

Scientific Data Issues

The Nordic Perspective



9 April 2002, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

Why this meeting

The internet and modern computers have revolutionized the collection, handling and accessing of scientific and technical data (S&T) in the 21st Century. Issues such as data ownership (IPR), instant dissemination via the web, quality and long term availability (archiving) are important to everyone in science. CODATA and ICSU have many activities that directly address these issues from the perspective of enabling the strongest possible scientific and engineering Research and Development (R&D)

S&T data activities have many common features such as their structure, relationship, display and use. Today data work is crucial in every discipline, and data science is one of the most important emerging fields. As new ideas are developed in data science and scientific informatics, it is important for the progress of science in general that researchers in all disciplines are aware of the latest advances.

In this one-day meeting, CODATA with data experts from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland will explore these issues with special focus on the needs of the Nordic Countries. Representatives of relevant governmental services, scientific academies, national and regional scientific bodies and local data experts will participate.

CODATA is an interdisciplinary Scientific Committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU). It works to improve the quality, reliability, management and accessibility of data of importance to all fields of science and technology.

CODATA is a resource that provides scientists and engineers with access to international data activities for increased awareness, direct cooperation and new knowledge.

CODATA, established over 33 years ago by ICSU, promotes and encourages on a world-wide basis the compilation, evaluation and dissemination of reliable numerical data of importance to science and technology. Today 23 countries are members, 14 International Scientific Unions have assigned liaison delegates, there are 5 co-opted delegates and 20 supporting organizations from industry, government and academia.

CODATA's mission is even more important. As a result of the pre-eminence of the information revolution fueled through the internet, the World Wide Web and the explosion of personal computing today.

Tentative Agenda

1. The Importance of Data for Science and Technology in the 21st Century

2. European Data Legislation and its impact on Data Access

3. Database Quality Tools for the Study and Evaluation of Database Quality

4. Today's Scientific Data Management Issues

5. Information Economic Issues and their Impact on S&T Data Activities

Panel Discussion
Representatives from
Norway, Sweden, Finland,
Denmark