International DOI Foundation (www.doi.org) is a not-for-profit organization created in 1998 to develop and promote the Digital Object Identifier[®] system for identifying content in the digital environment. Through the use of standards-based components the DOI allows persistent access and linkage to content and information.

www.doi.org

About the TIB

The Technische Informationsbibliothek (TIB) is both a University library and the German National Library of Science and Technology and its related basic sciences, in particular chemistry, information technology, mathematics and physics. In its role as the German National Library of Science and Technology and the related basic sciences, the TIB/UB has spent decades successfully meeting the challenge of being an innovative and competent information provider. On the basis of its superb holdings, the TIB/UB today ranks as one of the world's largest specialist libraries, and one of the most efficient document suppliers in their subject areas. http://www.tib.uni-hannover.de/en/

About the WDCC

The World Data Centre for Climate collects, scrutinizes, and disseminates data related to climate change on all time scales. The WDCC focuses on georeferenced data products from climate modelling and related observational data. WDCC is located in the Max-Planck-Institut für Meteorologie and managed in cooperation with the Deutsches Klimarechenzentrum in Hamburg.

