

The new TG on “Data At Risk” (DARTG) is a group of 15 individuals from Canada, America, Europe and China. Our backgrounds span academia, teaching, research, government service and the private sector, and our professional expertise includes hands-on experience in astronomy, biology, climatology, geology, hydrology and oceanography, and managerial expertise in data archiving, curation and preservation, data management and data policies. Brought together by a common purpose, the TG members are individually committed to the project, and have formed an important bond through teleconferencing and e-mails. We have set up a public Webpage (<http://ils.unc.edu/janeg/dartg/>) and we run our own wiki for posting information of specific value to the TG. The foundation stone was laid with the exchange of an Agreement between DARTG and Partners at University of North Carolina (UNC), who will severally manage the Website, host the Inventory of Data At Risk whose meta-data will be submitted to it, and assist in its design and maintenance. The first examples of real data at risk have been submitted to the embryonic Inventory as a practical guide for its structure and development.

Visits by the Chair to Members in the home institutions include the Berlin Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum (member: Anton Güntsch; with Thierry Pauwels), the National Climate Data Center in Asheville, NC (member: Stephen Del Greco), National Archives and Records Administration, MD (member: Vivek Navale), and the Metadata Research Center, UNC (member: Jane Greenberg; with William Anderson). Griffin and Anderson also gave seminars during their visit to UNC. Participation by the TG in an international Workshop (“Preserving and adding Value to Data: PV2011”) in Toulouse will take place in November, and the TG will also be described at other meetings to be attended by various members in Europe during the Fall.

An application has been made to the International Council on Archives to endorse our project. Advice on funding, partnerships and project development which the ICA may then offer will be very gratefully received, as we are keen to advertise our project as widely as possible.