RDA for Newcomers

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Agenda

- Welcome and brief introduction to RDA – Hilary Hanahoe, RDA Secretary General
- How the Research Data Alliance works
- How to make the most of this Plenary
- Questions & Answers
Research Data Alliance Principles and Structure

HILARY HANAHOE
SECRETARY GENERAL
RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE
Researchers and innovators openly share data across technologies, disciplines and countries to address the grand challenges of society.

Build the social and technical bridges that enable open sharing of data.
OPENNESS
Membership is open to all interested individuals who subscribe to the RDAs Guiding Principles. 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-DRIVE
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.
The **Business** of RDA is to support that community and facilitate the building and using the bridges that enable open sharing of data.

The **Work** of RDA is done by the **volunteer community** through self-formed, focused Working Groups, exploratory Interest Groups to build the social and technical connections or bridges.

**33 Working Groups & 58 Interest Groups**

**22 outputs and recommendations**

**75+ cases adoption and implementation**
RDA Membership

Working Groups
implementable, impactful outcomes

Interest Groups
domain coordination, idea generation, maintenance, …

Technical Advisory Board
socio-technical vision and strategy

Secretariat
administration and operations

Organisational Advisory Board
needs, adoption, business advice

Council
organisational vision and strategy

RDA Foundation

Funders Forum
Who can join RDA?

**INDIVIDUALS**

Any individual, regardless of profession or discipline, with an interest in reducing the barriers to data sharing and re-use and who agrees to RDA’s guiding principles and code of conduct.

**FREE OF CHARGE**

[rd-alliance.org/get-involved.html](rd-alliance.org/get-involved.html)

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**ORGANISATIONS**

that share some or all of the RDA goals and work according to its guiding principles.

Organisations currently include R&D agencies, for-profit companies and non-profit foundations, community organisations and research institutions.

**ANNUAL FEE**

WWW.RD-ALLIANCE.ORG

@RESDATALL

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Total RDA community members 6,769

RDA around the world

136 Countries
Who is RDA?

- Researcher: 1517
- Other: 1203
- Programme Manager/Project Manager: 720
- Professor: 673
- Librarian: 754
- IT Specialist/IT Architect: 562
- Student: 411
- CEO/Managing Director/Chief Executive: 286
- Advisor/Consultant: 338
- CTO/IT Director: 157
- Policy development manager/Policy Consultant: 112
- Journalist/Editor/Copywriter: 46

rd-alliance.org/about-rda

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Plenary Meetings
Who currently supports RDA?

Supported by international organisations since 2012 & launched in March 2013.
RDA Organisational & Affiliate Members

43 Organisational Members

8 Affiliate Members

https://rd-alliance.org/organisation/rda-organisation-affiliate-members.html
RDA is you … The COMMUNITY

- Contributing to acceleration of data infrastructure development
- Working and sharing experiences with collaborators throughout the world
- Accessing extraordinary network of colleagues with various levels of experience, perspectives and practices
- Gaining greater expertise in data science regardless of whether one is a student, early or seasoned career professional
- Enhancing the quality and effectiveness of personal work and activities
- Improving competitive advantage professionally and positioning oneself for leadership within the broader research community
- Creating, managing & driving RDA Working & Interest groups with fellow global colleagues and Commenting on Outputs
How the Research Data Alliance Works
The “Heart” of RDA…

… are the RDA Working and Interest Groups
Working Groups (WGs)

- 12-18-month lifespan
- Develop and implement specific tools, code, best practices, standards, etc.
- Outputs include:
  - Adoptable and adopted **Recommendations**
  - Supporting Outputs (optional)
- Group members should include adopters from the start
Interest Groups (IGs)

- No specific lifespan – some have been around since 2013
- Platform for interested people to come together
- May act as an umbrella group for several Working Groups, e.g. Agricultural Data IG (IGAD)
- Possible Outputs include WGs, Supporting Outputs
How do WGs and IGs work?

- Number of people from different backgrounds, regions, etc. coming together to work on a specific topic
- 2-4 Co-chairs facilitate the group
- Regular virtual meetings / telecons
- Meetings at Plenaries
  - Working meetings
  - Joint sessions with other groups
A Way to Get Started: BoFs

- Birds of a Feather (BoF) sessions are meant to gauge interest in the proposed topic
- BoFs run sessions at a Plenary
- Possible Outcomes: Participants decide to
  - work towards establishing a WG
  - work towards establishing an IG
  - not pursue the topic further
- Secretariat can help if you want to establish an IG / WG
A Closer Look at RDA Outputs

- **RDA Recommendations**
  - “Flagship outputs” - official, endorsed results of RDA
  - Every WG should develop at least one
  - May include specifications, taxonomies or ontologies, workflows, schemas, data models, etc.
  - Comparable to other organisations’ “specifications” or “standards”
  - Undergo formal review

- **Supporting Outputs**
  - Useful solutions from RDA WGs and IGs
  - May not be as clearly adoptable by organisations as RDA Recommendations.
  - Undergo a community review

- **Other Outputs**
  - No endorsement process
New Recommendations

- Plenary session on Thursday, 9:00 – 10:30
  - Final Recommendations:
    - Data Type Registries WG #2
    - Research Data Repository Interoperability WG
    - RDA / TDWG Metadata Standards for attribution of physical and digital collections stewardship
    - International Materials Resource Registries WG
  - Draft Recommendations:
    - Agrisemantics WG
    - Rice Data Interoperability WG
    - RDA/WDS Scholarly Link Exchange (Scholix) WG
    - PID Kernel Information WG
List of all Outputs

How Can You Become Involved in RDA?

- Provide input on documents currently under community review (see the “Request for Comments” box on http://rd-alliance.org)
- Provide feedback on other RDA documents and Web site contents
- Join / Initiate BoFs, Working or Interest Groups
- Adopt RDA Outputs
- Attend RDA Plenaries
- Display a poster at an RDA Plenary
- Vote in Council and TAB elections
- Stand for election as a TAB member (later this year)
How to Make the Most of the Plenary
RDA Plenaries

- Take place twice per year in different countries
- Bring together several hundred RDA members from many different communities
- Collocated and associated events before / after the Plenary
- Types of sessions at the Plenary:
  - Breakout sessions
  - Plenary sessions
- Also: Starting point for elections
  - Council (odd-numbered Plenaries)
  - Technical Advisory Board (even-numbered Plenaries)
RDA Session types

- Breakout sessions for groups to
  - Advance their work
  - Explore synergies with other groups
  - Attract new members
  - Discuss new topics
  - Establish new groups

- Plenary sessions for RDA to
  - Present new recommendations
  - Talk about RDA business
  - Get feedback from the community
  - Hear keynote speakers on topics of interest
Breakout 4 - WG/IG/BoF Working Meetings

**Group color coding legend:**

- **BoF A** IGs
- **BoF Ir** Not yet endorsed
- **BoF Ir** IG Established
- **IG** WGs
- **IG** Not yet endorsed
- **IG** WGs Getting started (~0-6 months after RDA endorsement)
- **WC** WGs Producing deliverables (~6-12 months after RDA endorsement)
- **WC** WGs Wrapping up (from ~12 months after RDA endorsement)
- **WC** WGs Maintaining deliverables (maintenance group)
How to Navigate the Plenary

- Pick a few areas of interest
- Try Guidebook
- If you want to join a group
  - Consider the color coding
  - Attend the group’s session (and please sign in to the session)
  - Talk to the group chairs
  - Join the group via the group’s RDA page
- If you want to learn about outputs
  - Come to the plenary session on Thursday, 9:00am
  - Talk to the groups whose outputs you are interested in
- Come to the Poster Sessions
Guidebook

- Guidebook is an online programme and scheduling application. Features include:
  - view sessions online
  - create a personal schedule
  - check-in to sessions
  - submit feedback on sessions
- How to download: https://www.rd-alliance.org/rdas-11th-plenary-meeting-has-gone-mobile
Specific Activities at this Plenary:

- Vote in the Council Election
  - **Slate of 3 candidates**
  - Endorse / reject the slate
  - Voting opens tomorrow, Wednesday, at 9am, and closes on 4 April

More information in the Opening Plenary session
Council Candidates 2018

- Dr. Ingrid Dillo, Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS), The Netherlands

- Dr. Jason Haga, The National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan

- Dr. Claudia Maria Bauzer Medeiros, Professor of Computer Science, University of Campinas (Unicamp), Brazil
For Further Questions:

- Lynn: yarmel@rpi.edu, @LynnYarmey
- Stefanie: Stefanie.Kethers@ands.org.au
- You can also talk to:
  - Secretariat members
  - Technical Advisory Board (TAB) members
  - Organisational Advisory Board (OAB) members
  - Council members
  - Anyone who spoke during this session

- Twitter: @resdatall
Welcome to RDA!

If you have more questions or would just like to have a chat, come and talk to us!
Questions
Provide input into revised information for Newcomers

- What would make the information on groups on the RDA Web site easier to understand and navigate?
- What information would you like to see in a dedicated Newcomers’ area on the RDA Web site?
- What would you like to see covered in a future RDA for Newcomers session?

Please email any comments or suggestions to Stefanie.Kethers@ands.org.au
Further Information
Further Information

- RDA “Primer” for Newcomers: [https://rd-alliance.org/rda-newcomers-some-notes](https://rd-alliance.org/rda-newcomers-some-notes)
- List of all RDA WGs and IGs: [https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups](https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups)
- Overview of Group Processes: [https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/group-process-procedures.html](https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/group-process-procedures.html)
- WG Goals and Outcomes: [https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/goals-and-outcomes.html](https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/goals-and-outcomes.html)
- WG Case Statements and Review Criteria: [https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/case-statements.html](https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/case-statements.html)

Questions or comments? Please contact [enquiries@rd-alliance.org](mailto:enquiries@rd-alliance.org)