



# RDA for Newcomers

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[rd-alliance.org](http://rd-alliance.org)

# Agenda

- Brief introduction to RDA - Mark Parsons, RDA Secretary General
- How RDA works
- How to get involved in RDA
- Plenaries and how to make the most of them
- Q&A Panel
- Where to get help
- Optional for those interested:
  - Current RDA Outputs and how to adopt them
  - Specific plenary questions
  - Organizational membership
  - Or anything else you are interested in



# How the Research Data Alliance Works

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# 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: Recommendations
  - Adoptable and adopted
- Group members should include adopters from the start

# Interest Groups

- 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 see e.g. Agricultural Data IG (IGAD)
- Outputs: WGs, surveys, recommendations, reports, etc.

# 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



- 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

# Current Endorsed RDA Recommendations

- Scalable Dynamic-data Citation Methodology
- Data Description Registry Interoperability Model
- Basic Vocabulary of Foundational Terminology Query Tool
- Data Type Model and Registry
- Persistent Identifier Type Registry
- Machine Actionable Policy Templates
- Repository Audit and Certification Catalogues
- Workflows for Research Data Publishing
- Wheat Data Interoperability Guidelines, Ontologies and User Cases

# Recommendations with Endorsement in Process

- Sustainable Business Models for Brokering Middleware to support Research Interoperability
- Metadata Standards Directory
- Framework for Summer Schools in Data Science and Cloud Computing
- An open, universal literature-data cross-linking service

# List of all Outputs

<https://www.rd-alliance.org/recommendations-and-outputs/all-recommendations-and-outputs>

# New at RDA Plenary 9

- To be presented in Plenary session Thursday, 18:00
  - Final Recommendation:
    - BioSharing WG
  - Draft Recommendations:
    - Research Data Collections WG
    - Array Database Assessment WG
- Recommendation and Adoption demos
  - Wednesday, during coffee and lunch breaks
  - Set-up: tables with monitors – can talk to adopters and WG chairs



# How to Get Involved in RDA

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# Becoming a Member of the RDA

- Individuals
  - Agree with the RDA's Guiding Principles listed at <https://rd-alliance.org/get-involved.html>
  - Sign up to the Research Data Alliance at <https://www.rd-alliance.org/user/register>
  
- Organisations
  - See <https://rd-alliance.org/organisation/rda-organisation-affiliate-members/rda-organisational-membership.html> for information on membership benefits, costs, and expectations.

# Contributing as Individual Member

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



# Specifically at this Plenary:

- Participate in the RDA coordination activity – Lynn facilitates this
- Vote in the Council election

More information on both in the Plenary session tomorrow!

- 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?

Please email [Stefanie.Kethers@ands.org.au](mailto:Stefanie.Kethers@ands.org.au) with comments and suggestions

# If you Want to Start a New Group

- Any member of the RDA can initiate a new BoF, Interest or Working Group
- Before starting a new group, please have a look at existing Working and Interest Groups at <https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups>
- If there is a group covering your topic of interest, or closely related to it, please join the group rather than start a new one
- BoFs are meant to gauge interest in the proposed topic and are closely associated with a Plenary

# To Start a New IG or WG

- Be an RDA member
- Find a group of interested participants:
  - From 3 or more continents
  - From multiple sectors/disciplines
  - Willing to commit to the group's goals over the lifespan of the group
- Develop the Charter (IG) or Case Statement (WG)
- All IGs and WGs undergo a review process by the RDA Community, the Technical Advisory Board, and Council before being recognized and endorsed by RDA.
- See <https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/group-process-procedures.html> for more detail
- Secretariat ([enquiries@rd-alliance.org](mailto:enquiries@rd-alliance.org)) happy to help!

- Once a group is recognised, the Secretariat Liaison will help the group establish working, communication, and recording processes.
- Joint activities with RDA affiliates are encouraged.
- Groups are encouraged to meet at RDA Plenaries.
- Working Groups report on their outputs at RDA Plenaries after ~12 and ~18 months
- The outputs of recognized Working Groups are strongly promoted by Council, the TAB, the Secretariat, and the RDA Membership at large.



# How to Make the most of Plenaries

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- 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
  - Governance body sessions
- Also: Starting point for elections
  - Council (odd-numbered Plenaries)
  - Technical Advisory Board (even-numbered Plenaries)

- 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
  - Have keynote speakers on topics of interest

- Governance body sessions
  - RDA Council
  - Technical Advisory Board (TAB)
    - Meets with WG and IG Chairs
    - Has a Q&A session for RDA members
    - Holds an internal meeting to discuss TAB issues
  - Organisational Advisory Board (OAB)
    - Holds a meeting of the full Organisational Assembly
    - Holds a meeting to discuss OAB business
  - Secretariat



# Colour Coding in the Programme

## Breakout 2 - WG

### Group color coding legend:

#### IGs and WGs:

■ Not yet endorsed

#### IGs:

■ Getting started (-0-12 months after RDA endorsement)

■ Established (-12+ months after RDA endorsement)

#### WGs:

■ Getting started (-0-6 months after RDA endorsement)

■ Producing deliverables (-6-12 months after RDA endorsement)

■ Wrapping up (-12-18 months after RDA endorsement)

■ Maintaining deliverables (maintenance group)

Joint sessions have not been colour-coded.

■ BoF on How to

■ WG Array Data

■ WG Data Citati

■ WG Research I

■ IG Education a  
Room MR12

■ IG National Da

■ IG Preservation

■ IG Small Unma

RDA Technical Ad

# How to Navigate the Plenary

- Pick 1-2 areas of interest
- If you want to join a group
  - Check the colour coding
  - Attend the group's session(s)
  - Talk to group chairs
  - Join the group
- If you want to learn about outputs
  - Join the recommendation and adoption demos during the coffee and lunch breaks on Wednesday
  - Come to the plenary session on Thursday, 18:00
  - Talk to the groups whose outputs you are interested in
- If you have questions
  - Talk to us! E.g. at lunch on Wednesday. Or email us!



# Q&A Panel

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- Fernando Aguilar (RDA EU Plenary 8 Early Career Programme participant)
- Helen Graves (Technical Advisory Board and co-chair of several Interest Groups)
- Tobias Weigel (Technical Advisory Board and co-chair of several Working and Interest Groups)



# Further Information and Who to Ask

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# Who to Ask

- Secretariat members (email: [enquiries@rd-alliance.org](mailto:enquiries@rd-alliance.org))
- Lynn ([yarmel@rpi.edu](mailto:yarmel@rpi.edu)) and Stefanie ([Stefanie.Kethers@ands.org.au](mailto:Stefanie.Kethers@ands.org.au)) in particular
- Technical Advisory Board members – Q&A session on Wednesday, 14:00 (Breakout session 2), Plenary Room
- Twitter: Tweet @resdatall

# Thank You!

If you have more questions  
or would just like to have a chat,  
come and talk to us or join us for lunch tomorrow!

- RDA “Primer” for Newcomers: <https://rd-alliance.org/rda-newcomers-some-notes>
- Organisational Membership: <https://rd-alliance.org/organisation/rda-organisation-affiliate-members/rda-organisational-membership.html>
- List of all RDA WGs and IGs: <https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups>
- List of all Outputs: <https://www.rd-alliance.org/recommendations-and-outputs/all-recommendations-and-outputs>
- Overview of Group Processes: <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>
- WG Case Statements and Review Criteria: <https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/case-statements.html>
- Group Chair Primer: <https://rd-alliance.org/rda-working-and-interest-group-chairs-roles-and-responsibilities.html>

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