

# Data Documentation Initiative

The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) is an international and open suite of standards expressed in XML for describing the research data produced primarily by surveys and other observational methods in the social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) sciences, health sciences, and official statistics. DDI documents and manages different stages in the research data lifecycle to facilitate the understanding, interpretation, and use of data by people, software, and computer networks.



DDI can be broken down into three different but interrelated standards:

## DDI Codebook (DDI-C)

A lightweight version of the standard, intended primarily to document simple survey data.

## DDI Lifecycle (DDI-L)

Documents and manages data from conceptualization to data publication and analysis and beyond. Encompasses all of the DDI-C specifications and extends them.

## DDI Cross-Domain Integration (DDI-CDI)

Integrates data across domain and institutional boundaries. It focuses on data description and process/provenance and handles data from different structure types.

See examples with a variety of implementations: <https://ddialliance.org>

## With DDI you can:

- Generate interactive codebooks
- Implement data catalogs and portals
- Transfer data between packages
- Build question banks
- Create concordance mappings
- Harmonize and compare data
- Manage longitudinal datasets
- And much more...

**Did You Know?**

DDI is currently being used in more than 80 countries worldwide. Over the years, it has gained significant adoption by prestigious repositories and various government data centers.



See the full list of DDI adopters: <https://ddialliance.org/membership/overview>

**Have a question about DDI or other metadata standards?**

Contact us: [rds@library.ucsb.edu](mailto:rds@library.ucsb.edu)