

# Software, Data sets and Subject Scope

Presentation of the report *'Utility of Metadata Fields and Worksheets, and Extension of Scope of the ASFA database.'*

By Tamsin Vicary, presented 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015, ASFA  
Advisory Board Meeting, Halifax, NS, Canada

# Contents

1. **Software** – updating the current platform- why. Next steps.
2. **Data sets** – whether we want to include them and how.
3. **Subject scope** – why ASFA shouldn't expand subject scope at this point.

# 1. Software: ASFA requirements and metadata fields

Metadata fields: small changes to ensure they reflect breadth of material being recorded:

- additions in type of document (Ephemera; Audio/Video; and possibly data set);
- addition of DVD and PowerPoint slides in physical medium.
- addition of new field: Article Number
- guidelines for avoiding broken URLs should be written

# 1. Software: update versus new system

## CURRENT SOFTWARE

- Already functioning
- Has the level of detail required for ASFA records
- Warning and error messages
- Current partners don't need training

## WEB BASED SYSTEM

- Time and skill required to install new system from ASFA Secretariat and partners
- Potential to lead to loss of detail and accuracy with records
- Requires reliable internet access
- Would require maintenance

**Any software change would require effort from partners.**

**Implementation not feasible at this point!**

# 1. Updating the software: Next steps

The next release of the WWW ISIS ASFA software will be:

- Linux compatible
- Not DOS based
- Unicode compliant
- No restriction to size of pick lists

We recommend developments regarding tools be monitored with a view to the next update of the software.

**Questions and opinions welcome!**

## 2. Data sets: definition

Thomson Reuter's Data Citation Index (launched 2012) defines a data set as:

“a single or coherent set of data or a data file provided by the repository, as part of a collection, data study or experiment. Data sets may present in a number of file formats and media types: they may be number based files such as spreadsheets, images, video, audio, databases etc. Data sets can be a citable object in the literature and may have cited references attached in their metadata, but more commonly they inherit the metadata of the overall study in which they are used.”

ASFA could provide records for data sets held by partners institutions, leading to greater coverage for the institute and better access to data for researchers – **but only if there is the capacity to do it well!**

## 2. Data sets: questions for partners

1. Does your institution produce, record, or store data sets?
2. If yes, would you like to create ASFA records for your institution's data sets on ASFA?
3. Do you have the necessary resources to cope with the extra input required if data sets were to be recorded?
4. Would you like ASFA to cover data sets?

To help you decide here is a summary of our exploratory work so far...

# 2. Data sets : what would they look like on ASFA?

**Signposting as opposed to storage** – metadata of data set and NOT data set itself

**Cross walk of seven different metadata standards for data sets:** INSPIRE; DCAT; Datacite; DCI; AEDA; USDG; IOC (available [here](#))

**New worksheet necessary - ten new fields required for ASFA data set records:**

English dataset title; no-English dataset title; Dataset(s) creator personal; Dataset(s) creator corporate; Dataset contributors; Contributor type; Dataset publisher; Dataset publication date; Dataset time period; online availability – Data url address

For ASFA data set full record – see the [report](#) pages 15-18

## 2. Data sets : Next steps

1. Survey partners – if sufficient material and capacity is available then...
2. Incorporate new worksheet into next software release
3. Update guidelines and manuals
4. Monitor usage and coverage!

# 3. Subject Coverage : why not to expand

“We recommend that the subject scope of ASFA is not expanded and that this option is not explored again until the number of ASFA input centres has increased sufficiently to be able to cover the extra input that would be required.”

- Unable to fully cover new areas – coverage would not be comprehensive
- Inputter can decide whether to include material that could be considered outside the scope of ASFA if there is a particular aspect of relevance to ASFA
- ASFA’s strength lies in depth not range of coverage

Final thoughts and any questions?

