RDA Secretary General Update for RDA Organisational Assembly

3 Sept 2020

1. **RDA Global Strategic Plan:** the RDA council is defining the strategic plan 2020 – 2023 and we will be inviting the OA to provide feedback on the draft plan in October 2020 (with community presentation and consultation planned for November).

2. **RDA Global Secretariat:** at the end of September 2020, the European grant supporting RDA in Europe will terminate. This implies a change of support from Europe for the Secretariat and for OA / OAB. First of all, I would like to thank the European Secretariat staff (Daniel Bangert, Ilaria Fava, Fotis Karayannis, Sara Pittonet and Marieke Willems) for their invaluable support, expertise and dedication to supporting the daily operations of RDA. They have been instrumental in supporting not only the global operations, but also facilitating, nurturing and increasing European membership of RDA. The European programme, which included pilot activities like the 23-country national node network, disciplinary ambassador network and adoption programme, has been very successful and concrete impact has been seen in Europe and globally.

   **As a result of this change, Fotis Karayannis, the long serving RDA Secretariat Liaison to OA and OAB will no longer be with us.** I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Fotis for the tremendous support he has given over many years. Like all of the Secretariat staff, he is a highly qualified, skilled expert giving his time and passion to RDA and particularly to OA / OAB. Thank you Fotis, we will miss you and I hope you continue to support RDA in the future as a passionate member.

   **In managing the staff changes, we are delighted to announce that Mary O'Brien Uhlmansiek, member of RDA-US office and RDA Secretariat Outreach & Impact Coordination, will be taking on Fotis’ role as RDA secretariat Liaison with OA & OAB. Mary dedicated a considerable portion of her time to supporting the RDA COVID-19 activities and we are delighted that she has accepted to take over from Fotis. Many thanks Mary.**

3. **RDA US leadership Change:** Following three years of excellent leadership Leslie McIntosh Borelli is moving on from her role of RDA US Executive Director to begin an exciting new adventure with her own company, Ripeta. Leslie’s successor is Rebecca Koskela, whom you all know as your recent OAB Co-chair and (as I like to refer to her) the Queen of (RDA) metadata as a long time co-chair of the Metadata groups. Rebecca has been a passionate, active driving force in RDA since its inception in 2013. I would like to thank Leslie from the bottom of my heart for her enthusiasm, dedication and passion for all things RDA. It has been a great pleasure for me to work with her since starting my role as Secretary General and I am very grateful for all the developments, successes and achievements that RDA has had in the US under her leadership. Leslie was instrumental in securing the next NSF grant to...
support RDA in the US and this grant will be taken on by Rebecca. It has always been a great pleasure to work with Rebecca on RDA and I am very much looking forward to this new collaboration.

4. RDA Technical Advisory Board (TAB): the TAB is an extremely hard working, highly skilled and dedicated board of 15 volunteer experts from across the globe. They dedicated considerable amount of their time to supporting RDA work, particularly in assessing new RDA Interest and working group proposals and the review of Plenary session applications. I am extremely grateful to them for their support and help for RDA. Each year some members of the TAB complete their three year term (or in some cases 2nd three year term). The deadline for nominations is 1 October 2020. Five seats are up for election, with three long serving TAB members completing their second term (Francoise Genova, Rainer Stotzka and Andrew Treloar) and Sarah Ramdeen and Jane Wyngaard eligible for re-election but at this time I am unsure if they will stand again. One important aspect to note is that in order to respect all the balancing criteria (gender, geography, expertise), there is only one slot available for an expert from Natural Sciences. All the details on what it involves, what to expect, how to apply is on the web site at https://www.rd-alliance.org/call-tab-nominations-2020 and pasted at the end of this report for your convenience. I ask you kindly to reflect on potential candidates and to send them the details directly.

5. RDA in a Nutshell: each month the Secretariat produces a lengthy and comprehensive presentation of many details on RDA – including member statistics, organisational and affiliate members, groups, outputs and recommendations, plenary updates, etc. This is an open, reusable resource for all the community that you are encouraged to access and extract information for your needs. Monthly updates (and previous versions) are accessible at https://www.rd-alliance.org/about-rda

6. RDA 16th Virtual Plenary Meeting – 9 – 12 November 2020
   a. Call for Sessions: application submission closed on 4th August. TAB have conducted a thorough review of the applications received, all session applicants were notified on 26th and 27th August by Secretariat. Scheduling of the 69 accepted sessions is currently underway. The programme will be published on the RDA web site on 26th September
   b. Call for Posters: is still open, submission deadline 11 October, more information at https://www.rd-alliance.org/rda-16th-plenary-meeting-call-posters
   c. Registration: the technology platform that will facilitate streaming, registration, translation (English <-> Spanish) etc. has been chosen and final details before registration goes online are being worked out. Virtual participation fees are estimated to be $150 USD for access to all sessions (breakout, plenary and networking). This should be launched just before the end of sept.

7. RDA 17th plenary Meeting – 20 – 22 April 2021, Edinburgh, Scotland: the local organizing committee, headed by OAB Co-chair Kevin Ashley, is working through all the many complexities and uncertainties of organizing the meeting. Details and updates are available at https://www.rd-alliance.org/plenaries/rda-17th-plenary-meeting

8. IDW2021 (8-13 November 2021): International Data Week 2021 is convened under the overarching theme of ‘Data to Improve Our World’. In addition to highlighting the need for
data education and governance, demonstrating the importance of high-quality research data stewardship, data science, and data infrastructures, and exploring the ‘state of the art’ in all things data, IDW 2021 will also emphasise the following subthemes:

- Research Transparency and Reproducibility
- Data, Research, and Industry: The Interface between Data-intensive Research and Innovation
- Empowering and Enabling Society: Data (Science) Education and Data Literacy
- Transdisciplinary Research and Citizen Science

9. **IDW2023:** The 4th edition of International Data Week, RDA’s collaboration with CODATA and WDS (also RDA Affiliate members), will take place from 23-26 October 2023, in Salzburg, Austria. Please see - [https://www.rd-alliance.org/plenaries/international-data-week-2023-salzburg](https://www.rd-alliance.org/plenaries/international-data-week-2023-salzburg)

For any further information on any of these, or other aspects, please feel free to contact me at hilary.hanahoe@rda-foundation.org. Thank you to all the RDA Organisational and Affiliate Members, I am very grateful for your continued support, collaboration and cooperation.

*Hilary Hanahoe, RDA Secretary General*
Call for Nominations for the RDA Technical Advisory Board (TAB) 2020

RDA is seeking candidates for the annual TAB election, to be held in November 2020. TAB Terms are for three (3) years. We encourage participation from RDA members at all stages of their careers. Please note that current members of RDA’s Council, Secretariat, and Organisational Advisory Board are not eligible for TAB membership. Nominations will be accepted until 23:59 UTC on 1 October 2020. Please see below for more detail.

What does TAB do?
TAB is responsible for the technical direction of the RDA and provides technical expertise and advice to the Council, as well as helping to develop and review RDA Working and Interest Groups to promote their impact and effectiveness. Among other tasks, TAB Members:

- engage with the RDA membership and feed their ideas and TAB perspectives into RDA processes and strategies;
- evaluate proposed Working Groups and Interest Groups;
- act as liaisons to endorsed Working and Interest Groups;
- facilitate relevant communication and coordination across the various WGs and IGs; and
- work with RDA Working Groups to promote adoption and effectiveness of their Outputs.

But that’s not all.
The Technical Advisory Board also provides strategic insight into the current and future direction of RDA, and each member’s own strengths are drawn upon regularly. Expertise and advice could take the form of reviewing new Working Groups or Interest Groups, responding to RDA membership input, working with Council, or any number of other ways.
Much more information is available in the document [TAB: What we do and how we do it](https://www.rda-alliance.org/rda-handbook) on the RDA Web site.

Why are we looking for new TAB Members?
RDA conducts TAB elections on a yearly basis, coinciding with the year’s even-numbered Plenary. At these times, a set of TAB members rotates off after their 3-year-terms come to an end.

Five of the RDA TAB members’ terms are ending in 2020. Out of the five TAB members stepping down, three are ineligible to re-stand for election, as they have just completed their second three-year term on TAB.
Who does TAB need?
The 2020 election to TAB will elect 5 members to replace the 5 members who are rotating off after their 3-year terms are complete. There are balance criteria to ensure that disciplines and regions are adequately represented. The Regional criterion is no more than 6 but no fewer than 3 TAB members from each of:

- The Americas
- Europe and Africa
- Asia and Oceania

Regions of the continuing TAB members:

- The Americas: 3
- Europe and Africa: 4
- Asia and Oceania: 3

The additional criterion of Discipline is applied to achieve a sufficient breadth of expertise. The Discipline criterion is based on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) classification (see [https://www.oecd.org/science/inno/38235147.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/science/inno/38235147.pdf) for the sub-classifications under each category). The major categories are:

- Natural Sciences
- Engineering and Technology
- Medical and Health sciences
- Agricultural Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Humanities

No more than 5 TAB members can be from any of the listed disciplines. There is no minimum number of TAB members required per discipline. Disciplines of the continuing TAB members:

- Natural Science: 4
- Engineering and Technology: 2
- Medical and Health Sciences: 2
- Agricultural Sciences: 1
- Social Sciences: 1
A more complete description of the entire TAB Election Process and application of the balancing criteria is available via the TAB RDA page, [https://rd-alliance.org/about-rda/our-leadership/rda-technical-advisory-board.html](https://rd-alliance.org/about-rda/our-leadership/rda-technical-advisory-board.html).

**Interested? Here’s how to apply!**

Any current RDA member may self-nominate or be nominated by others.

Not sure if you are an RDA member? Do you have an account on our website ([rd-alliance.org](https://rd-alliance.org))? Yes? Then you’re a member! If not, sign up now!

Know someone who would be perfect for the role? Encourage them to apply!


Each candidate must have a minimum of three (3) RDA members willing to second their nomination. Seconders must send a simple one-sentence statement to the RDA Secretariat ([enquiries@rd-alliance.org](mailto:enquiries@rd-alliance.org)) stating that they support the nomination of the candidate.

Applications and seconds are due by **23:59 UTC on 1 October 2020**.

For each candidate with a complete nomination package, i.e., completed candidacy form and supporting statements from 3 seconders, their statement and photo will be posted on the RDA website. Note that the seconders will not be posted.

Elections will open on **9 November 2020**, and close on **23 November 2020** (two weeks later). All RDA members will be asked to vote.

**Still have unanswered questions?**

Current TAB members will be happy to discuss the time commitments, working procedures, and other elements of TAB membership. Find a list of current and past TAB members here: [https://rd-alliance.org/about-rda/our-leadership/rda-technical-advisory-board.html](https://rd-alliance.org/about-rda/our-leadership/rda-technical-advisory-board.html)

Additional information is available from the RDA Secretariat at [enquiries@rd-alliance.org](mailto:enquiries@rd-alliance.org).