

2018 IRIS Data Summit

October 15-16, 2018

Ann Arbor, MI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thank you to those who attended the 2018 IRIS Data Summit (and to those who participated virtually via web conference). We found the discussions to be quite rich and write now to follow up on the conversations we heard and actions we plan to take as a result.

Attendance was excellent: a total of **60 representatives** were present from **IRIS**, the **U.S. Census Bureau**, **18 IRIS member universities**, **2 prospective member universities**, the **Association of Public Land-grant Universities (APLU)**, the **Association of American Universities (AAU)**, and **Bureau van Dijk**. attended the event. In addition, we provided web conferencing options for those wishing to attend virtually, with a number of individuals tuning in via webinar and Twitter. Attendance at the yearly IRIS Data Summit has increased four-fold since 2015. Notably, the attendees represented a mix of roles, with a roughly equivalent balance of those who prepare and submit the data to IRIS and those who make decisions about how to use the resulting reports.

This year's Data Summit took place over a day and a half, which allowed extra time for discussion and networking. We hope you found the format to be beneficial. Your feedback is critical in helping us structure an event that is as useful as possible. A link to an evaluation of the event is attached.

Additional materials include slides from the talks and detailed information about the supplementary data elements IRIS proposed at the Summit.

Broad themes:

Communication is critical. We need to help members and prospective members understand the intricacies of submitting data and how to most efficiently use the reports they receive. We also need to help them identify best practices internally. Because turnover at all levels is problematic, we should develop an explicit set of training materials for new people that could include handouts and videos. Communication should also focus on helping IRIS members

understand the major benefit of access to the research data, and helping them develop strategies to share this information with their researchers. Communication with members about special projects and reports under development is essential. Finally, IRIS must think about how to speak on behalf of its members as a data community.

Remove barriers to participation, wherever possible. Focus on understanding the perceived costs that might prevent universities from taking advantage of this opportunity. This might include streamlining the MOU process, creating procedures that could help new members collate data and prepare for submission, and developing a tiered membership model that might help universities that are less well resourced participate. Taking a multi-pronged approach to membership development that focuses on streamlining processes is essential.

Host an IRIS Summit in the coming years that includes a mix of sessions that are relevant to all as well as those geared for the people who prepare and submit data, as well as those who interpret reports and use them to set policy. Develop opportunities for more affinity groups focusing on specialized activities or projects across the membership.

Action items & next steps

IRIS will:

- Engage a small group of universities in a pilot test of new award ID fields to enhance reporting
- Circulate a draft charge and description of prospective membership for a Policy and Outreach Committee (POC)
- Develop new materials and potentially a set of webinars or videos to aid universities in the onboarding process and in developing data for submission
- Release the new web portal to members for the next round of data submission
- Revise the new vendor report in response to your comments for release early in 2019
- Continue to improve communications with a particular focus on providing models for campus-level governance of IRIS activities and use of IRIS reports and data for outreach and advocacy
- Begin planning for a more expansive IRIS Summit in 2019 with specific tracks for data providers, data users, and research anchored on common plenary sessions

Mark your calendar! **The 2019 IRIS Summit is slated for the fourth week of September.** Look for more details to come. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you next year!

The IRIS Team



University of Michigan Institute for Social Research
426 Thompson Street, Room 1430

Agenda

Monday, October 15

- 10:00-11:30 **TAG Meeting** (Room 1440)
Open to TAG members and anyone with an interest in joining
- 11:30-12:30 **Check in, Lunch**
Lunch in Room 1450
- 12:30-1:00 **State of IRIS**
Executive Director Jason Owen-Smith will provide an update on the activities of the past year and will discuss the challenges and opportunities facing IRIS as we think about future directions.
- 1:00-1:55 **IRIS Team Reports**
Technical Director Kevin Bjorne will provide an overview of the IRIS Technical Team structure and activities, and will then introduce the team leads, who will share information about the range of their activities and key achievements over the past year.

- 2:00-2:45 **Research Findings with IRIS Data**
Bruce Weinberg, IRIS Co-PI and Professor at The Ohio State University, will present an overview of key research findings with IRIS data.
- 2:45-3:00 **Break**
- 3:00-3:55 **Enhanced Vendor Profile Report**
IRIS has been exploring additional reporting opportunities with Orbis data and will present a transformed Vendor Profile Report with the goal of seeking feedback from participants. Technical Director Kevin Bjorne will demo the enhanced report; Jordan Hoffa from Bureau Van Dijk will provide additional information about the possibilities of the Orbis dataset.
- 4:00-4:55 **New Reporting Under Development:
CTSA, XSEDE, SDPP**
Over the past year, IRIS has launched several pilot projects that examine outcomes of large initiatives or domains of activity across many universities. Executive Director Jason Owen-Smith and Managing Director Nancy Calvin-Naylor will describe these projects, with comments from Census Bureau representative Shawn Klimeck.
- 5:00-5:15 **Wrap up**
Executive Director Jason Owen-Smith will summarize the conversations of Day 1 and will provide an overview of Day 2 activities.
- 5:15-6:15 **Reception**
Please join us in the Thompson Atrium for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation.

Tuesday, October 16

8:30-9:00 **Continental breakfast, networking**

Buffet in Room 1450

9:00-9:15 **Welcome**

Executive Director Jason Owen-Smith reviews the events of Day 1 and provides an overview of Day 2 conversations.

9:15-10:00 **Federal Government Data Strategy**

IRIS Co-PI and Professor at New York University Julia Lane will provide an overview of the federal government's initiative to develop a coordinated and integrated approach to federal data stewardship, use, and access.

10:00-10:30 **Break, Networking**

10:30-11:10 **Concurrent Sessions**

Session A: Enhancing Data Quality

Led by Technical Director Kevin Bjorne with team members Amy Butchart and Rob Truex, this session will provide an overview of the steps IRIS has taken this year to improve the quality of data.

Session B: Policy & Outreach Committee

Formation

(Room 1440)

This is a working session for interested individuals who wish to help IRIS draft a charge for a Policy & Outreach Committee and to identify potential members.

- 11:15-12:15 Technical Improvements**
IRIS continually strives to enhance and improve our work. This session will get in the weeds as we share work we have done to improve data cleaning and automation efforts, improved data security, and a new, more user-friendly portal.
- 12:15-1:45 Working lunch:
Next Steps to Improve IRIS Data & Reporting**
Buffet in Room 1450
Executive Director Jason Owen-Smith and Technical Director Kevin Bjorne will discuss a proposal to explore the inclusion of new data in future submissions that would enable IRIS to provide more robust reporting.
- 1:45-2:40 IRIS Member Panel Discussion**
Various IRIS member representatives will provide thoughtful commentary on the conversations of the Data Summit and will generate discussion that will help IRIS focus its efforts in the coming years.
- 2:45-3:15 Closing Session: What we learned, future
directions**
Executive Director Jason Owen-Smith will summarize the key messages from the Data Summit.

Thank you for all you do with and for IRIS. Safe travels!

IRIS Policy & Outreach Committee (POC) Formation

Interested individuals gathered to discuss the charge and membership of a Policy & Outreach Committee, required by the IRIS bylaws. The list below represents a high level overview of that conversation.

Vision

The IRIS POC will be a nexus of communication between IRIS, its members, and a broad stakeholder community emphasizing the value of IRIS and its products and developing best practices for outreach, governance, and engagement.

Draft Charge

- Develop mechanisms to streamline the membership process
- Generate best practices and use cases for data, reporting, and advocacy
- Expand communities of support among members at all levels
- Offer guidance on marketing IRIS to universities broadly, as well as internally on a campus
- Help connect IRIS to relevant groups such as FDP, AAU-CFR, and COGR
- Aid in the translation of new research findings for various IRIS stakeholders
- Provide guidance to the IRIS director and Board on issues pertaining to the use of data and reports
- Offer input on new products and reports
- Contribute to planning of future IRIS summits with an emphasis on expanding stakeholder participation

Potential membership:

- IRIS member representatives, with an emphasis on consumers of the data (such as government relations)
- University executive officers including COO and Chief Academic Officers/Provosts
- Researchers, aiming for a mix of fields and career stages
- Representatives from relevant associations and from the public
- One TAG member
- Representatives from relevant industry associations such as UIDP

Next steps

IRIS will:

- Revise and finalize the POC charge in response to your comments
- Present the final charge to the IRIS Board of Directors for comment and approval
- Solicit volunteers to join the board for 2-3 year renewable terms

- Convene a web conference of initial POC members in early 2019 to identify additional participants from external stakeholder groups
- Propose initial goals for the POC leading up to the 2019 IRIS Summit

Improving Award Identity - Pilot

IRIS conducts many streams of analyses that measure the features of university R&D and its impact. One stream concentrates on measuring the impact of sponsored awards outside the university using indicators such as dissertations, publications, and patents. Another focuses on how sponsored project awards connect researchers within and across universities. Both lines of work rely on IRIS' ability to uniquely identify a given sponsored award and to link that award to employees and to research products.

To date, IRIS has identified individual awards by building sets of unique award identifiers from the transaction-level data provided by universities. However, we have discovered that a single university sometimes identifies a given award using multiple sets of identifiers. The same award may be indexed by different identifiers on multiple campuses (as when a prime awardee uses one number and its subcontractors use other identifiers). Variations in unique award identifiers limit the ability to trace the award within the university, from one university to another, and from a given university to the outside world of dissertations, publications, patents and federal award data.

Therefore, we have assembled a set of identifiers that we believe will uniquely identify each award. To create this new set of identifiers, we have consulted with local researchers and managers in financial, grants management, research administration, and business systems. We have presented the draft set to our technical advisory group and at our recent national meeting. We are now circulating the draft data dictionary for comments and piloting the use of this proposed table with a small subset of our member universities.

Pilot project: We are piloting this project this winter. In this pilot, we hope to learn more about the feasibility of extracting this data from university systems and test our ability to make new linkages using this data. We plan to test the process with several IRIS member universities in turn, with the possibility of making revisions at each step. Within the next year, we plan to finalize the set of information we will request. At that point, we will propose that all IRIS universities include award-level data as a separate table in their data uploads.

We welcome your comments and questions on this effort, as we work to improve our ability to identify awards and use them to in our measures of universities' impact. For more information and for a copy of the data dictionary when the comment period is complete, contact IRIS Technical Director Kevin Bjorne, kbjorne@umich.edu.