

UNCG





UNCG Data Governance Newsletter- Spring 2024

Spring 2024

UNC Greensboro Enterprise Data Governance

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The UNCG Data Governance Newsletter is issued quarterly. The purpose of our newsletter is to keep our campus up-to-date with the latest happenings and findings in the realm of Data Governance.

Our issues include:

- **Upcoming Events**
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- **What's new in Collibra?**
- **Data Governance Quarterly Story**

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Upcoming Events

World Password Day-May 2nd. World Password Day is celebrated annually on the first Thursday of May. The day is meant to raise awareness about the importance of using and creating strong passwords. Unique passwords equal better protection. Some tips include: create longer passwords or passphrases, group words together, avoid using well known lyrics, phrases, and quotes, avoid personal dates, and consider using a reputable password manager. For more tips, visit [ITS](#).

Catalog and Coffee-May 9th, 10:00 am - 10:45 am. This is our fourth session of our series. In these sessions you can see demos of new and useful features and functionality, you can hear use cases about how our data catalog can help you solve problems, and you can ask questions about how you can use, Collibra, our data catalog, to best effect. Add this event to your calendar via the [event page](#), or check out our other events through our website.

UNCG Data Governance Road Tour 2024-Schedule a data catalog demonstration with your department on our tour. Email edgteam@uncg.edu to reserve your spot now!

About Us



The image is a promotional graphic for the Enterprise Data Governance team. It features the U.S. Greensboro logo in the top left corner. The main title "Enterprise Data Governance" is centered in a large, bold, dark blue font. Below the title, there are four individual headshots of team members, each with a white caption box underneath. The background is a blurred image of a building with a large clock tower.

Name	Role
Alice Fleck	Enterprise Data Governance Manager
Jessica Dame	Reporting Metadata Specialist
Madison Turner	Systems Metadata Specialist
Serhiy Polyakov	Data Quality Specialist

The Enterprise Data Governance team manages and supports UNCG's Data Governance committees, data quality efforts, and the Collibra Data Intelligence platform. We provide data asset cataloging, metadata support, and data quality assurance to all areas of campus.

What's New in Collibra?

As a newer segment in our newsletter for 2024, we wanted to showcase nuances in Collibra, our data catalog platform. Collibra is the single source for all UNCG data governance and stewardship activities, and where metadata about institutional data assets are defined, cataloged, and governed.

A few things to note from Collibra:

- In the search results, terms that match your search text are again highlighted.
 - From <https://productresources.collibra.com/docs/release-notes/Content/ReleaseNotes/ref_release-202402.htm#Highlight>
- We have fixed an issue where the user mentioned in comments on asset pages would not display correctly.
 - From <https://productresources.collibra.com/docs/release-notes/Content/ReleaseNotes/ref_release-202403.htm>
- In a user mention, the user is addressed by their first and last names. If the first and last names for a user are not available, their username is used. If, however, the profile of the user is deleted, their name in the mention is replaced with **@Deleted User**.
 - From <https://productresources.collibra.com/docs/collibra/latest/Content/Assets/Comments/co_user-mention.htm?Highlight=mention>

To learn more about our Data Catalog and Collibra visit: [Data Catalog – UNCG Data Governance](#)



Streamlining Asset Approval Processes within the Data Catalog



The Enterprise Data Governance (EDG) Team have been working with Data Stewards on the asset approvals. All assets in the Collibra Data Intelligence Platform have a property called Status which indicates the condition of an asset and reflects the life cycle of resources. Status may have several values. For example, newly created assets normally receive a "Candidate" status which changes to "Accepted" after the approval is completed. Approval may include, for example, checking the accuracy of the definition and other properties by the Data Stewards who are normally subject matter experts.

The Simple Approval workflow is a single-step process that allows approval of an asset in Collibra. The EDG Team initiates the workflow by pressing the Simple Approval button on an asset page. The Data Stewards within the relevant Collibra Community are prompted to vote for approval, which is essentially a review of the asset description or definition. They may make comments, request changes, approve, or reject the asset. If the outcome of the vote is positive, assets' status changes to "Accepted" and the Data Stewards and Data Trustees receive a notification that an approval has been processed. If the outcome is negative, the EDG Team member that initiated the workflow is notified of the rejection and the flow is ended. All parties to the process are notified of the final status of the asset.

To make sure the process would go smoothly, the EDG Team created documentation and conducted training sessions with the Data Stewards where the Simple Approval process was demonstrated and

discussed. The follow-up questions were addressed in the emails. The EDG Team started the process in February. The batches include 5 to 15 of selected assets we have created, starting with the following asset types: Webform, Business Term, and Data Attribute. Simple Approvals batches are being sent biweekly. EDG Team notifies the respective Data Stewards as batches are sent out in each community for the first time. The purpose of this schedule is not to overwhelm the Data Stewards at the beginning stages as they are getting familiar with the process. Adjustments to the process are ongoing.

We appreciate Data Stewards patience and perseverance in the first batches of asset approvals. EDG Team was able to make a few adjustments to the process with the aid of our pioneers in the Student and Alumni and Advancement sub-communities. A special thanks to Jason, Victor and Ian for their participation and feedback in the process. This was quite a learning experience for both EDG Team and the Data Stewards which resulted in an updated workflow that will allow to efficiently continue asset approvals.

Team Spotlight

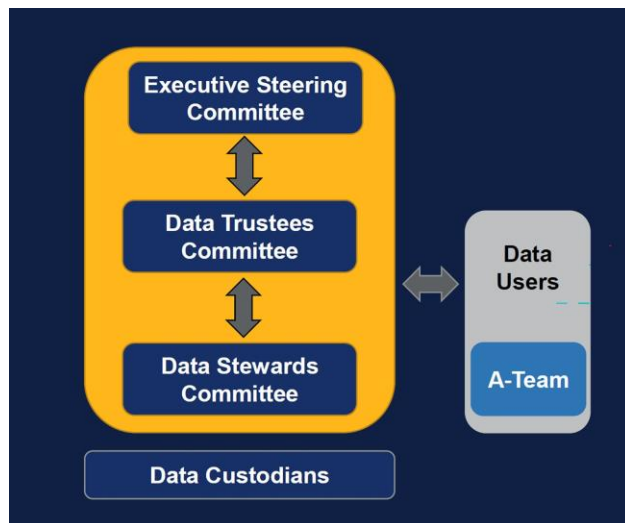
Serhiy Polyakov serves as the Data Quality Specialist. He works on identification of key data elements in university's systems, documentation of business rules, development of data quality rules, and profiling and reporting activities to monitor and improve the quality of university's data. Serhiy works with various people and committees to surface and remediate data quality issues across campus.

Serhiy brings a set of skills in the areas of metadata, data management, information organization, and library systems. He has experience in development and administration of databases, repositories, and digital libraries. Serhiy worked as a data management and e-resources librarian in a medical library where he implemented two discovery service systems used to search multiple resources in a single interface. He also led the research data management and measuring research performance service. Prior to his library experience Serhiy worked as a research associate developing procedures for scientometric analysis of institutional research output. He has a Master's and PhD degree in Information Sciences from the University of North Texas and a Master's degree in electrical engineering from NAU, Ukraine.

Outside of work, Serhiy enjoys traveling, photography, visiting museums, festivals, and all kinds of art and cultural events. He also likes working around the house or yard, strolling in the parks, and exploring new outdoor activities.



Committees



UNCG has developed a multi-level framework in which major data related roles and responsibilities are organized into several decision-making bodies. The three main bodies of Data Governance here at UNCG are the Executive Steering Committee (ESC), the Data Trustees Committee, and the Data Stewards Committee. To learn more about the ESC, check out [Executive Steering Committee \(uncg.edu\)](https://uncg.edu). These committees are supported by two groups of Data Custodians and interact with the Academic Unit Liaisons sub-committee and campus Data Users.

Happenings in the Data Governance Committees

Over the past few months, the members of the Data Governance Committee have been actively improving their search abilities within the data catalog. To make the process more engaging, we introduced two distinct experiences to familiarize them with the catalog and assess their expertise. In February, we organized a scavenger hunt for all committee members, and in March, we raised the stakes with the inaugural EDG Madness tournament. Check out those experiences below.

The Hunt

In February, Data Stewards joined in on a scavenger hunt to uncover hidden items within the data catalog. Each week, they were given clues to help them in their search. The top three participants who successfully found the items in a timely manner received a prize for their hard work. This activity encouraged exploration of the data catalog and a little healthy competition among the Data Stewards!





First Annual EDG Madness Tournament

Building on the excitement of the scavenger hunt, we maintained our momentum and brought forth a fresh challenge, EDG Madness, a data-driven rendition of March Madness. In contrast to the scavenger hunt, we expanded this challenge to include Data Trustees and other data users in IREDM who were eager to join the game and show off their skills searching the data catalog.

The bracket pitted data users from various corners of the campus in a fierce competition. Every week, they were tasked with uncovering hidden gems within the database. As the stakes heightened, our Final 4 and Championship contenders faced increasingly challenging clues. Jenna Tucker emerged victorious as our EDG Madness Champion.

Final Four

Sean Farrell v. Johnny Lail

Jenna Tucker v. Spencer Smith

Championship

Sean Farrell v. Jenna Tucker

2024 EDG Madness Champion

Jenna Tucker (Check out Jenna's celebratory interview below.)

Thank you to everyone who participated and made these activities fun and enjoyable! We hope to offer more events like this in the future.



Jenna Tucker is an Enrollment Management Analyst. She was excited to participate in this challenge and rose to the occasion. Jenna really blew us away with her navigation of the data catalog having not participated in the scavenger hunt prior. We asked her a few follow up question in celebration of her victory.

EDG: What is a feature in the data catalog that excites you?

JT: It's a little silly but I think the search function is great. It was instrumental to my success in the tournament.

EDG: In what way(s) do you think the data catalog will help you in your work?

JT: I really appreciate knowing the UNCG / UNCISO / IPEDS definitions of important business terms, which will make it easier to understand (and explain) what we're seeing in reports. It will also help point me in the right direction when I'm trying to report on similar concepts or pull data that's consistent with official reports.

EDG: What sports or e-sports are you into?

JT: I don't follow any sports closely, but I like to drop in on games and arbitrarily pick a team to support. When I do watch sports, college football is probably my favorite. I usually fill out an NCAA bracket but it's based more on vibes than actual basketball knowledge.

Data Quality



How to Improve Your Data Quality

The emphasis on data quality (DQ) in enterprise systems has increased as organizations increasingly use data analytics to help drive business decisions. Here are some recommendations to improve your DQ suggested by Sakpal, M. (2021).

Establish how improved data quality impacts KPIs.

Identify a clear linkage between business processes, key performance indicators (KPIs) and data assets. Make a list of the existing data quality issues the organization is facing and how they are impacting KPIs. Begin building a targeted data quality improvement plan.

Define what is a “good enough” standard of data.

To improve data quality, first it is important to understand what is “best fit” for the organization. This responsibility of describing what can be defined as “good” lies with the business. Data and analytics leaders need to have periodic discussions with business stakeholders to capture their expectations.

Use data profiling early and often.

Data quality profiling is the process of examining data from an existing source and summarizing information about the data. It helps identify corrective actions to be taken and provides valuable insights that can be presented to the business to drive the improvement plans. Data profiling can be helpful in identifying which data quality issues must be fixed at the source, and which can be fixed later.

Design and implement DQ dashboards for monitoring critical data assets.

A DQ dashboard provides a comprehensive snapshot of data quality to all stakeholders, including data from the past to identify trends and patterns that can help design future process improvements. It can be used to compare the performance over time of data that is critical for key business processes. DQ dashboards also reflect the impact of improvement activities, such as incorporating new data practices into operational business processes.

Reference

Sakpal, M. (2021, July 14). *How to Improve Your Data Quality*. Gartner - Information Technology.

<https://www.gartner.com/smarterwithgartner/how-to-improve-your-data-quality>

Data Governance Champion: Sean Farrell



Our Spring 2024 Data Governance Champion is Sean Farrell, HRIS Manager in UNCG Human Resources. Sean has been a strong supporter of data governance serving on several data governance committees. He is a valuable resource to us in our data governance practices and initiatives. Sean participated in our February Scavenger Hunt activity and maintained first place for 3 out of the 4 weeks! He was drafted for EDG Madness in March and made it all the way to the championship! We asked Sean a few questions about data governance and about his interests outside of work.

EDG: How does Data Governance contribute to your work and the work of your department?

SF: Data Governance provides an environment and framework by which we can standardize our efforts to manage the processing, quality, and retrieval of data critical to Human Resources. In addition, having a committee of data peers provides a great opportunity to gain insight into how others are managing data as well as acting as a sounding board for proposed changes.

EDG: What is one Data Governance activity, achievement, or initiative that excites you?

SF: The overall effort to map our data environment is exciting as it promises to document the relationships between our systems, our reports, our integrations, and the way we talk about the work we do, allowing us to be more effective and efficient.

EDG: We hear you are into philosophy, books, and tea, gives us the scoop! What are some of your interests, topics, genres of choice in philosophy or books? What is your favorite tea blend, and/or favorite local place to get tea?

SF: I love reading and am interested in many genres including science fiction, fantasy, horror, eastern religion, anthropology, health and fitness, and history. Some recent memorable reads include: "Never Whistle at Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology", "Drive" by James Sallis, and all of the "Murderbot Diaries" entries by Matha Wells.

As far as tea goes, I'm a big fan of loose-leaf teas which I'll usually order online or locally at Angelina's Tea Shop in Winston. Some of my favorite teas include: Long Jing/Dragonwell - a Chinese Green, Red Tiger Oolong - an Oolong from Thailand, and I'm always up for your basic English Breakfast Black Tea blends. I'd encourage anyone interested in learning more about teas to source some loose-leaf tea from a reputable seller. The difference between those and your typical bagged tea from the market is night and day.

EDG: If you were not in this career, what would you be doing?

SF: Good question! I don't know though I'm pretty sure it wouldn't involve sitting at a desk!

EDG: Finish the statement, "If I am not at work, I am _____."

SF: ...working around the house or yard (that list is never-ending!)

Sean, your thoughts on data governance are insightful! It was interesting to learn about your hobbies! Thank you, Sean, for your interest, effort, and for your support of the data governance initiatives in UNCG.

Do you know someone who is unwavering in their support of and engagement with Data Governance? Send us their name and we'll include them in our Data Governance Champion Hall of Fame! Submit your recommendations using the form found here: <https://datagovernance.uncg.edu/data-governance/newsletters-reports/>

Contact Us

Be on the lookout for our next newsletter, scheduled to be published in July 2024! We appreciate your interest and support in our program. Go Spartans!

Email: edgteam@uncg.edu

Visit us on the web at [UNCG Data Governance](#)

Location: McNutt Building, UNCG Campus

Mailing Address: P O Box 27160, Greensboro, NC 27402