

AMS Data Policy Statement

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Chair, Board on
Data Stewardship

7 January 2013
Town Hall Meeting

AMS Annual Meeting
Austin, TX

AMS Statements Process

- Statements are drafted in a multistep process by a drafting committee composed of volunteers/experts in the subject area and who bring different perspectives;
 - a) Initiation,
 - b) Approval and Appointment of a drafting committee,
 - c) Drafting of the statement by the drafting committee,
 - d) Review (by membership, committees, council) and revision,
 - e) AMS Council approval.
- The entire process is overseen by the AMS Council
 - There is an eight month clock once the drafting process begins
 - **The clock started in late September 2012**

Policy Statements

- Aimed at representatives of local, state, and Federal government, officials of international bodies, and related policy professionals.
- The purpose(s) may be one or more of the following:
 - To advocate a position on science and technology issues of concern to AMS members;
 - To provide analysis, articulate the state of scientific understanding, or express the concern of the scientific community about issues pertinent to a current public policy issue;
 - To raise awareness of a scientific issue with potential future policy implications;
 - To make policy recommendations based on the professional and scientific expertise and perspectives of the AMS.

Need for a New Data Policy

- Our science requires open and timely access to data from around the globe and from all spheres of the Earth System;
- All areas of the Society are impacted by data-related issues.
- As a result of IT advances, there has been a revolution in the area of data services, including changes in how data are provided, accessed, analyzed, managed, shared, and archived;
- The previous Statement on Free and Open Exchange of Environmental Data, put forth in 2002, expired many years ago and there is no current statement in place on data;
- New concepts and views have since emerged: e.g., data transparency, re-use, provenance, stewardship, preservation, citation, standards, and conventions;
- For these reasons, the Board on Data Stewardship and AMS Council agreed that a new Policy Statement on data is needed.

Drafting Committee/Writing Team

- Mohan Ramamurthy, Chair, Unidata/UCAR
- Steve Worley, Co-Chair, NCAR
- David Robinson, Rutgers University
- David Jorgensen, NOAA, Publications Commissioner
- Stephen DelGreco, NOAA/NCDC
- Tim Hall, Certified Consulting Meteorologist
- Mona Behl, AMS Policy Program
- Lars Riishojgaard, NASA/JCSDA
- Wasilla Thiaw, AMS Council Representative

Sincere thanks to all for their generous help.

Purpose of thisTown Hall Meeting

- To get input from for the Data Policy Statement from AMS members in ALL sectors
 - Content
 - Scope
 - Format

Draft Outline

- Three main sections
 - Introduction and Background
 - Issues and Principles
 - Recommendations
- Keep it crisp and concise
 - Preferably less than 1000 words

Some Challenging Issues

- “Free and Open”: What is reasonable when costs are involved?
- Intellectual property right considerations
- Data collected by the private sector and procured by federal agencies (e.g., lightning, aircraft, and other data)
 - Need nuanced language that takes into consideration the myriad sensitivities
- Data from international sources
- Sharing software and algorithms related to data
- Data transparency, citation, and publication

Abbreviated Guiding Principles

- Unrestricted access to data from around the globe and all spheres of the Earth System is fundamental to the advancement of basic science;
- All entities should have, to the extent feasible, unrestricted access to data;
- Reasonable cost recovery is necessary to ensure data availability; however, to the greatest extent possible, access should be free;
- Data curation and stewardship are essential to serve science and societal needs;
- Authoritative metadata and data in accepted standard forms are fundamental to effective data use;
- Timeliness of data access processing is critical for operational data use;
- Government and commercial sector should activate pre-planned joint data collection capabilities that can address the societal crisis
- Irreplaceable data should have metadata that make them useable for generations to come;
- Increased public-private partnerships is needed to ensure more open and affordable access to data

Preliminary Recommendations

- Document the advantages of full and open data access, and promote it as a best practice in the AMS;
- Design programs to reduce data sharing barriers between the public, private, and academic communities;
- Advocate that funding and planning entities recognize the data management costs and support those activities;
- All scholarly journal articles should contain sufficient details about sources of information (literature and data) and methodology used to permit verification of a paper's scientific conclusions. This assumes that data upon which the conclusions are derived are readily available to the scientific community;
- Officially recognize the value of the data scientists as a career
- Governments adopt policies and practices that incentivize private sector innovation and partnering
- U.S. Government develop a process to identify privately collected data that may be useful in a time of crisis and develop access plans for those data.

Next Steps

- Receive your input on the Principles and Recommendations
- The committee will continue revise the current draft based on your and other input
- We will be proactive in seeking additional input from the AMS Committees and Boards
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