Are you new to the Research Data Alliance? Wondering where to start?

The BASICS

RDA
RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

RDA Vision

Researchers and innovators openly sharing data across technologies, disciplines, and countries to address the grand challenges of society.

RDA Mission

The Research Data Alliance (RDA) builds the social and technical bridges that enable open sharing of data.

RDA Guiding Principles

The RDA is built on six fundamental values and participation is open to all who adhere to its Guiding Principles

- **Openness** – Membership is open to all interested individuals who subscribe to the RDA's Guiding Principles. RDA community meetings and processes are open, and the deliverables of RDA Working Groups are publicly disseminated.
- **Consensus** – The RDA moves forward by achieving consensus among its membership. RDA processes and procedures include appropriate mechanisms to resolve conflicts.
- **Inclusivity** – The RDA seeks to promote broad, balanced and inclusive representation of its membership and stakeholder communities.
- **Harmonisation** - The RDA works to achieve harmonisation across data standards, policies, technologies, infrastructure, and communities.
- **Community-driven** – The RDA is a public, community-driven body of volunteer members and organisations, supported by the RDA Secretariat.
- **Non-profit and technology-neutral** – The RDA does not promote, endorse, or sell commercial products, technologies, or services and the development of open and re-usable recommendations and outputs within the RDA is mandatory.

First Things First:
Join the RDA Community

Individual membership of the RDA is free of charge and allows you access to all areas of the website, to receive all updates, comment on RDA community activities, and most importantly become a part of a global community of data lovers.

Organisations can also become members, for an annual fee. More information on organisational member benefits etc. can be found on the Organisational Membership page.

Find out more on the RDA Membership Page - https://www.rd-alliance.org/become-a-member/

Don't listen to us:
Hear what the members themselves think

For a personal perspective on engaging with the RDA, read these two blogs:

From a "Newbie" to an "Expert" In Less Than Two Years – How To Engage in The RDA Activities? by Tomasz Miksa

Plenary Planet - A Fun Guide to Navigating the RDA Universe by Sara El-Gebali and Allyson Lister

What is Your Entry Point to the RDA?

As the RDA covers all technologies, all stakeholders as well as all scientific and research domains, it can be difficult to navigate and find what is of interest to you.

STAKEHOLDER
Search the site based on your organisational type:
Early Career Individuals
Funders & Policy Makers
Industry
Infrastructure Providers
Libraries
Research Performing Organisations
Researchers & Scientists

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Find out if there is an RDA regional group or activities in your area

PATHWAYS
View the activities according to Research Data Management and Open Science focus:
FAIR, CARE, TRUST – Principles and Adoption, Implementation, & Deployment
Data Infrastructures & Environments – Institutional, or Regional or Disciplinary, or International
Training, Stewardship, & Data Management Planning
Semantics, Ontology, Standardisation
Data Lifecycles - Versioning, Provenance, Citation, & Reward
Discipline Focused Data Issues
Research Software
Other

GROUPS
See what groups are active in the RDA that you can join and get involved in with the advanced search tool in the group directory:
Birds of a Feather (BoFs)
Communities of Practice
Interest Groups
Maintenance Groups
Regional Groups
Working Groups

The More You Give, The More You Get: Getting Involved

Once you have become an official member of the RDA, you can get involved in a variety of ways

Follow or Join a Group

You can follow or join any number of <u>Interest</u> and <u>Working</u> Groups and <u>Communities of Practice</u>. Once you have joined a group, you will have access to the working documents for that group, and be able to contribute to all activities.

Start a Group

You can also establish a new <u>Working Group</u> or <u>Interest Group</u>. Both WGs and IGs require a document (a <u>Case Statement</u> for WGs, a <u>Charter</u> for IGs and an <u>Agreement</u> for CoPs) outlining the goals, interaction with other initiatives, and expected work plan of the group; a WG is also expected to outline an adoption plan for its proposed Recommendation.

Attend Plenaries

RDA Plenary meetings are held twice a year, generally March-May and September-November. The first plenary of the year is usually fully virtual with the second one being hybrid. Locations are rotated around the world to allow participation from as many people as possible. You can find information on the past, upcoming and future Plenaries on the RDA Web site under the <u>Plenaries tab</u>.

Getting Involved
Comment on Community Activities -
Visit RDA Community Page

Comment on RDA Community work

Any RDA member can provide comments and feedback on group proposals currently in RDA Community Review. They are listed in the "Requests for Comments" box on the RDA Community homepage, and will typically be available for comment for one month. Interest Group Charters, Working Group Case Statements, Community of Practice Agreements and group outputs are the most frequent activities requiring community review.

Interest Group Charters

Interest Group Charters describe a proposed Interest Group's purpose, motivation, objectives, outcomes and timelines, and undergo a 3-step review phase before the group can become a recognised and endorsed RDA Interest group. As the Community Review happens early on in the life of an Interest Group, this is a good opportunity to help shape the direction of the group.

Working Group Case Statements

Working Group Case Statements describe a proposed Working Group's purpose, motivation, objectives, outcomes and timelines, but also include the envisaged outputs and adopters of those outputs. As with Interest Groups, providing comments during the Community Review phase as part of the 3-step review process is a good opportunity to contribute to shaping the Working Group, especially if you are interested in potentially adopting the envisaged outputs.

Community of Practice Agreements

Communities of Practice (CoP) were introduced in December 2020. CoPs investigate, discuss and provide knowledge and skills within a specific discipline and/or research domain. If you are interested in a CoP's domain, providing comments on a CoP during its community review phase is a good way to get involved.

Getting Involved
Comment on Community Solutions

Working and Interest Group Outputs

There are two main types of Outputs produced by RDA groups: Recommendations, which are produced by Working Groups towards the end of their 12-18 month lifespan, and Supporting Outputs, which can be produced by both Working and Interest Groups at any time. Both Recommendations and Supporting Outputs are made available for community comment as part of the outputs endorsement process. At this point, you are particularly invited to comment on whether the output under review helps to further the RDA mission, and if it is consistent with the principles of the RDA and, for Recommendations, whether they are adoptable.

Other Documents Produced by RDA Governing Bodies

Some of the RDA bodies put out documents on various aspects of the RDA for community comment. Previous documents have included a proposal on Transparency and Openness in RDA, a document discussing some thoughts on RDA as a Standards body and, more recently, the RDA Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

Participate in RDA Governance Elections

Council and TAB members are elected yearly by the community on a rotating basis. Calls for nomination are published ahead of the elections. As an RDA member, you are eligible to vote in RDA elections and run for office if you would like to take on a larger role in the organisation. Details on the Council election process are described in the RDA Governance document, and more details on TAB elections can be found in the TAB Election Process document.

Who's Who In The RDA:
Build The Social Bridges

RDA Global Community Directory

The RDA is a unique network of global stakeholders from many different professions, scientific and technological disciplines and domains as well as qualifications.

The RDA Member Directory allows you to search and connect with this diverse network.

RDA Governance and Organisational Boards

https://www.rd-alliance.org/rda-governance/

- Council – responsible for the oversight, sustainability, and overall success of the RDA.
- Funders Forum – a group of funding organisations with an interest in research data and related data policies.
- Organisational Advisory Board - composed of representatives of the RDA's Organisational Members, advises Council on the directions, processes, and mechanisms of the RDA from an organisational perspective.
- Regional Advisory Board – composed of representatives of the RDA's Regional Partners, advises Council on the directions, processes, and mechanisms of the RDA for a regional perspective.
- Technical Advisory Board – provides technical expertise and advice to Council, as well as supporting and developing RDA groups to promote their impact.
- Secretariat - composed of an internationally distributed team including the Secretary General, conducts daily RDA operations and administrations.

RDA for Newcomers:
Resources

To support RDA members new to Plenaries, the RDA organises "RDA for Newcomers" sessions before and/or during plenaries. Any newcomers sessions are communicated to the community and registered plenary participants prior to the event.

RDA in a Nutshell (monthly stats on RDA community & quarterly updates on Groups & Outputs)

RDA Strategy

Read the RDA's Strategic Plan 2024 – 2028

Sustain
Empower
Innovate

For any enquiries about the RDA:

Follow us: