OUTLINE

• Objectives
• Background
  - SSHRC National Data Archive Consultation (2002)
• Forum
  - Participants, Format, Speakers and Sponsors
  - Strategy - Vision 2020
  - Findings - Impact Areas, Challenges to Open Access and Areas for Action
• Recommendations
OBJECTIVES

• Recommend open access actions to the Canadian research community
• Help to preserve historically significant data
• Generate workable solutions to the different barriers to access
BACKGROUND

Introduction
- Public funding debate – value for money
- Open access as an accelerator vs commercial interests
- Need for systematic data archiving
- Other issues
BACKGROUND (Cont’d)


Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (Canada) Consultation on National Data Archive (2002)
FORUM (November 2004)

PARTICIPANTS

• Task Force, chaired by David Strong
• Project Management, chaired by Gordon Wood
• Participants: N = 74
• Wide coast-to-coast representation of organizations and disciplines
Participants

- Senior Academic Researchers
- Senior Academic Administrators
- Federal Networks of Centres of Excellence
- Research Laboratory Senior Scientists
- Research Laboratory Administrators
- Data Libraries (CARL)
- Granting Council Senior Staff
- Statistics Canada Researchers
FORUM (Cont’d)

FORMAT

• Prominent speakers to set tone, give background & focus minds
• Facilitated, small groups discussions with periodic plenary sessions
• Generated a « mind-map » - means of grouping ideas
Speakers

- **Dr. Arthur Carty** – Keynote
- **Chuck Hasel** (sub for Martin Godbout) – Genome Canada
- **Marie Tobin** – Industry Canada. (OECD Rep.)
- **Janet Halliwell** – SSHRC
- **Lessons learned**
  - **Paul Uhlir** – US NA
  - **David Moorman** – SSHRC
  - **Charlyn Black** – CIHR
- **Greetings from Partner organizations**
  - **Patricia Kosseim** – CIHR
  - **Eliot Phillipson** – CFI
  - **Steve Shugar** – NSERC
  - **Michael Raymont (Bernard Dumouchel)** – NRC
Sponsors

• Managing Sponsor
  – National Research Council of Canada

• Primary Sponsors
  – Canada Foundation for Innovation
  – Canadian Institutes of Health Research
  – Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

• Collaborating Sponsor
  – Industry Canada
FORUM – Strategy

• Relate to a vision of the Canadian data scene in 2020
Vision – 2020

• Canada is the centre of the global knowledge grid.
• It has become the desired nation with which to partner in research because of its national system of open access to research data.
• Canadian creativity and innovation is the highest in the world.
• Open but secure access to powerful and globally assembled data has transformed scientific research. …
Vision – 2020 (Cont’d)

• Researchers routinely analyze problems of previously unimaginable complexity in months rather than decades

• Resulting knowledge and discovery have
  – enriched quality of life,
  – transformed healthcare,
  – improved social equality,
  – provided greater security,
  – broadened decision perspectives,
  – transformed advancement of human knowledge.
FORUM – Given that Vision …

• What were the challenges?
• What were the inhibitors?
• What did we do to get there?
• What are the actions needed now?
Findings – Impact areas

• New Science
• Better Science
• Leadership in Innovation
• Superior Policy and Strategy
• More Efficient Research
• Enhanced Education
Findings – Challenges to Open Access

- Priority of Need
- Champions for Change
- Culture (research, administrative and bureaucratic)
- Training
- Standards and Processes
- Archival Expertise
- Responsibilities, Systems and Tools
- Other Challenges and Opportunities
Findings – Areas for Action

- Research Culture and Behaviour
- Research Institute Management, Policies and Strategies
- Legal and Policy Frameworks
- Financing and Budgeting of Research
- Data Technologies and Computing Infrastructure
Recommendations (1)

• Sponsors/Partners
  – Establish ‘Data Force’

• Data Force
  – Commission small scale pilot project
  – Plan & supervise formation of Data Canada
  – Education – foster awareness in leadership
  – Funding – seek long-term funding for Data Canada
  – Develop data access strategic plan
Recommendations (2)

• Data Canada
  – Interaction with international community
  – Deal with ethics, privacy, liability and anonymization issues
  – Establish a framework for archiving selected data
  – Take steps to preserve databases at risk
  – Develop assessment criteria for data quality and value (via international collaboration)
Recommendations (3)

• Funding Agencies
  – Train principal investigators in data management practices
  – Require data management plans in grant applications
  – Provide resources to fund preservation of important data
  – Establish peer review mechanism for evaluating data
  – Establish reasonable time limits for denying access by others

• Universities and Researchers
  – Extend reward system to include recognition of excellence in data ‘management’
  – Train specialists in data preservation and curation
Conclusion - Next Steps

Find Champion(s) to take forward with support of Partners/Sponsors