

***BRDI Competition on Research Data and Information
2013 Lee Dirks Prize***

Board on Research Data and Information
Policy and Global Affairs Division
National Academy of Sciences

Project Prospectus

SUMMARY

A steering committee appointed under the Board on Research Data and Information (BRDI) will oversee a competition on the theme of publicly available research data and information, and award prizes in memory of Lee Dirks, Microsoft Research, pursuant to the following statement of task:

1. Organize an open competition on novel ideas/tools/processes/models using open, publicly available digital data and information to address a societal problem.
2. Award prizes in the topical area presented in #1.
3. Hold a symposium and invite the prize winners to present their winning entries.

The purpose of the prize competition is to raise awareness of issues concerning access to and reuse of, research data and information. The Board is particularly interested in open, publicly available, reusable data and information as a public good.

There will be no restrictions for competition eligibility, except residence in the United States and employment during the time of the competition by the individuals and the staff under their direct control in the categories set forth under the Balance and Conflict-of-Interest. Currently, the Board receives core funding support from eight federal agencies and project support from one private foundation, all listed in the Sponsor category. However, if necessary, funding from other sources may be used.

Submissions will be evaluated for their originality, significance, level of accessibility, and potential for implementation and broad use.

First (\$5,000), Second (\$3,000), and Third (\$1,000) prizes are proposed. The funding may or may not be solicited and identified with an appropriate corporation, but it will be managed by BRDI. Winners will be expected to present their results at a public symposium in late summer of 2013. Travel costs to the meeting will be covered. An invitation to speak at the BRDI mini-symposium will be extended to the winners (with travel costs covered).

A compendium of the three winning entries will be produced and put on the BRDI website. Winners will also be expected to submit their results for publication in a peer-reviewed scholarly journal (preferably open access).