The RDA Structure and Governance

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Secretary General

RDA for Newcomers
Paris, France
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All of society’s **grand challenges require** diverse (often large) **data** to be shared and integrated across cultures, scales, and technologies.
Research Data Alliance

Vision
Researchers and innovators openly share 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 of data.
Dynamics of Infrastructure


• Infrastructures become “ubiquitous, accessible, reliable, and transparent” as they mature.

• Systems  Networks  Inter-networks

  • “system-building, characterized by the deliberate and successful design of technology-based services.”

  • “technology transfer across domains and locations results in variations on the original design, as well as the emergence of competing systems.”

  • Finally, “a process of consolidation characterized by gateways that allow dissimilar systems to be linked into networks.”
Not what, but

When is infrastructure?
Not what, but
When and
Who is infrastructure?
Bridges and Gateways

Gateways are often wrongly understood as “technologies,” i.e. hardware or software alone. A more accurate approach conceives them as combining a technical solution with a social choice, i.e. a standard, both of which must be integrated into existing users’ communities of practice. Because of this, gateways rarely perform perfectly.

— Edwards et al. 2007
Deliverables that make data work

“Create - Adopt - Use”

- Adopted code, policy, specifications, standards, or practices that enable data sharing
- “Harvestable” efforts for which 12-18 months of work can eliminate a roadblock
- Efforts that have substantive applicability to groups within the data community but may not apply to all
- Efforts that can start today

RDA Principles
Openness
Consensus
Balance
Harmonization
Community Driven
Non-profit
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

Funders Forum

RDA Foundation
The Research Data Alliance Community Today

Total RDA Community Members: 3243
from 103 countries

North America 36%
South America 1%
Africa 3%
Asia 6%
Australasia 4%
Europe 50%

research data sharing without barriers
rd-alliance.org
## Precipitous Growth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Highlights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RDA Launch / First Plenary</strong></td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>Gothenburg, Sweden</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>240 participants, First Working Groups and Interest Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RDA Second Plenary</strong></td>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>Washington, DC, USA</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>380 participants from 22 countries, First “neutral space” community meeting (Data Citation Summit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RDA Third Plenary</strong></td>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>Dublin, Ireland</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>497 Participants from 32 countries, First Organizational Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RDA Fourth Plenary</strong></td>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>Amsterdam, Netherlands</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>550 Participants from 40 countries, 1st RDA Deliverables presented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RDA Fifth Plenary</strong></td>
<td>March 2015</td>
<td>San Diego, CA, USA</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>383 Participants from 30 countries, 2nd RDA Deliverables presented</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Organizational Assembly** and first OAB / Council meeting
- 1st Adoption Day & Large scale data projects meeting
- 10 BOF, 10 Working Groups, 20 Interest Groups; 10 joint Sessions; 4 thematic Plenary Sessions
# RDA Interest (IG) and Working Groups (WG) by Focus 1

## Domain Science - focused
- Toxicogenomics Interoperability IG
- Structural Biology IG
- Biodiversity Data Integration IG
- Agricultural Data Interoperability IG
- **Wheat Data Interoperability WG**
- Digital Practices in History and Ethnography IG
- Geospatial IG
- Marine Data Harmonization IG
- Metabolomics IG
- RDA/CODATA Materials Data Infrastructure and Interoperability IG
- Research Data Needs of the Photon and Neutron Science Community IG
- Defining Urban Data Exchange for Science IG
- **The BioSharing Registry: Connecting data policies, standards and databases in the life sciences WG**
- Urban Quality of Life Indicators IG

## Community Needs - focused
- Community Capability Model IG
- Engagement IG
- RDA/CODATA Summer Schools in Data Science and Cloud Computing in the Developing World IG
- Development of Cloud Computing Capacity and Education in Developing World Research IG
- Data for Development IG
- Education and Training on handling of research data IG

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[Image: research data sharing without barriers rd-alliance.org]
# RDA Interest (IG) and Working Groups (WG) by Focus 2

**Reference and Sharing - focused**
- Data Citation WG
- Standardization of Data Cat. and Codes WG
- RDA/CODATA Legal Interoperability IG
- Reproducibility IG
- Data Description Registry Interoperability Working Group
- RDA / WDS Publishing Data Bibliometrics WG

**Data Stewardship and Services - focused**
- Research Data Provenance IG
- Preservation e-infrastructure IG
- RDA / WDS Publishing Data Services WG
- RDA / WDS Publishing Data Workflows WG
- Long-tail of Research Data IG
- RDA/WDS Publishing Data IG
- RDA/WDS Repository Audit and Certification
- DSA-WDS Partnership WG
- Domain Repositories Interest Group
- Brokering Interest Group
- ELIXIR Bridging Force IG
- Libraries for Research Data IG*RDA / WDS Certification of Digital Repositories IG
- RDA / WDS Publishing Data Cost Recovery for Data Centres IG

**Base Infrastructure - focused**
- Data Foundation and Terminology WG
- Metadata Standards Directory WG
- Practical Policy WG
- PID Information Types WG
- Data Type Registries WG
- Data in Context IG
- Big Data Analytics IG
- Brokering Governance WG
- Federated Identity Management IG
- Metadata IG
- PID Interest Group
- Service Management IG
- Data Fabric IG
Initial Products—adopt one today!

• A basic vocabulary of foundational terminology and query tool to make sure we know what we’re talking about.

• A data type model and registry (“MIME-types” for data) to help tools interpret, display, and process data.

• A persistent identifier type registry to help search engines understand what they are pointing to and retrieving.

• A basic set of machine actionable rules to enhance trust

• Coming soon:
  • A metadata standards directory so we can describe similar things consistently
  • A dynamic-data citation methodology so we can reference precise subsets of changing data.
  • Semantically linked terms describing wheat data so we can share harvest and related information around the world
  • Services and methods for finding data across multiple registries, to help cross disciplinary and multi-faceted discovery.
  • A unified repository certification scheme to reduce confusion and improve trust.
RDA Membership

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implementable, impactful outcomes

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socio-technical vision and strategy

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administration and operations

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needs, adoption, business advice

Council
organisational vision and strategy

Funders Forum
Council

- Fran Berman (US), co-Chair
- Patrick Cocquet (France)
- Tony Hey (US)
- Kaye Raseroka (Botswana)
- Michael Stanton (Brazil)
- Satoshi Sekiguchi (Japan)
- Doris Wedlich (Germany)
- Ross Wilkinson (Australia)
- John Wood (UK), co-Chair
Technical Advisory Board

Bridget Almas (US)
Simon Cox (Australia)
Peter Fox (US)
Francoise Genova (France)
Liu Chuang (China)
Carole Palmer (US)
Beth Plale (US), co-Chair
Susanna-Assunta Sansone (UK)
Jamie Shiers (Switzerland)
Rainer Stotzka (Germany)
Andrew Treloar (Australia) co-Chair
Peter Wittenburg (The Netherlands)
Technical Advisory Board

Simon Cox (Australia)  Peter Fox (US)  Francoise Genova (France)

Carole Palmer (US)  Susanna-Assunta Sansone (UK)

Rainer Stotzka (Germany)  Andrew Treloar (Australia)  Peter Wittenburg (The Netherlands)

Election opens tomorrow for four new members (with balance criteria)
Secretariat

• Hilary Hanahoe

• Fotis Karayannis

• Kathy Fontaine

• Mark Parsons, Sec Gen

• Herman Stehouwer

• Stefanie Kethers

• Timea Biro

• Yolanda Meleco
Working Groups
*implementable, impactful outcomes*

Interest Groups
*domain coordination, idea generation, maintenance, …*

**RDA Membership**

Technical Advisory Board
*socio-technical vision and strategy*

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*administration and operations*

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*needs, adoption, business advice*

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*organisational vision and strategy*

Funders Forum

RDA Foundation
Organisational Partners—key linkages

- Organisations play an essential role as adopters!
- Organisational Assembly = Organisational Members and Affiliates.
- Organisational Advisory Board will represent Organisational Assembly to Council
- Organisational Members pay (modest) dues and have a special voice within RDA helping ensure RDA products stay relevant

Image courtesy anybots.com
Funders Forum

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RDA Funders Forum

• The group of government and non-profit science funding organisations that support the data and science communities to participate in RDA activities:
  • Australian Government
  • US Government (NSF and NIST)
  • European Commission
  • Japanese Government (support of P7)
  • Sloan Foundation

• Allows agencies the opportunity to share funding program plans that support data sharing across the globe, and thereby amplify their impact.

• Collaborating with G8+ Group of Senior Officials Working Group on Data

• Related to but distinct from RDA. A parallel organisation.
RDA Foundation

• **Independent Foundation** established as a *Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales*

• **Council acts as Board of Trustees** but Foundation is governed independently from RDA.

• **No employees; no brick and mortar presence; primarily a mechanism for money transfers.**
Regional RDAs

- RDA/United States, Australian National Data Service, RDA/Europe, more?
- Implement RDA deliverables locally and enhance adoption.
- Ensure regional or national issues are addressed globally.
- Support plenaries and support attendance at plenaries.
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