**Dimensions: Authorship Guidelines**

**(Subject to revision as needed)**

*29 July 2014*

Using a consistent approach to determining authorship on papers generated from the Dimensions project will facilitate collaborations and strengthen our science. Each paper is a unique undertaking requiring the collective input of a different set of individuals and data. Normally, the authors will be self-evident from early in a particular project, being the persons making significant contributions (data, analytical skills, or ideas). But even in those cases, the order of authors often requires discussion, usually guided by the project leader(s).

The following guidelines describe inform authorship in common situations that arise. PIs should ensure that their students, postdocs, and external collaborators are aware of these guidelines as soon as they begin working on a Dimensions project.

**Data sets.** Data set compilers should be offered authorship when their data are used:

* Phylogeny/timetree: Blair and Julie
* Environmental: Volker
* Mammal traits: Ana (or Carlo, if the data come from him)
* Amphibian traits: Gabriel, Brunno, Caterina
* Reptile traits: Shai, Gabriel
* Reptile maps: Bruce (and Blair for Caribbean species)
* Mammal maps: Carlo (if the data come from him)
* Other data (for example, bird traits): relevant collaborator

**Methods.** Developers of methods, including code, should be offered authorship whenever their methods or code are used.

**Ideas.** The originators of ideas that are central to papers should be offered authorship.

**Dimensions.** For any paper addressing **all three dimensions** of biodiversity (phylogenetic, taxonomic, trait), all PIs should be offered authorship in addition to the data set compilers and method developers. PIs will decide which of their students will contribute significantly enough to warrant authorship on these papers. Papers addressing one or two dimensions should follow the guidelines for ideas, data sets, and methods used.

**Lab papers.** Any paper written exclusively with ideas, data and methods developed in a single lab, or in collaboration with non-Dimensions colleagues do not need to offer authorship outside of the lab. (Although further to the previous point, an assumption here is that manuscripts addressing all three dimensions of biodiversity will necessarily engage collaboration and co-authorship from across the PIs.)

**Author responsibilities.** Colleagues invited to be authors have the responsibility to provide timely input to manuscript drafts (normally within two weeks of receiving a draft), paying particular attention to the parts of the paper that their data/ideas/methods/code were used. Authors should understand the paper well enough to be able to explain it to their colleagues. Colleagues offered authorship should use their discretion in deciding whether they will be able to fulfill the responsibilities of authorship before accepting the offer.

**Post Dimensions.** Future research that is initiated after the conclusion of Dimensions funding does not need to follow these guidelines. For example, if a data set has been published then future research using those data need only cite the relevant paper if specific input from the data set compiler is not needed.

**Acknowledgments.** Needless to say, all papers that are written that draw on data, methods, salary support, or travel support from the grant should cite the grant number in the acknowledgments section.