The Research Data Alliance Global Update

Hilary Hanahoe, RDA Secretary General

RDA Virtual Plenary Meeting, RDA Business and Adoption Session, 21 April 2021
Vision
Researchers and innovators openly share and re-use data across technologies, disciplines, and countries to address the grand challenges of society.

Mission
RDA builds the social and technical bridges that enable open sharing and re-use of data.
The **Work of RDA** performed by the global volunteer community of data practitioners enables representation of all geographies, research domains, and professional cultures.

The **Business of RDA** is a lean and agile managerial layer, supporting governance and operations, and vital to securing the organisation’s sustainability.
Presenting the Research Data Alliance’s fourth strategic plan, providing direction and vision for the organisation, its stakeholders and community until 2023.

RDA Strategic Phases

2013-2015 Inception
2015-2017 Direction
2017-2020 Roadmap
2020-2023 Consolidation
2023 -> Strengthening & Widening
RDA is an enabling organisation offering a global, open, neutral, community-driven, and independent forum serving multiple stakeholders and covering all scientific disciplines and research domains.

RDA's processes, peer review, diversity of review and contribution—which greatly increase the quality of outputs.

RDA is a dynamic and lean structure, a global pool of data practitioners, with an ability and agility to get things done.

RDA is a GLOBAL OPEN PLATFORM by design
Presenting the fourth strategic plan, providing direction and vision for the organisation, its stakeholders and community until 2023.

**GOAL**

- People
- Processes
- Products

**RDA Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023**

**People**

**GOAL**

to grow the RDA membership and facilitate engagement of the community, evolving to become truly global and diverse.

**PRIORITIES**

- Building Communities of Practice;
- Engaging with public and private sectors;
- Building capacity in the global south and Asia.

**Processes**

**GOAL**

to bring to completion the processes that provide optimal and sustainable support to the RDA community

**PRIORITIES**

- Ensure financial sustainability;
- Increase RDA professionalisation;
- Optimise processes to support stakeholder relationships.

**Products**

**GOAL**

to improve RDA products in order to attract stakeholders in all sectors.

**PRIORITIES**

- Deploying the platform as a business model;
- Enhancing web presence;
- Maintaining Outputs and Recommendations.
Financial Sustainability Task Force: Members

Ingrid Dillo (RDA Council co-chair)
Hilary Hanahoe (RDA Sec Gen)
Bob Hanisch (RDA Council member)
Natalie Harrower (RDA EU Regional Office rep.)
Rebecca Koskela (RDA US Exec Director)
Mark Leggott (RDA Council co-chair)
Financial Update

Natalie Harrowe
Research Data Alliance
RDA Foundation - Legal Entity

- UK based non profit charitable organisation established in 2014
- official and legal representative of the global RDA community
- provides core business operations of RDA and represents RDA globally
- employs Secretary General and Office Manager
- elected Council members are Trustees and Board members
Global funding models 2014 - 2020

Organisational Membership Fees

Donations and Grants

Other Financial Contributions

RDA Global
RDA Global Funding Investment 2013-2020
Approx. £23 million

- Total Funding Agency Investment (2013-2020): 95%
- Other: 5%

- of which RDA Foundation (Global Secretariat) Funding (2013-2020): 5%
RDA over the years: Community Growth

RDA Worldwide Growth

Growth over Time

Members
11,646
RDA over the years: Organisational Membership growth
RDA over the years: Group growth
2013: 14 groups -> 2020: 133 groups
RDA over the years: Outputs & Adoption

Approx. **50 Recommendations and supporting outputs** released & endorsed.

140+ cases of Adoption

All of this work needs to be managed, supported and maintained.
Financial Figures 2018 - 2020

Hilary Hanahoe
Secretary General
Research Data Alliance
RDA Secretariat: In-kind staff contributions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>FTE 2018</th>
<th>FTE 2019</th>
<th>FTE 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total In-kind Staff</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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RDA Web Platform: June 2013 – May 2020 supported by EC through RDA Europe grants
RDA Foundation Income vs Expenditure (2018-2020)

- Income
- Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>£225,000</td>
<td>£300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>£275,000</td>
<td>£350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>£250,000</td>
<td>£325,000</td>
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What does RDA Global need annually?

Core Funding (Systematic):
£400,000
✓ Personnel: salaries & travel
✓ Fiscal expenses
✓ Other: web platform, office costs
✓ Bank Reserves

Nice to have (Incremental):
£100,000 - £200,000
✓ Increased global personnel
✓ Maintenance & research facility
✓ Helpdesk
✓ Awards, Scholarships, Grants

Regional grants underlying global contributions are FUNDAMENTAL to maintain and grow the community.
The Cost of NOT having RDA

- No fundamental **progress towards achieving open science | open research vision**.
- Guaranteed **duplication of efforts**.
- No **open and available community-based solutions, best practices, guidelines and standards** for all stakeholders to capitalize on.
- No **global pool of data practitioners from multiple communities and stakeholders** to call to action.
- No **international cohort to support global interoperability**, essential for the open science clouds, data commons that are being heavily invested in across the globe.
Task Force Focus

• Identification of appropriate and achievable revenue models for RDA business to adequately support the work
• Align financial strategies / plans with the strategic plan and implementation priorities for 2021-2023
• Engage with regional offices / representatives to align revenue and business models
• Continuous cyclic interaction and consultation with stakeholders (Funders, Organisational members, community, governance bodies)
Possible Global funding models 2022 -

- Regional Engagement
- Individual Membership Fees
- Organisational Membership Fees
- Sponsorship / Ad hoc funding
- Donations and Grants
- Plenary financial model

RDA Global
Challenges

• Preserve the values and vision – the RDA Guiding Principles
• Protect and nurture bottom up community driven activities
• Maintain and enhance the service to the community
• Maintain and expand the offer and the suite of outputs
• Identify eventual governance body changes
Next Steps

Feb – May 2021: Individual Options: Data Collection & Proposal
April – June 2021: Stakeholder Consultation
May – Oct 2021: Governance body changes
Sept – Nov 2021: Stakeholder Consultation
2022: New Revenue model Roll out