This document describes the conclusions reached from the Scratchpad session held at the TDWG 2009 symposium regarding sustainability mechanisms of the Scratchpads. The main goal of the developers workshop was to try to garner opinions on the best method for keeping an Open Source Software (OSS) project, like the EDIT Scratchpads, maintained and up to date. As well as this, a tutorial on installing a Scratchpad server and developing code for the Scratchpads was also given. The session was held by Simon Rycroft, lead developer of the EDIT Scratchpads, with additional help from Kehan Harman. The people who attended the session appeared to have a mixture of requirements from the session, mainly they seemed to be curious as to what the EDIT Scratchpads were functionally capable of and as to what our future plans were.

During the session a number of different options were proposed for maintaining the Scratchpads. The options were mainly focused on the updating of additional Scratchpad servers and ensuring that the code base they use is kept up to date with the code base on the primary Scratchpad server (currently housed at the Natural History Museum, London).

Two methods were agreed on for ensuring that the code base of an additional Scratchpad server is kept up to date. The two methods are:

- Using a software package manager like YUM (Yellowdog Updater, Modified – a package manager for RPM/Redhat based Linux operating systems) or APT (Advanced Packaging Tool – a package manager for Debian based Linux operating systems), it will be possible to update the whole Scratchpad code base in one go. Releases for such packages would likely be infrequent (once a year), and would result in major changes to the Scratchpad code base.

- Using Drupal's inbuilt Update module, it will be possible to release small updates to individual Drupal modules being used by the Scratchpads. This system would be used for both the modules that were not developed by the Scratchpad team and for those that were. Updates using this system would likely be released much more frequently, possibly once a month for our modules (not controlled by us for the modules released from Drupal's software repository).

During the session there was also interest shown from a small number of developers interested in adding functionality to the Scratchpads specific to their own requirements. It was discussed what the best method for sharing this code would be, but given the small number of interested parties, it wasn't possible to reach a solid conclusion. It is however likely that code would be shared either using Drupal's repository, or using the Scratchpad Subversion (SVN) server (http://svn.scratchpads.eu).