

Directory Interchange Format (DIF) Usability Survey

NASA's Earth Science Data Systems Standards Process Group (SPG) is considering the DIF (Directory Interchange Format) specification, developed by the GCMD (Global Change Master Directory), for adoption as a community standard. Your responses to this survey on the usability of the DIF and the suitability of this specification for Earth science data will be helpful.

Please answer as many of the questions below as you can..

1. Please provide your name, organization and contact information (including email address).

2. Are you answering for your entire organization, for a smaller group, or individually?

_____ a) Entire organization

 X b) Smaller group (please specify) R&D Group

_____ c) Individual response

3. Are you a data producer, data consumer, or both?

_____ a) Producer _____ b) Consumer X c) Both

4. How long have you been using the DIF?

For about 2 months. (But it was about a year ago.)

5. Please describe how the DIF is used in your organization.

Created DIF and ingested into NASA/GCMD online.

For the following, you can answer either about the DIF alone, or relative to other, comparable specifications.

6. What are the strengths of the DIF? How has the use of the DIF helped your organization?

By ingesting DIFs into NASA/GCMD, the data becomes searchable by many GCMD users.

7. What are the weaknesses of the DIF? What would you like to change about the DIF or what would make the DIF a better specification?

Nothing comes to mind right now. It works just fine for me.

8. How well does the DIF solve your metadata storage, discovery, and/or interchange needs? Are there specific areas it is applicable to vs. areas where it is not applicable or not used?

We never used DIF that way.

9. How suitable is the DIF for representing your data holdings?

I never looked at it that way, but it had sufficient metadata items when I created DIFs before.

10. Do you use the DIF to track your own data holdings (i.e. do you use DIF in your own data management activities)?

No we don't.

11. What are the limitations of the DIF? Does the DIF prevent you from doing things you would like to do? Does its use make other things more difficult?

I don't know about the limitation, but automated DIF creation tool on the NASA website was useful.

12. Do you think ESDS-RFC-012 (and thus the DIF) should be endorsed as a NASA Earth Science Data Systems Standard? Why or why not?

I'm not sure.