

Technical Architecture Group Interest Group Charter

1. Convenor

Roger Hyam (roger@tdwg.org). Based in Edinburgh, UK.

2. Core Members

Will be completed after mail round.

3. Motivation

TDWG consists of a series of Interest Groups and Task Groups that focus on separate but related issues within biodiversity informatics standards. The Executive Committee has an overall responsibility for the direction of the organization but a group is needed that focuses on integration between the subgroups at a technical level. If the Technical Architecture Group (TAG) does not exist, Task Groups could create incompatible or contradictory standards. Opportunities may also be missed for re-use of strategies and standards from other groups. The formation of a TAG within a standards organization is considered best practice – as illustrated by successful organizations such as OGC, IETF and W3C.

4. Goals Outputs and Outcomes

Maintain an account of the technical aspects of current TDWG standards and activities including how they relate to each other and external standards and technologies.

Maintain a vision of how things could be including how proposed TDWG activities will effect interoperability both within the biodiversity informatics community and externally.

Provide technical advice to the Executive Committee on proposed groups and standards.

Provide advice to TDWG members on how their work can integrate with others.

5. Strategy

Produce a yearly review and forecast of technical issues within TDWG prior to the annual meeting - The Roadmap.

Provide formal feedback to the Executive Committee on proposed groups and standards as part of TDWG management processes.

Be proactive in offering advice to TDWG members who are developing proposals for new groups and standards.

Form Task Groups to:

Investigate new technologies - and make the results available to other TDWG subgroups.

Establish infrastructure for a common architecture – when this falls outside the remit of a particular interest group.

6. Becoming Involved

Contributions from all interested parties are welcome. Each subgroup within TDWG is encouraged to have a suitably skilled member active within the TAG.

Read the latest news on the TAG TDWG Website.

See activity on the TAG Wiki.

Join the mailing list.

Post queries to the mailing list or write to the Convenor.

7. History/Context

The TAG was formed at the TDWG 2005 meeting in St Petersburg with the remit of developing a common standards development architecture for TDWG.

8. Summary

The TDWG Technical Architecture Group

Develops a common standards development architecture,

Maintains technical compatibility between TDWG standards and those produced by other groups.

Produces a yearly technical roadmap and

Provides both formal and informal advice to the TDWG Executive and membership.

9. Resources

TAG website: <http://www.tdwg.org/subgroups/tag/frontpage/>

TAG wiki: <http://wiki.tdwg.org/twiki/bin/view/TAG/WebHome>

TAG mailing list: <http://lists.tdwg.org/mailman/listinfo/tdwg-tag>