



Dryad June 2012 newsletter

Welcome to the June 2012 Dryad newsletter! In this edition:

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Stakeholder governance

“The scientific, educational, and charitable mission of Dryad is to promote the availability of data underlying findings in the scientific literature for research and educational reuse. The vision of Dryad is a scholarly communication system in which learned societies, publishers, institutions of research and education, funding bodies and other stakeholders collaboratively sustain and promote the preservation and reuse of data underlying the scholarly literature.”

This Mission Statement is from Dryad’s new [Bylaws](#), which were approved this month by a vote of its Interim Partners. Since its inception, Dryad been guided by the idea that an enduring community resource requires stakeholder governance, and the Bylaws set out the structure of the membership-based organization by which that will be achieved.

The new governance structure vests financial and legal responsibility with a Board of Directors elected by the Membership. Members may include journals, scientific societies, publishers, funding agencies, universities and any other organization that shares an interest in Dryad’s mission. The twelve Directors serve as individuals, not necessarily affiliated with a Member, and serve - on a voluntary basis - for renewable three-year terms.

A diverse and distinguished list of twenty candidates accepted the nomination to run for the charter Board of Directors in an election held this May. The following twelve individuals were elected to assume office on the 1st of July, and serve terms varying from one to three years.

- Theodora Bloom, Public Library of Science
- Lee Dirks, Microsoft Research
- Simon Hodson, JISC
- Marcel Holyoak, University of California, Davis
- Brian Lavoie, OCLC Research
- William Michener, University of New Mexico
- Allen J. Moore, University of Georgia
- Susanna-Assunta Sansone, University of Oxford
- Eefke Smit, International Association of STM Publishers
- Todd Vision, Biology Dept., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Michael Whitlock, University of British Columbia

The first face-to-face Board Meeting will be held this July in Durham, NC, and the first annual Members Meeting will be held in May 2013. More background on the history and current status of Dryad's governance is available at <http://wiki.datadryad.org/Governance>.

Sustainability planning

Another important milestone was reached when the organization officially adopted a cost recovery plan to ensure Dryad's sustainability. The plan was the result of several years of deliberation among Dryad's Interim Partners, experts in sustainability, and many prospective Member organizations.

The plan identifies three primary funding sources. First are deposit fees, and there are several ways in which they may be paid:

- A journal or publisher may agree to pay an annual fee based on the number of articles it publishes annually, in anticipation that a substantial fraction will have data deposited in Dryad.
- An organization (typically, but not necessarily, a journal or publisher) may pay a fixed fee per data deposited. Vouchers may be purchased for bulk purchases in advance, or organizations may be regularly billed after deposits are received.
- If the fee is not paid through the journal, society, publisher, or other organization, authors may pay the deposit fee at the time of deposit.

The deposit fee will vary among these options depending on transaction costs. It is expected that a Member-discounted prepaid voucher will cost approximately \$50 USD. Members will be entitled to receive a 10% discount.

The rationale for deposit-fees is several-fold. First, collecting revenue upfront allows Dryad to make the data freely available to users and ensure that preservation costs will not be lacking down the road. With a repository of sufficient size, most non-fixed costs are due to new deposits, and are incurred at the time of deposit. Charging deposit fees ensures that revenues will scale with expenses and that funds are available to the repository when they are needed. Furthermore, there are many

different parties making deposits, and the number of deposits from different journals, institutions, investigators, etc., varies widely. Deposit fees have the virtue of distributing the costs among the many parties so that the amount required by each party is relatively small and varies in proportion to usage.

Another source of revenue will be annual Membership fees, expected to be \$1000 USD annually, which will confer voting rights, discounted deposit fees, participation in Annual Meetings, and other benefits.

Deposit fees and membership fees are intended to cover the operating costs of the repository. The third revenue source, funding from grants and charitable organizations, will be used for research, development, and new initiatives. It is expected that this plan will be implemented in parallel with an endowment campaign, which may be used to reduce deposit fees, invest in new technologies, and help assure long-term sustainability. More details about the plan are available at [http://wiki.datadryad.org/Business Plan and Sustainability](http://wiki.datadryad.org/Business_Plan_and_Sustainability).

Summer 2011 Interim Board Meeting

The governance and cost recovery plan emerged from a consultation process that culminated in a meeting of the Dryad Interim Board in Vancouver, Canada in July 2011. This was the third and final meeting of this temporary governing body. Over 25 representatives from a diversity of journals, societies, publishers and other organizations met at the University of British Columbia to review progress and chart the next steps for Dryad.

In addition to the governance and sustainability plans, participants also made progress on a number of important policy issues. Several of these bear on what content Dryad will accept:

- **Software:** Dryad is intended to provide a repository for code only where it does not otherwise have a better home. It is expected that Dryad will be used primarily for snapshots or “one-off” scripts that would otherwise be lost, rather than the maintenance of ongoing software projects that would be better hosted by a public version control system.
- **Other integral and supplementary materials:** Dryad will accept the full range of content that is currently hosted by the journal/publisher as Supplemental Online Material, and not restrict the repository contents strictly to data. This option will be provided to those journals or publishers that wish to take advantage of it. Whether it be software, data, or other material, authors will still be asked to release rights to the content under the terms of [CCZero](#).
- **Qualifying publications:** All content in Dryad must be documented by a publication. The Interim Board expanded the definition of qualifying publications to include not just those that have undergone peer review, but any legitimate publication with expert vetting, such as a doctoral thesis.

The report of the meeting is available [here](#). We extend particular thanks for the success of the meeting to the members of the interim Executive Committee: Marcel Holyoak, William Michener, Allen Moore and Michael Whitlock (chair and host at UBC).

New funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation

Earlier this year, the NSF, through its Advances in Biological Informatics program, announced a new award of \$2.4M over four years to enable Dryad to scale up its technical infrastructure to support the rapidly expanding user base of journals and researchers, ensure that the repository is meeting the needs of that user base, and to complete the transition to a financially independent non-profit organization. We are grateful to NSF for its support for our mission. The text of the grant proposal is publicly available [here](#).

New integrated journals

In recent months, more journals have implemented [submission integration](#) with Dryad to make data archiving easier for authors. Technically, the process entails setting up semi-automated communications between Dryad and the manuscript submission system of the journal. Currently 24 journals have implemented submission integration. Journals that have been added in the past year include:

- *BMJ Open*, published by the BMJ Group
- *Ecological Monographs*, published by the Ecological Society of America
- *Evolutionary Applications*, published by Wiley-Blackwell
- *Heredity*, published by the Genetics Society with Nature Publishing Group
- *Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management*, published by the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- *Journal of Paleontology* and *Paleobiology*, both published by The Paleontological Society with Allen Press
- *PLoS Biology*, published by the Public Library of Science
- *Systematic Biology*, published by the Society of Systematic Biologists with Oxford University Press
- *ZooKeys*, along with seven other journal titles from Pensoft Publishers.

Thanks to the growing number of integrated journals, growing awareness of Dryad, and the importance of data archiving, the rate at which we are receiving deposits continues to grow steadily. Dryad currently holds over 1700 data packages, associated with articles in well over 100 different journals. About three quarters of submissions are from the minority of journals for which submission integration is in place.

New repository features

A number of enhancements to the repository have been made in recent months, including these three that were in high demand from users:

- First, we have modified our submission process to enable the data to be deposited prior to editorial review of the manuscript. Journals that integrate manuscript and data submission at the review stage can now offer their editors and peer reviewers anonymous access to the data in Dryad while the manuscript is in review. This option is currently being used by several of our partner journals, *BMJ Open*, *Molecular Ecology*, and *Systematic Biology*, and is available to any existing or future integrated journal. Note: authors still begin their data deposit process at the journal.
- Second, when authors submit data associated with previously published articles, they can pull up the article information using the article DOI or a PubMed ID, greatly simplifying the deposition process for legacy data.
- Third, Dryad now supports versioning of datafiles. Authors can upload new versions of their files to correct or update the original file. Once logged in to their Dryad account, the My Submissions option appears under My Account in the left side-menu. Prior unfinished and completed submissions are listed; selecting an archived submission allows the author to add a new file. Note that the earlier versions of the file will still be available to users, but the metadata may be modified to reflect the reason for the update. The DOIs will be appended with a number (e.g., “.1”, “.2”) so that each version can be uniquely referenced. By default, users will be shown the most current version of each datafile. They will be notified of the existence of any previous/subsequent versions.

Access and download statistics have been displayed for content in the repository since late 2010; Dryad now displays the statistics for an article’s data together on one page so you can see at a glance how many times the page has been viewed and how many times each component data file has been downloaded. Check out [this example](#) from *Evolutionary Applications*.

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