



Organisational Structure

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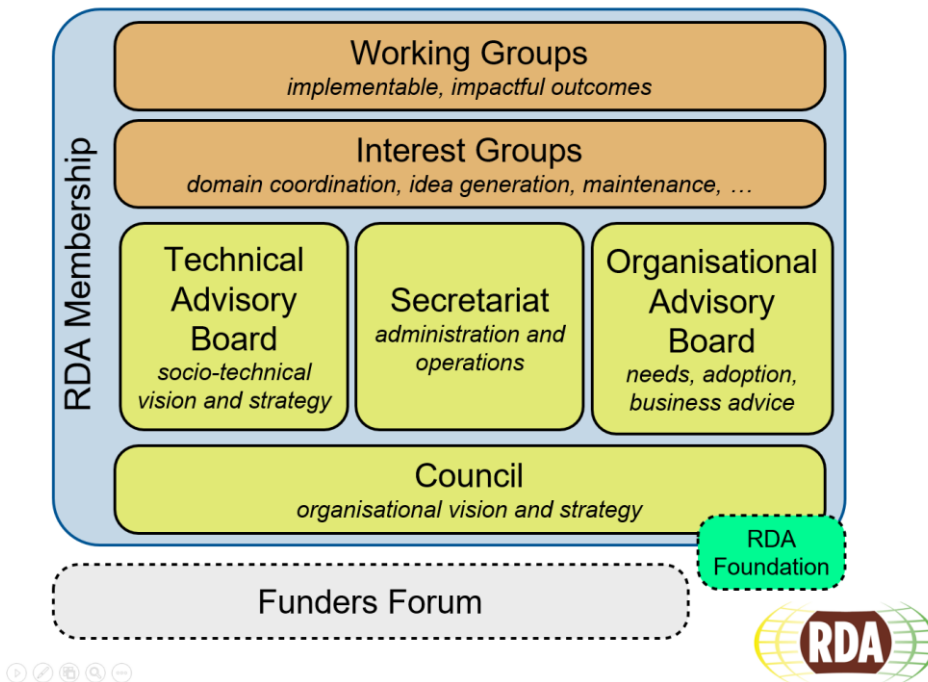
The Research Data Alliance (RDA) was launched as a community-driven organization in March 2013 with the goal of building the social and technical infrastructure to enable open sharing of data. The

With over 4050 members from 110 countries (May 2016), RDA provides a neutral space where its members can come together through focused global Working and Interest Groups to develop and adopt infrastructure that promotes data-sharing and data-driven research, and accelerate the growth of a cohesive data community that integrates contributors across domain, research, national, geographical and generational boundaries.¹

Becoming a member of RDA is simple and open to both individuals and organizations who subscribe to RDA's Guiding Principles of:

- Openness – RDA community meetings and processes are open, and the deliverables of RDA Working Groups will be publicly disseminated.
- Consensus – The RDA moves forward by achieving consensus among its membership. RDA processes and procedures include appropriate mechanisms to resolve conflicts.
- Balance – The RDA seeks to promote balanced representation of its membership and stakeholder communities.
- Harmonization – The RDA works to achieve harmonization across data standards, policies, technologies, infrastructure, and communities.
- Community-driven – The RDA is a public, community-driven body constituted of volunteer members and organizations, supported by the RDA Secretariat.
- Non-profit - RDA does not promote, endorse, or sell commercial products, technologies, or services.

¹ <https://rd-alliance.org/about-rda>



RDA was defined to be a bottom-up organisation, by the community for the community. The structure is simple and lightweight with the members in a central role and the Working & Interest Groups at the heart of RDA.

The Membership

Individual Membership

The heart of RDA is its Individual Members who are actively involved in its efforts. Since its launch in 2013, RDA's membership² has grown considerably representing academia, industry, and government, as well as numerous disciplines, including but not limited to, Social Science, Engineerings, Earth science, astronomy and meteorology etc.

Typical job titles of RDA members include:

- Data professionals / Information technology specialists and managers
- Researchers & Scientists
- Professors
- Librarians & Archivists
- Programme & Project managers
- CEO, CTO, COO, Managing Directors
- Policy developers & managers
- Other positions impacted by data

² <https://rd-alliance.org/about-rda/who-rda.html>

Function	Broad constituency of the RDA
Membership	Membership is open to any individual who subscribes to the RDA Guiding Principles.
Joining	Any individual may join the Research Data Alliance; they do so through the RDA website.
Leaving	Members may leave by contacting the Secretariat for removal from the RDA mailing lists and forums. Individual Membership can be revoked in respect of any member who is found not to be operating in line with the aims of the RDA. The procedures for this and appeal mechanisms are described in the Organisational and Process Plan.
Duration	There is no limit on membership term
Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members may participate in all RDA Forums, Plenaries, Interest Groups and other open activities. • Members may join Working Groups and participate subject to the Working Group guidelines.
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are expected to subscribe to the Guiding Principles and goals of the RDA. • Members are encouraged to be active members, i.e. to participate in RDA Discussion Forums, Interest Groups, Working Groups, Plenaries, etc. • Members are encouraged to comment on Candidate Case Statements, Charters, RDA Outputs, plans and documents, and within open community discussions. • Members are encouraged to promote the RDA and its outputs to the broader community to contribute to the effectiveness and the impact of the organisation.

Organisational Membership

Organisational Members³ provide an organisational perspective of RDA, influence its direction, and assist in the implementation and adoption of RDA's Recommendations. For many global organisations RDA is a vehicle to help incorporate data sharing technologies.

Function	To provide an organisational perspective on the work of RDA and to enhance the implementation of the output of RDA Working Groups.
Membership	Membership is open to any organisation that subscribes to the RDA Guiding Principles. Organisational Members can include R&D agencies, for-profit companies and non-profit foundations, community organizations, institutions, etc.
Joining	Organisational Members apply to join through the RDA website and are approved by

³ <https://rd-alliance.org/get-involved/organisational-membership>

	the RDA Council.
Leaving	Organisational Membership is annual, and is renewed upon payment of an annual fee. Membership can be revoked from any member who is found not to be operating in line with the aims of the RDA. The procedures for this and appeal mechanisms are described in the RDA Organisational and Process Plan.
Duration	There is no limit on membership term (fees are due annually).
Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisational Members may participate in all RDA Organisational Fora. • Organisational Members will be provided regular updates on the work of the RDA.
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards the aims of the RDA and subscribe to the RDA Guiding Principles. • Work to accelerate international data-driven innovation and discovery by facilitating research data sharing and exchange, use and re-use, standards harmonisation, and discoverability. • Provide ongoing financial support in the form of member fees to the RDA for the term of their organisational membership. • Attend and vote in the Organisational Assembly (OA) meetings.

The representatives of the RDA Organisational and Affiliate members constitute the Organisational Assembly (OA)⁴ and can be found in the table below.

Organisational Members

Organisation	OA Representative
The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), UK	Patrice Ajai-Ajagbe
American University Library, USA	Stefan Kramer
Australian National Data Service, Australia	Ross Wilkinson
Barcelona Supercomputing Center - Centro Nacional de Supercomputación, Spain	Fabrizio Gagliardi
California Institute of Technology, USA	Gail Clement
Centro Argentino e Información Científica y Tecnológica, CAICYT-CONICET, Argentina	Mela Bosch

⁴ <https://rd-alliance.org/get-involved/organisational-membership/rda-organisational-affiliate-members>

Organisation	OA Representative
CANARIE, Canada	Mark Leggott
CAP Digital, France	Patrick Cocquet
Center for Biology and Society, Arizona State University, USA	Kate MacCord
Columbia University Libraries/Information Services, USA	Amy Nurnberger
Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI)	Larry Lannom
CSC, the Finnish IT Center for Science, Finland	Leif Laaksonen
DANS, Data Archiving and Networked Services, The Netherlands	Peter Doorn
Data Observation Network for Earth - DataONE	William (Bill) Michener
Digital Curation Centre (DCC), UK	Kevin Ashley
EGI.eu - European Grid Initiative Foundation	Tiziana Ferrari
EIROForum IT Working Group	Jamie Shiers
ELSEVIER, The Netherlands	Wouter Haak
European Data Infrastructure (EUDAT project)	Damien Lecarpentier
EURISY, France	Stefaan De Mey
German Data Forum, Germany	Thomas Runge
Griffith University (Division of Information Services), Australia	Malcolm Wolski
Indiana University Pervasive Technology Institute, USA	Rob Quick
Information Technology Research Institute (ITRI)- National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan	Isao Kojima
International Association of STM Publishers	Eefke Smit

Organisation	OA Representative
Internet2, USA	Stephen Wolff
LIBER - Association of European Research Libraries	Wolfram Horstmann
Max Planck Computing and Data Facility (MPCDF), Germany	Raphael Ritz
National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA	John Towns
NZ eScience Infrastructure, New Zealand	Nick Jones
Netherlands e-Science Center	Wilco Hazeleger
Purdue University Libraries, USA	Michael Witt
Qualitative Data Repository (QDR), Syracuse University, USA	Colin Elman
Qivivo - Energy Savings Provider, France	Minh Lê Role
Research Data Canada, Canada	Mark Leggott
Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), USA	Greg Tananbaum
Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC), UK	Juan Bicarregui
Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network (TERN), The University of Queensland, Australia	Siddeswara Guru
Washington University in St. Louis Libraries, USA	Cynthia Hudson
Web Science Trust, UK	Dame Wendy Hall
John Wiley & Sons Ltd., UK	Deb Wyatt

Affiliated Members

Organisation	Representative

The Consortia Advancing Standards in Research Administration Information - CASRAI	David Baker
Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)	Simon Hodson
DataCite	Adam Farquhar
Global Open Data for Agriculture & Nutrition (GODAN)	Andre Laperriere
Connecting Research and Researchers (ORCID)	Laurel Haak
World Data System (WDS)	Mustapha Mokrane

The Organisational Assembly (OA) is the body of representatives from the Organisational Members and Organisational Affiliates. The OA meets during RDA Plenaries.

The Organisational Assembly also elects the Organisational Advisory Board (OAB), acting as an executive committee representing the interests of the Organisational Members. The processes governing Organisational Members, Organisational Affiliates, Organisational Assembly and Organisational Advisory Board are described in the Organisational Membership Processes Document⁵.

RDA Working and Interest Groups

*RDA Working Groups*⁶

Function	<p>Working Groups are engaged in creating outputs that will directly enable data sharing, exchange, or interoperability. Working Groups operate to a defined objective and on a finite timeline.</p> <p>Working groups are expected to 1) propose one or more concrete impact-oriented outputs, 2) include a plan for adoption of the output(s) within the proposed timeframe and by Working Group members, and 3) articulate within the Case Statement⁷ what specific community will benefit by adoption of the outputs and include representatives of this community within the proposed Working Group membership.</p>
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⁵ <https://b2share.eudat.eu/record/220/files/organisational%20membership%20process.pdf>

⁶ <https://rd-alliance.org/groups/creating-and-managing-rda-groups/creating-or-joining-rda-working-group.html>

⁷ <https://rd-alliance.org/groups/creating-and-managing-rda-groups/case-statement-development-and-review-process.html>

Membership	Working Groups are open to participation from RDA members subject to the participation guidelines described in their Case Statement
Creation	A Working Group is established once the Working Group Case Statement has been ratified by Council. Each Working Group has two or more Working Group Chairs who serve as the point of contact for the Working Group.
Termination	Working Groups are disbanded upon completion of the outputs described within their ratified Case Statement or at the end of the timeframe designated within their Case Statement.
Duration	The Working Group is expected to provide a duration and timeline for activity in the Case Statement. Working Groups are expected to have a duration of no more than 18 months.
Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Groups have access to appropriate administrative and communications support from the RDA Secretariat. • Working Groups' efforts are supported by technical expertise and guidance from the Technical Advisory Board. • Working Group Outputs are widely promoted and distributed by RDA, the Council, and OAB.
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Groups are responsible for carrying out the work described in their ratified Case Statement without any major variance in scope or stated outputs. • Working Groups are responsible for the initial adoption of their outputs within a community of impact during the duration of the Working Group effort. • Working Groups are responsible for presenting their work at Plenary meetings and working with the RDA on promotion and outreach about their outputs. • Working Groups are responsible for conducting open discussions on the RDA Forum during the course of their work. • Working Groups are responsible for upholding the RDA Guiding Principles, including achievement of progress via consensus.

RDA Interest Groups⁸

Function	Interest Groups form to investigate and discuss any issues relevant to RDA. Interest Groups are comprised of experts from the community that are committed to directly or indirectly enabling data sharing, exchange, or interoperability. Interest Groups serve as a platform for communication and coordination among individuals, outside and within RDA, with shared interests. They produce deliverables such as surveys, recommendations, reports, and Working Group case statements.
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⁸ <https://rd-alliance.org/groups/creating-and-managing-rda-groups/creating-or-joining-rda-interest-group.html>

Membership	Interest Groups are open to participation from all RDA members
Creation	An Interest Group is established once the Interest Group Charter has been ratified by Council. Each Interest Group has two or more Interest Group Chairs who serve as the point of contact for the Interest Group.
Termination	Interest Groups are disbanded when they cease to be active.
Duration	There is no fixed duration of an Interest Group.
Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest Groups have access to appropriate administrative and communications support from the RDA Secretariat. • Interest Groups' efforts are supported by technical expertise and guidance from the Technical Advisory Board.
Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest Groups are responsible for progressing the activities described in their Charter. • Interest Groups are responsible for describing their activity at Plenary meetings • Interest Groups are responsible for conducting open discussions during the course of their work. • Interest Groups are responsible for upholding the RDA Guiding Principles, including achievement of progress via consensus.

Supporting Bodies of the RDA

The supporting bodies of the RDA provide the environment to support the work of the Individual Members, Organisational members and Affiliates, Interest Groups, Working Groups, and Plenary, and ensure that the organisational perspective remains focused on the longer term aims of the Research Data Alliance.

The RDA supporting bodies are: RDA Council, Secretariat, Technical Advisory Board, and Organisational Advisory Board. These bodies, and the relationships between them, are described in the RDA Governance Document⁹.

RDA Council¹⁰

Function	The Council is the decision-making body of the RDA, receiving and deciding on recommendations from the RDA membership and other bodies. Evidence of a rough consensus is a key factor in Council decision-making. The Council is responsible for the overall oversight, success, strategy, and sustainability of the RDA, as well as the
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⁹ [https://b2share.eudat.eu/record/262/files/RDA Governance Document.pdf](https://b2share.eudat.eu/record/262/files/RDA_Governance_Document.pdf)

¹⁰ <https://rd-alliance.org/about-rda/our-leadership/rda-council.html>

	development and maintenance of the RDA Strategic Plan document.
Membership	Council is an elected body of the RDA. Its voting members are “statespersons” committed to enabling broad and robust international scientific and research data infrastructures, and not to promoting special interests, domains or disciplines. There are three non-voting observer members of the RDA Council: a Chair of the Technical Advisory Board, a Chair of the Organisational Advisory Board, and the Secretary General. Council terms are structured so that 3 voting members of Council are elected each year.
Election	<p>Candidate Council members will be nominated by a Nomination Committee, a committee of the Council that is responsible for nominating Council members. The Nomination Committee is appointed by the current RDA Council. Details of the membership of the Nomination Committee (including the conditions for admission to and termination of such membership) and the regulations governing Nomination Committee proceedings are set out in the RDA Organisational and Process Plan (and in an annex to this document)</p> <p>The Nomination Committee calls for nominations through the RDA Secretariat. The Nomination Committee then provides a set of three candidates, taking into account individual capability, the purpose of council, and the balance of council membership. This set is presented to the Plenary and the recommendation of the Nomination Committee is either accepted, or rejected by simple majority. If the recommendation is rejected, the process re-commences for consideration at the following plenary.</p> <p>Each year, Council will choose two co-chairs, who co-ordinate the work of the Council.</p>
Term	Council members serve for 3 years and may be re-elected.
Expectations and Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members are expected to participate in all Council meetings and attend Plenary meetings in person. • Council members are expected to contribute to and represent the RDA in a manner that facilitates the successful accomplishment of its goals, mission and vision. • Council is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the RDA Operations Plan, including the annual plan of activities and budget which sets the organizational membership framework. • Council is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the RDA Organisational and Process Plan. • Council is responsible for approving new organizational members and affiliates and removing organizational members and affiliates if and when necessary. • Council is responsible for reviewing and evaluating all candidate IG Charters, WG Case Statements, and RDA Outputs for impact and alignment with the goal of the RDA.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is expected to promote Working Group outputs upon demonstration of plenary consensus and Technical Advisory Group endorsement. • Council is responsible for setting RDA’s strategic direction and disseminating it by maintaining and evolving the RDA Strategic Plan. • Council is responsible for the ultimate vote on governance and organisational matters. • Council is responsible for the long-term financial sustainability of the Research Data Alliance. • Council members are the Trustees of the Research Data Alliance Foundation and have the financial and legal responsibilities described in the Articles of Association.
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The RDA Council is formed by:

Fran Berman, Co-Chair, RDA Council; Chair, RDA/US, Professor of Computer Science, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Michael Stanton, Director of Research and Development at the Brazilian NREN (RNP)
Patrick Cocquet, Chief Executive Officer, Cap Digital
Doris Wedlich, Chief Science Officer, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Jean Bernard Minster, Professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Ross Wilkinson, Executive Director, Australian National Data Service
Kay Raseroka, Independent consultant and Trainer, IFLA Building Strong Library Associations
John Wood, Co-chair, RDA Council, Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities
Satoshi Sekiguchi, Deputy Director General, Directorate for Information Technology and Electronics, AIST

RDA Council Election Process

This describes the process for nominating and approving RDA Council members as described in the RDA Governance Document¹¹ and the RDA Foundation Governance Document¹².

¹¹ <http://dx.doi.org/10.15497/RDA00001>

¹² <http://dx.doi.org/10.15497/A675341C-F705-4136-B7C3-B9C14B556186>

A call for nominations and expressions of interest goes out at or soon after the Plenary preceding the election Plenary.

The nomination deadline is roughly two months before the election Plenary (currently the March Plenaries).

The Nomination Committee determines the proposed slate of three candidates two weeks prior to the election Plenary.

The slate is announced to the membership one week prior to the election Plenary.

The slate is announced again at the start of the Plenary and the election is opened for two weeks.

The Council Members ending their term, officially end their term once the new members are approved.

The Secretariat conducts the election as described by the [general voting process](#). All members of RDA have one vote. There is no limit as to when a member must join before they can vote. In other words, they can join and vote immediately. The election simply asks whether the individual accepts or rejects the proposed slate.

After two weeks the election is closed and the votes are tallied. Results are determined by a simple majority vote.

If the slate is approved, the new members join Council immediately. Secretariat adds the new members to the Council web group and mailing list and updates Foundation records with Companies House and the UK Charity Commission. The new members participate in the next scheduled telecon and meeting.

If the slate is rejected, the Nominating Committee has four weeks to create a new slate. They can decide whether they want to put out another call for nominations or not. A new election is announced by the Secretariat and is open for two weeks. This repeats as necessary until a slate is approved.

Once the new Council is approved, they appoint the Nomination Committee for the next year.

Common voting process for RDA-wide elections

RDA-wide elections and referenda, including those for TAB, OAB, and Council, shall follow these general rules and procedures to ensure integrity, consistency, and accuracy.

- Prior to the announcement of an election, the Secretariat designates two of their member to serve as an "election monitor" and a "second".
- The election monitor is responsible for: (They don't have to do it all, just make sure it gets done, well, and on time.)
 - announcing and conducting the election,
 - ensuring compliance with rules,
 - reviewing and verifying results,
 - announcing results, and

- ensuring appropriate updates to documents and records after the election.
- The second tracks the process and steps in if the first monitor is unavailable.
- The voting is conducted by an online system managed by the Secretariat.
- Once a member has voted, they cannot change their vote, even if the voting period is still open.
- The tally of the votes shall not be visible to the members until after the election closes.
- Secretariat members, as members of RDA, may vote. Any administrators of the voting system who can see the current tally of votes must vote just before the election officially opens. This is to avoid anyone being able to monitor current tallies and thereby have undue strategic influence in their vote.
- At least two people, as determined by the election monitor, review and verify election results before they are announced.
- Results should be announced within 24 hours of the close of the vote, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

RDA Secretariat¹³

Function	The Secretariat supports the activities of the RDA, including logistical, scheduling, and other support. The Secretariat is responsible for maintaining, evolving, and getting Council approval for an annual Operations Plan. The Secretariat is funded through the RDA budget.
Staffing	<p>The Secretariat is led by a Secretary General, who is appointed and reviewed by Council. The Secretary General is responsible for the effective and efficient operation of the distributed Secretariat. All members of the Secretariat will work under the direction of the Secretary General. The Secretary General reports to Council. Poor performance by the Secretary General may result in dismissal by Council.</p> <p>Secretariat staff members are appointed by Council in discussion with the Secretary General. The size and constitution of Secretariat staff will be described in the annual Operating Plan and approved by Council.</p>
Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Secretary General will participate as a non-voting observer member of the RDA Council
Expectations and Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Secretary General is the company secretary of the RDA Foundation. ● The Secretariat will support the activities of the IGs, WGs, Plenary, Council, OAB and TAB as appropriate including logistical, administrative, and other support. ● The Secretariat is responsible for operating the RDA in line with the RDA planning documents, including the RDA Organisational and Process Plan and the RDA Operations Plan. ● The Secretariat is responsible for preparing and maintaining an annual

¹³ <https://rd-alliance.org/about-rda/our-leadership/rda-secretariat.html>

	<p>Operating Plan which is approved by Council. The Operating plan includes a Financial plan, Staffing plan, and Activities plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat is responsible for event and other planning for the RDA bi-annual Plenaries. • The Secretariat is responsible for communications and promotion of RDA efforts and outputs, including the development of appropriate reports to stakeholder groups and partners. • The Secretariat is responsible for open dissemination of RDA strategic documents, including the RDA Organisational and Process Plan, and the RDA Operations Plan. • The Secretariat is expected to work with the Council Nominations Committee and the TAB to conduct elections for Council and TAB members respectively. • The Secretary General is expected to provide operational and financial oversight to Council.
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The Secretariat is composed by the following members:

Mark Parsons, Secretary General/, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Timea Biro, RDA EU and Trust-IT Services Ltd.
Kathy Fontaine, RDA US / Volunteer
Hilary Hanahoe, RDA EU and Trust-IT Services Ltd.
Fotis Karayannis, RDA EU and ATHENA Research Center
Stefanie Kethers, Australian National Data Service
Yolanda Meleco, RDA/US and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Sara Pittonet Gaiaren Pittonet, RDA EU / Trust-IT Services Ltd.
Lynn Yarmey, RDA/US and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

RDA Technical Advisory Board¹⁴

Function	The Technical Advisory Board (TAB) provides technical expertise and advice to the Council. It also assists in developing and reviewing RDA Working Groups and Interest
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¹⁴ <https://rd-alliance.org/about-rda/our-leadership/rda-technical-advisory-board.html>

	Groups to promote their impact and effectiveness. The Technical Advisory Group is responsible for the development, maintenance and evolution of technical documents.
Membership	<p>Members of the TAB are elected from and by the RDA membership. TAB members normally serve for a term of 3 years and may be re-elected. Each year, approximately one-third of the TAB stand down and their positions will be filled by election. The TAB Election process is described in the TAB Election Process document¹⁵.</p> <p>The Technical Advisory Board chooses two co-Chairs annually, who co-ordinate the work of the Technical Advisory Board.</p>
Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TAB will be supported by the Secretariat in executing its activities. • A co-Chair of the Technical Advisory Board will participate as a non-voting observer member of the RDA Council.
Expectations and Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Technical Advisory Board is responsible for guiding the technical work of RDA, through the development and evolution of technical documents. • The Technical Advisory Board is expected to cultivate candidate Interest Group Charters, Working Group Case Statements, and RDA Outputs that promote the RDA goals of adoption and impact. • The Technical Advisory Board is expected to work with RDA Working Groups to promote adoption and effectiveness of their Outputs. • The Technical Advisory Board is expected to work with Council to evaluate candidate Interest Group Charters and Working Group Case Statements. • The Technical Advisory Board is expected to advise RDA membership and Council on impact-oriented WG opportunities and discussion topics. • The Technical Advisory Board is expected to provide technical advice to Council to inform strategic approaches and decisions.

The RDA Technical Advisory Board is formed by the following members:

Wenbo Chu, Deputy Director, National Science and Technology Infrastructure Center of China
Larry Lannom, Director of Information Services and Vice President, Corporation for National Research Initiatives
Simon J D Cox, Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Australia
Carole Palmer, Professor, Information School at the University of Washington

¹⁵ <https://b2share.eudat.eu/record/357>

Stephen Diggs, Lab Director, Hydrographic Data Group at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO)
Susanna-Assunta Sansone, Associate Director and Principal Investigator, University of Oxford e-Research Centre, Consultant, Nature Publishing Group (NPG)
Ingrid Dillo, Deputy Director, Data Archiving and Networked Services
Rainer Stotzka, Leader of “Software Methods” Department and Software Development group “Big Data”, Institute for Data Processing and Electronics, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Peter Fox, Chair, Tetherless World Constellation, Professor of Earth and Environmental Science and Computer Science, Director of the Information Technology and Web Science Program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Andrew Treloar TAB co-chair, Director of Technology Australian National Data Service (TAB co-chair)
Françoise Genova, TAB co-chair, Director, Strasbourg Astronomical Data Centre CDS (TAB co-chair)
Peter Wittenburg, The Language Archive, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics

TAB Rotation Schedule

NOTE: TAB members can renominate if they wish to, subject to rules listed in the full document that describes the election process¹⁶.

Term Expires September 2016	Term Expires September 2017	Term Expires September 2018
Simon Cox	Françoise Genova	Wenbo Chu
Peter Fox	Carole Palmer	Steve Diggs
Susanna-Assunta Sassone	Andrew Treloar	Ingrid Dillo
Rainer Stotzka	Peter Wittenburg	Larry Lannom

The next TAB election takes place in September 2016 with 4 seats open. There are Balance Criteria to ensure that disciplines, regions, and roles are adequately represented. All criteria have a maximum of 5 members in that category; only Regional has a minimum. The Regional criterion is no more than 5, but no fewer than 2 TAB members from

¹⁶ <http://doi.org/10.15497/E9F94145-5EA1-44CC-9428-85498CF85E30>

- North America and South America
- Europe and Africa
- Asia and Oceania

The current (Sept 2016) open slots are from all three regions: 1 from Asia and Oceania; 1 from North America and South America; and 2 from Europe and Africa.

Election Process Overview

TAB members are chosen for their technical expertise, so technical merit should be the major consideration in TAB member selection. On the other hand, the TAB needs to make decisions which are informed by a broad range of expertise, so there should not be over representation of any particular domain of expertise on the TAB. For example, it will be necessary for the TAB to have a wide range of disciplinary and technical expertise and to be broadly considerate of different geographic and organizational factors. It is also desirable for the TAB to be balanced in respect of personal attributes such as gender, age or race.

The TAB election process is designed to empower the membership to create these balances within TAB by making it clear which expertise and backgrounds the individual candidates have and by using a voting scheme where each member has multiple votes so that they are more likely to include votes for a range of candidates with a balance of expertise.

Election Process

The process is run on a fixed 12-month cycle, with fixed dates for each stage. The cycle is synchronised with the Plenary so as to make best use of face-to-face discussions at the Plenary.

Any member can put themselves forward as a candidate for election to the TAB. To do this they canvass for 3 seconders and put themselves forward by submitting a “statement” of less than 200 words by a specific date at least 1 month before the plenary. These statements should describe the candidate’s background and expertise including how they match the balancing criteria described below (region, discipline, role in research). The statements will be shown on the RDA website. The seconders are expected to support the candidate by emailing the Secretariat. The existing TAB may wish to endorse specific candidates or recommend a “slate” of candidates, which they believe would achieve the required balances on the TAB.

Voting rights are given to all members. An on-line voting system is used to conduct the election. The voting scheme, described in the next section, will have a mechanism built in which ensures the set of candidates elected achieves the required balances in TAB.

Voting Scheme

The aim is to have a voting system which enables the membership to elect a balanced TAB. By giving each voter a number of votes equal to the number of places being elected, and by making clear what gaps are to be filled by the new TAB members and what expertise each candidates would bring to the TAB, voters are empowered to elect TAB members who fill those gaps if they so wish. However, if the result of the voting

does not achieve the required balances a balancing algorithm will be used to adjust the result to restore the required balances.

- A list is prepared of which expertise is available in the TAB members who are remaining in post, and which expertise and backgrounds are required from the new members to be elected.
- Each Candidate makes clear what range of expertise they would bring to TAB by selecting their expertise and background from a list of topics which balance is to be achieved.
- Each Member of RDA has a number of votes equal to the number of seats being elected.
- Votes are cast and the candidates with the most votes are elected to TAB with the caveat that the balancing quotas not be exceeded.
- The balancing algorithm will be employed when any particular category of expertise and background is overrepresented.
- The balancing algorithm is described in a separate section below.
- In the unlikely event of a draw the Secretariat will define a mechanism to ensure a fair outcome.

TAB resignation

- TAB members can resign at any time during their term. If a place on the TAB is vacated during a person's term, Council will determine how that slot will be filled.
- TAB members can be ejected from TAB on the grounds of not following the principles of RDA or TAB. Any decision in this regard will be made by Council on hearing evidence from TAB or RDA members.

Election of the TAB Co-Chairs

At any given time, there are two co-chairs of the TAB.

The TAB co-chairs are elected from the TAB members by the TAB members.

The TAB co-chairs are elected for 2 year at a time with a maximum of 1 re-election (ie max 4 consecutive years). The co-chair elections are staggered so that one co-chair is elected each year.

TAB co-chairs are elected by simple majority voting with one vote for each TAB member.

A TAB member who is elected as TAB co-chair towards the end of their first term on TAB will be considered to be automatically re-elected to TAB should their term as TAB member come to an end during their term as co-chair. A TAB member who is in their second term on TAB should not stand for election as TAB co-chair if their term as co-chair would take them beyond their maximum time on TAB.

RDA Organisational Advisory Board¹⁷

Function	The Organisational Advisory Board (OAB) is a subcommittee of the representatives of RDA Organisational Members and Affiliates and ensures that Organisational Members' inputs and needs play a role in guiding the programs and activities of RDA
Membership	Organisational members who have been approved by Council will nominate a representative of the organisation to be a member of the Organisational Assembly, which in turn elects the OAB. The election process is described in the RDA Organisational Membership Processes document ¹⁸ . Member organisations may replace their organisational representatives at their discretion. The OAB will annually elect two co-Chairs, who coordinate the work of the OAB.
Duration	Organisational members may serve on the OAB as long as their organisations are approved organisational members of the RDA. Organisational approval and revoking organisational and affiliate membership is the responsibility of Council.
Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OAB will be supported by the Secretariat in executing its activities. • A co-chair of the Organisational Advisory Board will participate as a non-voting observer member of the RDA Council.
Expectations and Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing organisational and operations advice either at the request of the Secretary General or the RDA Council or to express issues raised among the organisational membership with regard to the directions, processes, and mechanisms of RDA to the Secretary General and/or Council. • Providing input to the Secretary General and the Secretariat on organisational needs; for example, with the goal of encouraging the formation of Interest Groups or Working Groups or other actions that could be taken by RDA to meet organisational needs. • Interacting with the Technical Advisory Board (TAB) during the review of IG and WG proposals to provide guidance on overlap and synergies with other RDA and community efforts. • Encouraging and facilitating the adoption of relevant RDA outputs among organisational members to drive broad adoption. • Collaborating with the TAB to review mid-point and final Working Group Recommendations and outputs, and to advise on how implementable proposed outputs are likely to be. OAB provides guidance on organisational needs and partnership and pilot opportunities, with the goal of encouraging broad community adoption of RDA outputs. • Assisting with Plenary programming and other outreach activities. • Developing of test-beds to support WG pilot projects and distribution of outputs

¹⁷ <https://rd-alliance.org/about-rda/our-leadership/rda-organisational-advisory-board.html>

¹⁸ <http://dx.doi.org/10.15497/2921FEB4-B68B-452D-AC5A-6B90B22E4C91>

	to the community
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The RDA Organisational Advisory Board is formed, at the moment, by the following members:

Aaron Addison, Washington University in St. Louis Libraries, United States
Kevin Ashley, Digital Curation Centre, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Juan Bicarregui, OAB co-chair, Science and Technology Facilities Council, United Kingdom
Fabrizio Gagliardi, Barcelona Supercomputing Center - Centro Nacional de Supercomputación, Spain
Siddeswara Guru, Terrestrial Ecosystem Research network, University of Queensland, Australia
Amy Nurnberger, OAB co-chair, Columbia University, Unites States
Susan Reilly, LIBER, Netherlands
Raphael Ritz, Max Planck Computing and Data Facility, Germany
Stephen Wolff, Internet2, United States
Malcolm Wolski, Griffith University, Australia

This OAB was ratified at the Tokyo plenary (march 2017) and 10 members have been appointed including its two co-chairs, Amy Nurnberger and Juan Bicarregui. The remaining two seats are available for OA industrial members and a new call for nominations will be initiated in the future.

Funders ¹⁹

RDA's infrastructure is supported by the following regions and organizations:

Australia - Supported by the Australian Commonwealth Government through the Australian National Data Service, supported by the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy Program and the Education Investment Fund (EIF) Super Science.

Europe (RDA EU) - Supported by the European Commission through the RDA Europe projects funded under the 7th and Horizon 2020 Framework Programmes.

¹⁹ <https://rd-alliance.org/about-rda/our-funders.html>

United States (RDA/US) - Supported at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) by the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation.

As programs, initiatives and community efforts within each of these regions continue to grow, support from agencies, organizations and institutions is also growing to drive an international portfolio of high-impact data sharing and community efforts.

Research Data Alliance Foundation

The RDA Foundation Governance document²⁰ references the high level structures of the Research Data Alliance Foundation (the RDA Foundation) and its associate membership, known as the RDA. It has been adopted by the Council in accordance with the Articles of Association of the RDA Foundation²¹.

²⁰ <https://b2share.eudat.eu/record/217/files/RDA%20Foundation%20Governance%20Document.pdf>

²¹ <https://b2share.eudat.eu/record/195/files/AoA.pdf>