

Workshop on Archiving Scientific & Technical Data

20-21 May 2002, Pretoria South Africa
Venue at the National Research Foundation

Organisers: South African National Committee for CODATA, CODATA Working Group on Data Archiving & National Research Foundation



Why this workshop?

Background

Modern computers have revolutionized the collection, handling and assessing of scientific, commercial and technical data in the 21st Century. Issues such as information technology implications, management concerns, data ownership (IPR), quality and long term availability (archiving) are important to everyone in science, commerce and technology. CODATA and the NRF have many activities that directly address these issues from the perspective of Management and of those responsible for data management, storage, retrieval and archiving of an organisation's data.

Data archiving activities have many common features such as data structure, relationship, display and use. Today data work is crucial in every discipline, and data science is one of the most important emerging fields. As new ideas are developed in data science and scientific informatics, it is important for the progress of science in general that practitioners in all disciplines are aware of the latest advances.

Objectives of the Workshop

The principal objective of this workshop is to contribute to a greater understanding of the requirements of major issues regarding S&T data archiving. This will include the preservation and archiving of S&T data, as well as the underlying conceptual, scientific, technical, management, and policy issues in archiving scientific data. A secondary objective is to make progress on the objectives of the CODATA Working Group on Data Archiving and to advance preliminary plans for the proposed CODATA Task Group on the Preservation and Archiving of S&T Data in Developing Countries.

Contact Persons

More information on the workshop can be obtained from the co-chairs of the CODATA Working Group on Archiving as follows: Dr William Anderson (band@acm.org) and Prof Steve Rossouw (steveros@iafrica.com) as well as from Mrs Henda van der Berg, on behalf of NRF's Organisation Committee.

Details concerning the venue, accommodation and local transport can be obtained from Ms Phindiwe Tsebe (phindiwe@nrf.ac.za). All participants will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Registration and Call for Participation Closing Date

There will be no registration fees. Teas and lunches will be provided for the two days.

Please note that due to limited numbers to the Workshop, the closing date for responding to the call for participation at the Workshop will be on the 28th March 2002.

Details of participants including meals preferences (e.g vegetarian) should be mailed to Mrs Henda van der Berg, e-mail address: jhmvdberg@nrf.ac.za or by post to the Research Information Unit, NRF, PO Box 2600, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa.

Preliminary Programme for the Workshop on Archiving S&T Data

DAY ONE: 20 May 2002

8:00 Registration

9:00 Opening: Prof. Steve Rossouw (South African National Committee of CODATA)

9:15 Welcome & Keynote: Dr Khotso Mokhele (President, National Research Foundation, NRF)

9:45 Keynote Archiving Issues: Dr William Anderson (CODATA Working Group)

10:00 Tea

10:30 Session Discussion 1: Scientific issues: Discipline-specific & interdisciplinary

Chair: Dr L Makhubela (NRF: RI)

Keynote speaker: Dr M Lesaoana (SA Dept of Labour, Ex-SADA)

Keynote speaker: Dr Martin Gründlingh (SADCO)

Rapporteurs: Hettie Terblanche & Johanna Leduka (NRF: RI)

12:00 Lunch

13:30 Session Discussion 2: Technical issues

Chair: Bill Anderson

Keynote speaker: Prof. Liu Chuang (Chinese Academy of Sciences)

Rapporteur: Themba Mohoto (ex-SADA)

15:00 Tea

15:30 Session Discussion 3: Management issues

[Lack of standards, metadata; interoperability; compatibility; supporting documentation, etc. ? pertaining to management not technical]

Chair: Robert Kriger (To be confirmed)

Keynote speaker: Dr L Makhubela (Local concerns) (NRF: RI)

Keynote speaker: Prof. A Kaniki (General issues & principles) (To be confirmed)

Rapporteur: Henda van der Berg (NRF: RI)

17:30 Break

18:00 Reception

DAY TWO: 21 May 2002

09:00 Session discussion 3: Management issues (Continued)

Chair: Prof. A Kaniki

Keynote speaker: Thierry Levoir (French Space Agency (CNES)

Rapporteur: Dr Peter Lor (South African National Library)

10:15 Tea

10:45 Session discussion 3: Continuation (Keynote speaker: Gail Hodge - to be confirmed)

12:00 Lunch

13:30 Session discussion 4: Policy issues

Chair: Dr William Blankley (NRF: Strategic Advice)

Keynote speaker: Dr Paul Uhler (US National Academy of Sciences)

Keynote speaker: SA speaker from DACST or StatsSA (To be confirmed)

Rapporteur: Robyn Arnold (NRF: Strategic Advice)

15:00 Tea

15:30 Session discussion 4: Continuation

16:30 Close (Refreshments served)