

Federation of Earth Science Information Partners Partnership Application

Please complete all sections to the fullest extent possible and forward completed application to: Carol Meyer, carol.meyer@earthsciencefoundation.org. If you have any questions, please contact her at 877.870.3747.

I. CONTACT INFORMATION

A. Primary Contact/Principal Investigator

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B. Designated Assembly Representative (could be same as above)

Name: Sayeed Choudhury

Address: Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University

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C. Other Contacts

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Name: Siri Jodha Singh Khalsa

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II. ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION

A. ORGANIZATION/DIVISION/PROJECT NAME:

The Data Conservancy (DC)

B. OVERVIEW OF YOUR PRIMARY ACTIVITIES in regards to the Earth Sciences Community (200 words or less)

Complex interactions among the atmosphere, the ocean, the land, the biosphere, and human behavior pose daunting challenges in understanding the causes of observed phenomena such as climate change and its associated impact on biodiversity and urbanization. Through collection, preservation, and semantic integration of data that are now very difficult to assemble and analyze, the Data Conservancy will transform the ability of scientists to answer grand challenge questions that are important to the nation and the world.

C. Please list and briefly describe the primary product(s) or service(s) that your organization provides (will provide) to the Earth Sciences community.

The Data Conservancy will research, design, implement, deploy, and sustain data curation infrastructure for cross-disciplinary discovery with an emphasis on observational data. Initial efforts of the project will highlight astronomy, earth sciences, life sciences, and social sciences.

While the Data Conservancy is envisioned to be a federation of instances providing data curation services, embedded within a variety of research libraries and institutions; the initial federation will consist of three nodes beginning in mid-2012:

- a node at the Sheridan Libraries, Johns Hopkins University
- a node at the University of Colorado - Boulder
- a node at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole

D. Please give a main website address for the proposed Partnership:

Web Address: <http://dataconservancy.org/>

III. HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL BENEFIT FROM/CONTRIBUTE TO THE EARTH SCIENCE INFORMATION PARTNERS (ESIP) FEDERATION

- A. Describe current or anticipated users of your products and services and how you think the Federation can help you better serve this population. (200 words or less)

The DC communities represent a broad spectrum of scientific domains that generate and use data. Data contributors include individuals and groups in astronomy, life sciences, earth sciences, and social sciences. Researchers in these domains make up the primary user communities as well, but data in the collection will also be valuable to educators, students, citizen scientists, policy makers, and others who can benefit from access to DC data.

Earth science is one of the domains that we are gaining early experiences in. We expect that participating in the ESIP Federation will help ensure that development of DC systems are informed by the knowledge and experience of ESIP Federation members and that DC systems interoperate with existing and developing frameworks in the Earth sciences.

- B. Describe any Earth science technologies that you have developed and are willing to bring to the Federation's efforts to provide best-practices. (200 words or less)

All DC software is open source and available to the community. We hope to provide a comprehensive data curation framework including ingest, preservation, and access capabilities, including the ability to curate remotely held data. We are conducting a variety of comprehensive informatics research activities that delve deeply into the practices of individual research communities and broadly across a wide variety of disciplines. The results of these activities will be broadly disseminated. We expect that ESIP members may find our results useful in their own activities.

- C. Describe how your proposed membership would contribute to the efforts and the mission of one or more standing committees, working groups and/or clusters. See Page 3 for descriptions of the different activities of the various standing committees, working groups, and clusters. (200 words or less)

DC activities overlap well with those of a number of ESIP committees and clusters including:

- Education
- Information Technology and Interoperability:
- Web Services
- Semantic Web
- Data Preservation and Stewardship
- Decisions
- Federated Search

DC members, Ruth Duerr and Siri Jodha Singh Khalsa have been participating in several of these for some time. We anticipate their participation to continue and members of other DC activities (e.g., the DC Broader Impacts group) to begin to participate as mutually beneficial areas of interest emerge.

- D. Describe your own use of Earth science information and data and how you would see this use enhanced by your partnership in the Federation. (200 words or less)

In support of the DC mission, the DC seeks to collect and curate data that meet the needs of its target scientific communities and advance the Data Conservancy's research and development program. We anticipate that development of these capabilities will be informed by the activities of many of the ESIP clusters and committees.

IV. YOUR CHOICE OF MEMBERSHIP TYPE. PLEASE PICK ONE.

ESIP-I (primarily a data center/archive) X

ESIP-II (primarily a research center)

ESIP-III (primarily applications and education)

ESIP-IV (primarily a sponsoring member)

V. Any other comments about your proposed membership and its relation to the Federation that you wish to provide.

Thank you for your application for partnership in the ESIP Federation.

List of Federation Committees and Clusters

Administrative Committees

Executive Committee: Comprised of all standing and administrative committee chairs, ESIP Type Representatives, the President and Vice President of the Federation. Oversight body for most day-to-day activities of the Federation, acts on behalf of the Assembly between meetings.

Constitution and Bylaws: Provides counsel on matters related to the constitution and bylaws and other related issues (e.g. amendments to government documents)

Finance and Appropriations: Oversees financial resources of the Federation, including the annual budgeting process.

Partnership: Reviews and processes all applications for membership before making applications available for review by members of the Federation. Deals with other membership-related issues.

Standing Committees:

Commercial Development: Promotes a forum wherein commercial development of Earth science information can be fostered. (inactive)

Community Engagement: Provides a forum for the Federation to promote partner products and to engage new users for data products and services. (inactive)

Education: Provides a forum to make accessible to educators and learners at all levels in both formal and informal educational contexts the Earth science data, information, tools, and curricula available within the ESIP Federation.

Information Technology and Interoperability: Provides a forum for discussing information technology and interoperability issues of the Earth science community and serves as a central point for activities in this realm.

Products and Services: Provides a forum for defining best practices and defining requirements for earth science products and services. Currently is involved in developing an inventory of partner products and services.

Clusters (presently active, April 2009):

- Web Services
- Semantic Web
- Data Preservation and Stewardship
- Decisions
- Air Quality
- Federated Search
- Water