PDS4 User Support Working Group WP Summary

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PDS User Model

- Only planetary scientists (a group consisting of diverse subdisciplines)
- Includes the mission savvy and mission naïve
- Includes graduate students
- Does NOT OTHERWISE INCLUDE educators, K-12 students or members of the general public

PDS Standards should be PRESCRIPTIVE rather than DESCRIPTIVE

They should describe requirements that data providers must meet, rather than describing after-the-fact what PDS received.

PDS archival data format requirements should be decoupled from popular user formats

- Required for long-term data accessibility through simplicity, uniformity and stability
- PDS needs to support format conversion from archival data format to limited set of popular user formats as a data delivery option and as a service for data submission - these user formats would change with time

PDS must provide diverse services for data search, accessibility and retrieval

- Discipline nodes need to take on the development and maintenance of discipline-specific search capabilities as part of their core mission. [Note: this requires professional software development capabilities at the nodes]
- Searches may be at dataset, product or record level (set by DNs)
- PDS should provide additional generalized search capabilities
- The PDS home page should be a single-point of access to these services

PDS must provide services to support data archiving by individual researchers

- Format conversion from limited popular user formats to archival data formats may be required
- PDS standards-transparent interface for collecting data descriptive information and generating internal PDS files

Mission Data Archiving

- Product generation and archiving needs to be its own mission budget line
- Archive planning and communication with PDS must begin with selection for Phase A
- Missions must be resolve peer-review liens even if it means revising its data production pipeline

It is not the responsibility of PDS to enforce

- Compliance of missions in meeting scheduling deadlines and delivery schedules
- Compliance of missions with generating PDS-compliant data products
- Compliance of research program PIs with their commitment to archive data made in their proposals.

It is the ultimate responsibility of NASA management.

PDS must provide user support services that involves human interaction

- For access services
- For submission services for individual researchers
- To support missions in the successful archiving of their data
- To support peer-reviews of submitted data as well as pipelines

PDS should move to a uniform naming scheme

- e.g., pdssbn.astro.umd.edu -> sbn.pds.nasa.gov or pds.nasa.gov/sbn
- Include data node facilities, e.g., themis.asu.edu -> geo.pds.nasa.gov/themis or pds.nasa.gov/themis

Knowledge of which node hosts what services and curates what data should not be required for PDS Users to access those services or data.