Data ⊙NE

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Data Observation Network for Earth

and

National Ecological Observatory Network

A successful collaboration requires that all parties understand the expectations of and responsibilities to one another. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between Data Observation Network for Earth (DataONE) and National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) to effectively collaborate. The MOU is not legally binding. To ensure that all parties are in agreement, the expectations and responsibilities are described below.

DataONE Definition

Data Observation Network for Earth (DataONE) is the foundation of innovative environmental science through a distributed framework and sustainable cyberinfrastructure that meets the needs of science and society for open, persistent, robust, and secure access to well-described and easily discovered Earth observational data.

DataONE, supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation (Grant #ACI 1430508), is dedicated to the preservation, access, use and reuse of multi-scale, multi-discipline, multi-national science data via open cyberinfrastucture and a broad education and outreach program.

Member Node Definition

A DataONE Member Node (MN) is operated by an organization to share data, infrastructure, and expertise with DataONE. A MN can be any group that is willing to expose all or portions of its data holdings, or that is willing to host data from other Member Nodes (MNs), through the standardized DataONE service interface. MN institutions may include (but are not limited to) libraries, research centers, scientific consortia, universities, museums, non-profit organizations, citizen science initiatives, corporate divisions and governmental and non-governmental organizations. Individual researchers wishing to share data via DataONE are encouraged to do so through Member Nodes (MNs) within their scientific domain, organizational affiliation, or geographic region.

NEON Description

National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) is a continental-scale ecological observation facility sponsored by the National Science Foundation to gather and synthesize data on the impacts of climate change, land use change and invasive species on natural resources and biodiversity. The mission of NEON is to enable understanding and forecasting of the impacts of climate change, land use change and invasive species on continental-scale ecology – by providing infrastructure and consistent methodologies to support research and education in these areas.

Purpose

These guidelines provide a framework for DataONE Member Nodes to actively collaborate on technologies, community education, standards, strategic planning and other related efforts in support of the establishment and operation of DataONE. As part of the partnership with MNs, DataONE will ensure that services and capabilities described below are provided with the overall goal of maintaining a persistent, reliable, and sustainable cyberinfrastructure

The above goals will be accomplished by undertaking the following activities.

Member Nodes Service Responsibilities

    a. Implement the DataONE service API appropriate to the desired Tier of service, minimally supporting data and metadata discovery and access. This may require mapping the MN's internal data model to the DataONE model (data, system metadata, scientific metadata). Otherwise, MNs may choose to provide their data and metadata using software suites that already implement the DataONE service API;

    b. Support DataONE authentication and authorization policies and protocols;

    c. If the MN is operating in a replication capacity, it agrees to store copies of other MN's data and metadata;

    d. Maintain persistence and uniqueness of its own data and metadata identifiers;

    e. Upload only selected content for which the MN has the legal right of redistribution, and grant rights to DataONE to make that content available as specified by the access control rules provided by the MN and documented in the metadata;

    f. Participate in the DataONE User Group and the Member Node Forum;

    g. Notify DataONE should the member node no longer be able to act as a member node and discuss options for disposition of MN content;

    h. Provide an administrative contact for MN activities as well as a technical contact (such as a data/repository manager) to manage technical operations of the MN;

DataONE Service Responsibilities

    a. Make available DataONE infrastructure and services;

    b. Manage its underlying IT infrastructure according to standards for continuity and security that are widely adopted by higher education and/or government organizations. In the advent of detection of malware, viruses, compromised content, and/or other services/processes impacting the DataONE network, DataONE will immediately suspend the operation and availability of that particular MN until resolution by all parties involved results;

    c. Protect the integrity of the network by restricting service access to or from any MN exhibiting activity deemed to represent a breach of service guidelines;

    d. Make reports of summary metrics available to MNs on a regular basis and at the request of MNs on an ad-hoc basis;

    e. Provide appropriate attribution to all supplied data and metadata and encourage members of the DataONE community to do likewise;

    f. Ensure MNs have access to documentation, training materials, and community support in order to establish and maintain DataONE tools and services;

g. Make no claims of ownership about metadata or data entered into DataONE, but require the right to redistribute metadata and data on behalf of the MN and as specified by the MN in their access control directives;

h. Make available the full suite of DataONE tools and best practices materials, and provide frequent updates on DataONE product development;

i. Actively solicit feedback, suggestions, and input for future DataONE services, capabilities, and initiatives from Member Node participants.

Collaboration and Communication Methods

These partnership guidelines will be carried out through periodic meetings (DataONE Users Group), briefings, working group participation, listserv communication, conference calls, and other communication as necessary.

Funding

The parties acknowledge and agree that nothing in this MOU assigns any intellectual property rights of a party to the other party nor specifies a commitment of funds.

Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from DataONE and NEON. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from DataONE and NEON and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the parties.ners by mutual consent.

Contact Information

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(Partner signature)   Date:
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Rebecca Koskela   1 July 2016

Rebecca Koskela, Executive Director, Data ONE