RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

History of the RDA

Fran Berman
RDA Council co-Chair
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research data sharing without barriers
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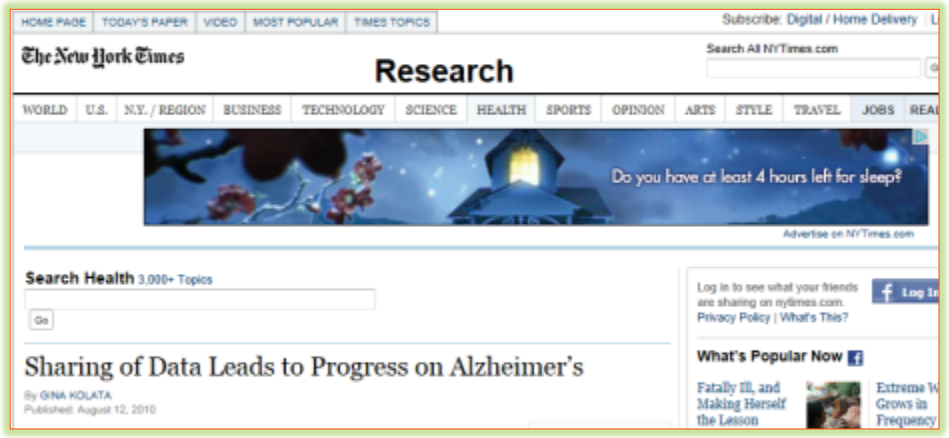
Why RDA Matters: Data Sharing a Critical Accelerant for New Discovery and Innovation



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RDA timeline

First RDA organizational telecon: August 2012

Global Data Planning Meeting: October 2012

RDA Launch / First Plenary

RDA Second Plenary

RDA Third Plenary

August 2012 — **March 2013** — **September 2013** — **March 2014**

Organization of DAITF: 2011-2012

"Data Web Forum" White Paper (Greer and Blatecky)

You are here

The Research Data Alliance (RDA)

- Global community-driven organization launched in March 2013 to accelerate data-driven innovation

- RDA focus is on building the **social, organizational and technical infrastructure** to
  - *reduce barriers to data sharing and exchange*
  - *accelerate the development of coordinated global data infrastructure*

RDA 1,585 MEMBERS – WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

from 71 countries worldwide

ORGANISATION TYPE	*Total*	*%*
Academia/Research	1020	64%
Government/Public Services	255	16%
IT Consultancy/Development	53	3%
Large Enterprise	26	2%
Other	110	7%
Policy/Funding Agency	29	2%
Press & Media	11	1%
Small and Medium Enterprise	81	5%
TOTAL	**1585**	

Region	*MARCH 2014*	*%*
EU	774	49%
AU	51	3%
US	592	37%
Others	168	11%
TOTAL	**1585**	

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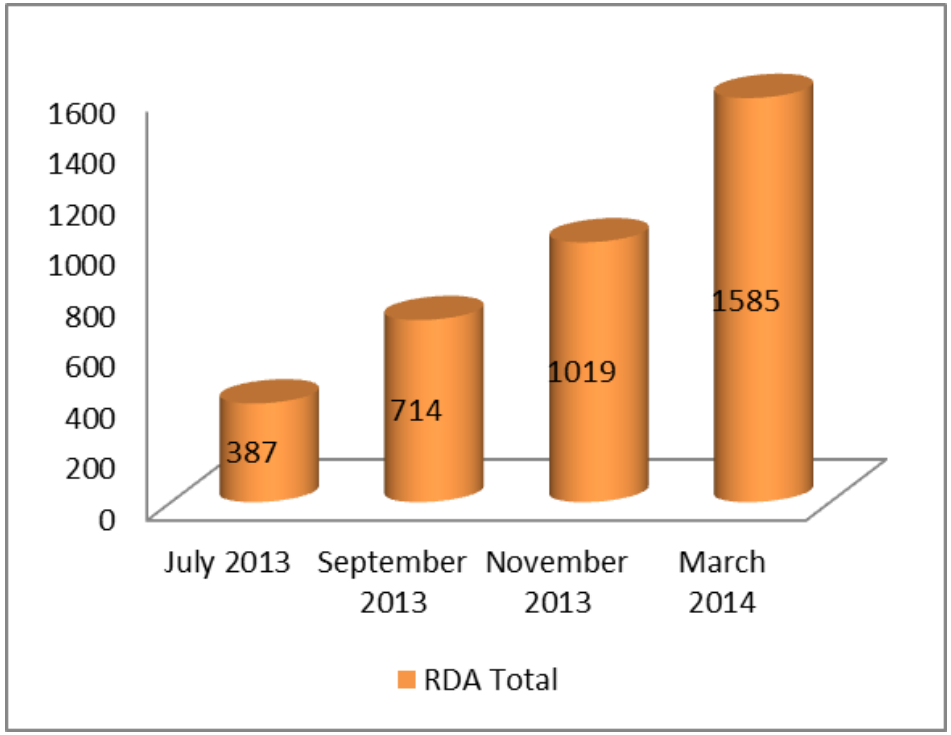
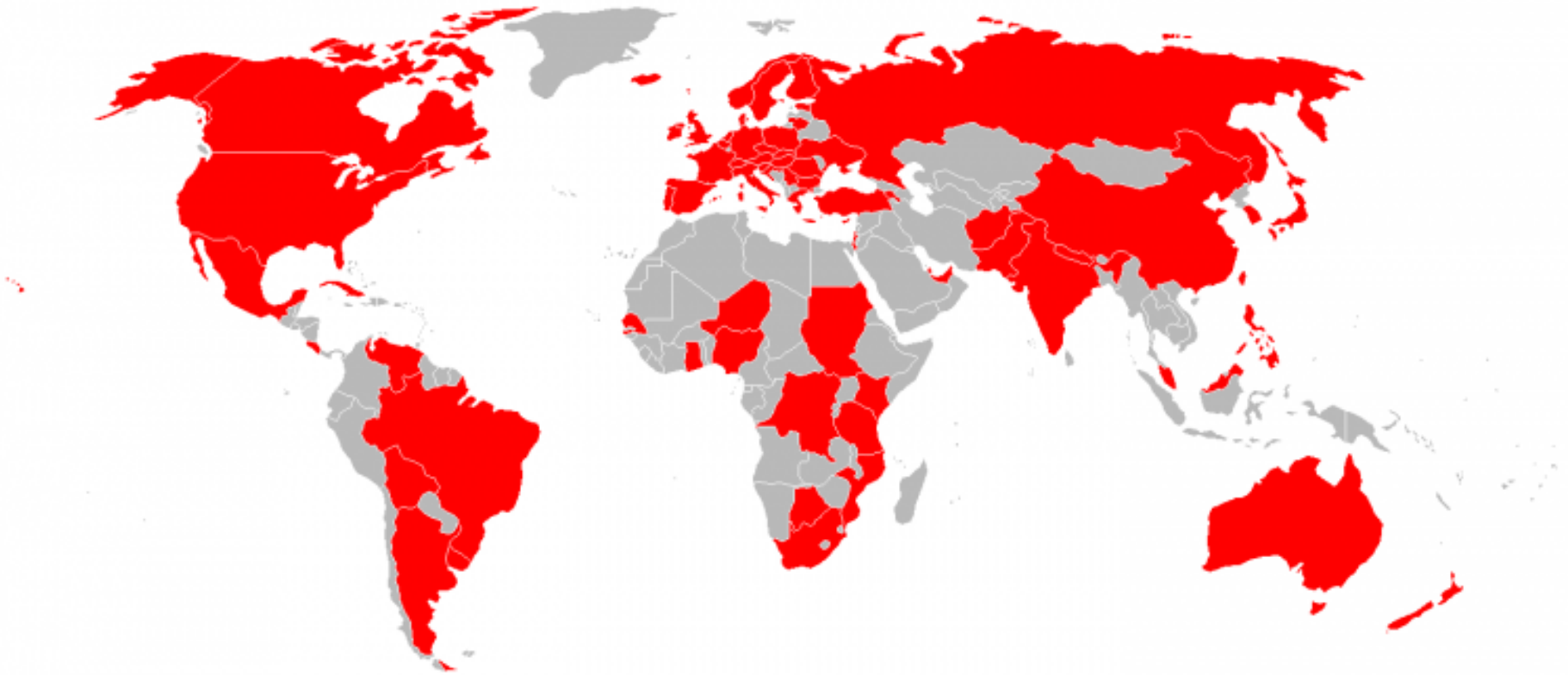
RDA 1,585 MEMBERS – HOW ARE THEY GROWING?

Country/ Total	JULY 2013	SEPT 2013	NOV 2013	MARCH 2014
EU	178	271	416	774
AU	11	17	32	51
US	165	370	473	592
Others	33	56	98	168



RDA 1,585 MEMBERS – WHERE ARE THEY ON THE MAP?



Where are the RDA Members from? 71 countries

- Afghanistan
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bolivia
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- China
- Congo {Democratic Rep}
- Costa Rica
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Ireland {Republic}
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Kenya
- Korea South
- Lithuania
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Mozambique
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Singapore
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sudan
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Tanzania
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Uruguay
- Vatican City
- Venezuela

RDA Vision and Mission

- **Research Data Alliance Vision:**
  Researchers and innovators openly share data across technologies, disciplines, and countries to address the grand challenges of society.

- **Research Data Alliance Mission:**
  RDA builds the social and technical bridges that enable data sharing.

RDA Approach: CREATE → ADOPT → USE

RDA Members come together as

- **Working Groups** – 12-18 month efforts to build, adopt, and use specific pieces of infrastructure
- **Interest Groups** – longer-lived discussion forums that spawn Working Groups as specific pieces of needed infrastructure are identified.

Working Group efforts focus on the development and use of data sharing infrastructure

- **Code, policy, infrastructure, standards, or best practices that are adopted and used** by communities to enable data sharing
- **"Harvestable" efforts** for which 12-18 months of work can eliminate a roadblock
- **Efforts that have substantive applicability** to groups within the data community, but may not apply to everyone
- **Efforts for which working scientists and researchers can start today**

RDA Plenaries Emerging to be a Data Community "Town Square"

Global Data Planning Meeting: October 2012

First Working Groups and Interest Groups

240 participants

RDA Launch / First Plenary

March 2013

First "neutral space" community meeting (Data Citation Summit)

First Org. Partner Meet-up

First BOFs

380 participants from 22 countries

RDA Second Plenary

September 2013

First Organizational Assembly

6 co-located events

14 BOF, 12 WG, 22 IG groups

460+ participants expected

RDA Third Plenary

March 2014

RDA Fourth Plenary

September 2014

First RDA organizational telecon: August 2012

First Working Group exchange meeting

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Questions?

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RDA Futures

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We've come a long way in 12 months!

RDA Plenary 1 / Launch

- March 2013 in Gothenburg, Sweden
- 240 participants
- 3 WG, 9 IG

RDA Plenary 3

- March 26-28, 2014 in Dublin
- Hosted by Australia and Ireland
- 12+ WG, 22+ IG, 12+ BOF, 6 co-located meetings
- 460+ participants expected

RDA Plenary 2

- September 2013 in Washington, DC
- 380 participants
- 6 WG, 17 IG, 5 BOF
- Data Citation Summit co-located in RDA "neutral space"
- First Organizational Assembly meet-up

RDA Plenary 4

- **September 2014 in The Netherlands**

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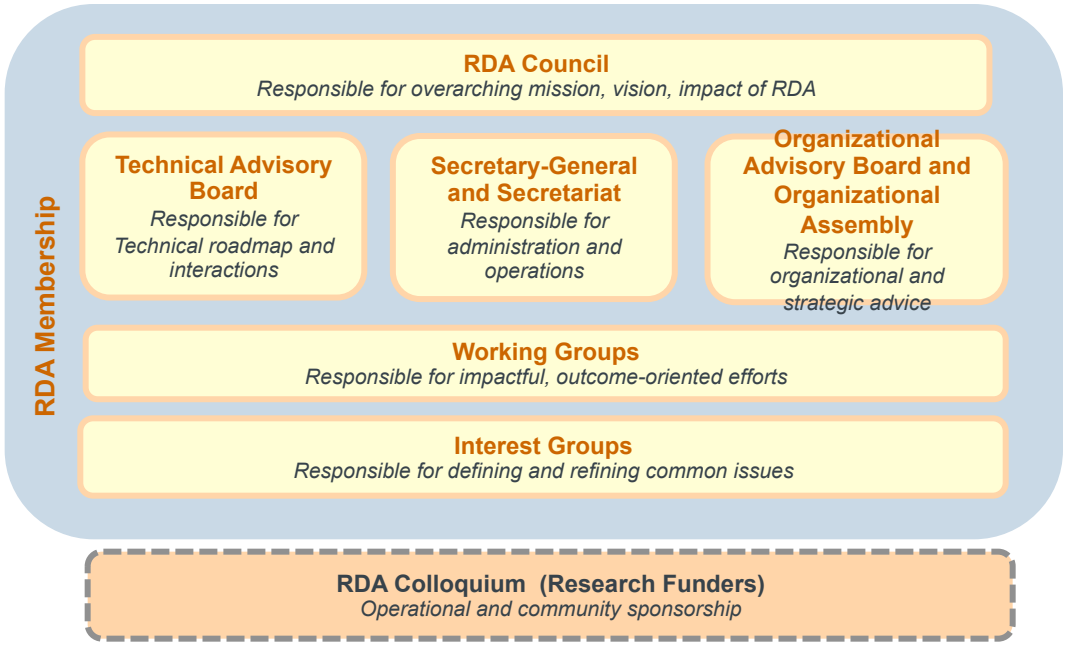
Moving quickly towards steady state …

People:

- **Council:** 2 members to be appointed for full 9. First community approval of Council slate will be held between P6 and P7 (Spring 2016)
- **TAB:** Last Council-appointed TAB member coming Spring 2014. Regular TAB elections in Fall 2014.
- **Org. Advisory Board** to be elected at P3
- **Secretary General** just appointed



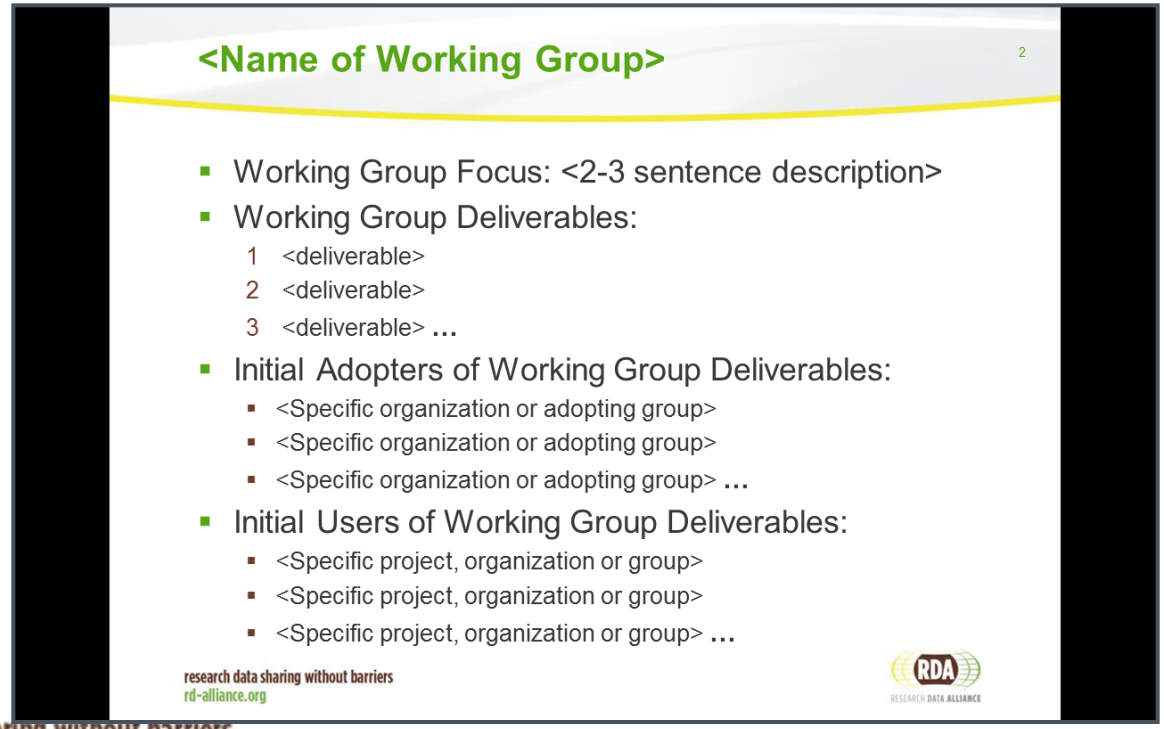
Organizational Groups

- All groups operating as planned as of P3

RDA organization is up and running!

Delivering on the promise of RDA

- Critical that the outcome of RDA is infrastructure that *tangibly* accelerates data sharing and exchange
- Asking Working Groups to be specific about adopters and users of their infrastructure



RDA and Friends

- **New MOUs with Industrial Affiliates:**
  - CODATA
  - WDS
  - DataCite
  - ORCID
  - In discussion: Global Alliance for Genomics and Health, IODE, CASRAI
- **Organizational Members Who have Signed a Letter of Interest**
  - Microsoft Research
  - Purdue University Libraries
  - Barcelona Supercomputing Center
  - International Association of STM Publishers
  - EUDAT
  - Washington University in St. Louis Libraries
  - New Zealand eScience Infrastructure
  - Research Data Canada
  - eResearch Services and Scholarly Application Development Division of Information Services, Griffith University
  - American University Library
  - Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition
  - EIROForum IT Working Group

Expanding interest from data-oriented communities and professional organizations

- **Great opportunities for coalescing the community and creating impact**

RDA Medium-term (3-5 years) Strategic Goals

- **Create a pipeline of data sharing infrastructure efforts**
  - that are adopted and used by communities during their development
  - that increase their impact through greater adoption over time
- **Build and expand the research data community for effective impact**
  - globally, regionally, and within constituent groups
- **Evolve as a useful, relevant, and agile organization**
  - that helps the community capitalize on opportunity and respond to challenges within the data community

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RDA Organizational Structure Provides Coordinating Framework

RDA Membership

RDA Council
Responsible for overarching mission, vision, impact of RDA

Technical Advisory Board
Responsible for Technical roadmap and interactions

Secretary-General and Secretariat
Responsible for administration and operations

Organizational Advisory Board and Organizational Assembly
Responsible for organizational and strategic advice

Working Groups
Responsible for impactful, outcome-oriented efforts

Interest Groups
Responsible for defining and refining common issues

RDA Colloquium (Research Funders)
Operational and community sponsorship

RDA Interest (IG) and Working Groups (WG) by Focus (as of 12/13, more now)

Domain Science - focused

- Toxicogenomics Interoperability IG
- Structural Biology IG
- Biodiversity Data Integration IG
- Agricultural Data Interoperability IG
- Digital History and Ethnography IG
- Defining Urban Data Exchange for Science IG
- Marine Data Harmonization IG
- Materials Data Management IG

Community Needs - focused

- Community Capability Model IG
- Engagement IG
- Clouds in Developing Countries IG

Reference and Sharing - focused

- Data Citation IG
- **Data Categories and Codes WG**
- Legal Interoperability IG

Data Stewardship - focused

- Research Data Provenance IG
- Certification of Digital Repositories IG
- Preservation e-infrastructure
- Long-tail of Research Data IG
- Publishing Data IG
- Domain Repositories IG
- Global Registry of Trusted Data Repositories and Services IG

Base Infrastructure - focused

- **Data Foundations and Terminology WG**
- **Metadata Standards WG**
- **Practical Policy WG**
- **PID Information Types WG**
- **Data Type Registries WG**
- Metadata IG
- Big Data Analytics IG
- Data Brokering IG

Coming in 2014: First RDA Infrastructure Deliverables

Scheduled to Complete Summer 2014

Data Type Registries WG

- **Deliverables:** System of data type registries, formal model for describing types, working model of a registry.
- **Initial Adopters and Users:** CNRI, International DOI Foundation, Deep Carbon Observatory

Practical Code Policies

- **Deliverables:** Survey of policies in production use, testbed of machine actionable policies, deployment of 5 policy sets, policy starter kits
- **Initial Adopters and Users:** RENCI, DataNet Federation Consortium, CESNET, Odum Institute

Persistent Identifier Information Types

- **Deliverables:** Minimal set of PID types, API
- **Initial Adopters and Users:** Data Conservancy, DKRZ

Scheduled to Complete Fall 2014

Language Codes

- **Deliverables:** Operationalization of ISO language categories for repositories.
- **Initial Adopters and Users:** Language Archive, Paradisec

Data Foundations and Terminology

- **Deliverables:** Common vocabulary for data terms, formal definitions and open registry for data terms
- **Initial Adopters and Users:** EUDAT, DKRZ, Deep Carbon Observatory, CLARIN, EPOS

Metadata Standards

- **Deliverables:** Use cases and prototype director of current metadata standards starting from DCC directory
- **Initial Adopters and Users:** JISC, DataOne