

Sample interview protocol for: “Sustaining Dryad: Reconfiguring relationships and ‘thinking like a business’ to maintain open data infrastructures”

This protocol was used for interviews with board members. The order of the questions and level of detail were adapted for individuals in other roles, based on their expertise.

Introduction

- ☐ Thank you for participating in this study and for your time today.
- ☐ Informed consent - review and confirm
- ☐ Goals of project and study
- ☐ Overview of interview

1. Demographics and Board work

- ☐ Confirm professional role.
 - ☐ How long have you been working in this capacity / in the profession?
- ☐ How did you come to be a member of the board at Dryad/a staff member? What were your motivations? How long have you been at Dryad?
- ☐ Could you speak more about your work on the board/at Dryad?
Optional prompts:
 - ☐ Which task forces are you a part of?
 - ☐ How is your experience on Dryad’s board different from other board experiences?
 - ☐ In your opinion, what works well and what is more challenging?
 - ☐ What has changed over time?
 - ☐ What are the biggest challenges Dryad has faced over the years that you have seen?

2. Artefact (optional)

- ☐ What did you choose to bring and why?

3. Openness and sustainability

- ☐ What is an ‘open infrastructure’ to you?
- ☐ What does it mean to you to be a “sustainable infrastructure”?

4. Sustaining Dryad

Sustainability of infrastructures is a multi-faceted concept. The below questions help to explore the concept from different angles.

Role in landscape

There is a great diversity of open data infrastructures – institutional, proprietary, discipline specific, etc.

- ☐ How do you see the role of Dryad in the broader repository landscape?
Optional prompts:
 - ☐ Who are Dryad's 'peers'? Why? How has that evolved over time?
 - ☐ What is the relation to other similar repositories? To institutional repositories? To something like Mendeley Data or Figshare?
- ☐ How do these work together or compete? How does this affect sustainability?
- ☐ Does having a diversity of ODIs help with sustainability of Dryad? Is there strength in numbers?

Funding model

- ☐ Can you talk to me about the evolution or development of the new funding model?
- ☐ What motivated the change to the new model?
Optional prompts:
 - ☐ What are the advantages and disadvantages of the new model compared to the old?
 - ☐ Who are the advocates for the model? Who is resisting?
- ☐ Are there risks as the amount of data scales?

Governance model

- ☐ How would you describe the governance model at Dryad?
Optional prompts:
 - ☐ How does this relate to POSI commitments?,
- ☐ Many governance materials are online in github, from meeting documents to tax information. Why is this done?
Optional prompts:
 - ☐ Do you actively refer to it, or do others?
 - ☐ What work is done by making it open?

Sustaining data (content)

- ☐ Could you tell me about the “succession planning” or “living will” in place at Dryad?

Optional prompts:

- ☐ Are there concrete relationships in place for this?
 - ☐ What would be ideal?
 - ☐ What challenges arise (e.g. duplication of data, versions of record)
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- ☐ Are there disaster or risk management plans in place? What about plans for data retention?
 - ☐ How long should an infrastructure be sustained?
 - ☐ When should it not be sustained? Is purposeful de-growth actually possible? Have you seen examples?

Use and community

Part of sustainability is tied to use and being useful to a community.

- ☐ Who is the community at Dryad? Who contributes?
- ☐ As a Board member, what do you know about use of Dryad?

Optional prompts:

- ☐ What do you know about usage of data? About usage of the infrastructure itself? What would you want to know?
- ☐ What do you know about the needs of community? How do you get feedback on this?

Openness as insurance

- ☐ How does ‘openness’ help or hinder sustainability?
- ☐ Are there any tensions with having everything open? Any concerns about the misuse of open data (by other actors or by AI)?

Political considerations

- ☐ Changing political ideologies
 - ☐ Do you see any challenges as a result of the new administration’s policies?
 - ☐ What effects will such policies have on Dryad or other open infrastructures?
 - ☐ How could the policies in the US impact Dryad’s funding model?

4. Closing

- ☐ What do you see as main challenges/risks at the moment to sustaining open infrastructures such as Dryad (and their data)?

Optional prompts:

- ☐ (How) has this changed with time?
- ☐ Is there anything especially important to consider now, in times of multiple and significant change?

- ☐ Where will Dryad be in 5 years? Where will open infrastructures for data be in 5 years?
- ☐ Is there anything else which I didn't ask about which you would like to add?
- ☐ Do you recommend that I speak with anyone else?

Thank you very much for your time!