RDA for Newcomers

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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
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 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
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

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
Becoming a Member of the RDA

- **Individuals**
  - Agree with the RDA’s Guiding Principles listed at [https://rd-alliance.org/get-involved.html](https://rd-alliance.org/get-involved.html)
  - Sign up to the Research Data Alliance at [https://www.rd-alliance.org/user/register](https://www.rd-alliance.org/user/register)

- **Organisations**
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
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 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](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!
After the Review

- 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

research data sharing without barriers

rd-alliance.org
- 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)
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
  - Have keynote speakers on topics of interest
Session types (cont’d)

- 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

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.
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 Glaves** (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
Who to Ask

- Secretariat members (email: enquiries@rd-alliance.org)
- Lynn (yarmel@rpi.edu) and Stefanie (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
If you have more questions or would just like to have a chat, come and talk to us or join us for lunch tomorrow!
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)