

# Researcher Engagement IG - Charter Proposal

## *Name of Proposed Interest Group:*

Engaging Researchers with Data Interest Group (short name: Researcher Engagement IG)

## ***Introduction***

*A brief articulation of what issues the IG will address, how this IG is aligned with the RDA mission, and how this IG would be a value-added contribution to the RDA community:*

Good Research Data Management (RDM) is a key component of research integrity and reproducible research. Consequently, funding bodies, governments, research institutions and other agencies have emphasised the value and importance of good data management. However, discussions about data management and sharing are sometimes limited to librarians, data professionals, or researchers who are already passionate about data stewardship and open science. In order to implement good RDM practice within research communities, it is essential to effectively engage with all researchers who produce and re-use data.

This group will exchange best practices on how to effectively engage with researchers about research data and develop resources to help various research organisations increase engagement with their research communities.

The motivation behind this group is to build social bridges that enable open sharing and re-use of data, a goal that is fully aligned with the RDA mission. To achieve cultural change, researchers, who are the key stakeholders involved in data production and re-use, must be engaged with the topics of data management and sharing. The activities of this group will help increase engagement with diverse research communities across institutions, disciplines, and specialties.

**User scenario(s) or use case(s) the IG wishes to address - *what triggered the desire for this IG in the first place:***

Many interesting initiatives are utilised by research institutions around the world to effectively engage with their research communities about research data management. Typically, the only way to learn about these activities is to be lucky enough to attend a conference where a speaker explains their initiative, or to

already know someone engaged in that type of work. This is a fundamentally ineffective way to exchange and discuss good practice, that disadvantages those who cannot attend conferences, and those beginning with research data management who don't have established connections or know where to look for help.

With these concerns in mind, members of the Libraries for Research Data Interest Group (L4RD IG) decided to collect information from institutions worldwide on initiatives used to engage with researchers about research data. This project began within the auspices of L4RD IG, and quickly attracted interested colleagues from all over the world who wished to join the initially small team of volunteers. At the end, the project group consisted of 30+ members from 3 different continents, and the group gathered 80+ examples of initiatives from institutions worldwide describing innovative ways to engage researchers with research data. Of these, 24 were selected and, after further research and interviews with staff that developed these initiatives, were written up as case studies in the book "[Engaging Researchers with Data Management: The Cookbook](#)".

Group members felt that the scope of this project and the interest around it exceeded the current scope of L4RD IG, meriting the creation of a dedicated interest group to continue the exchange of best practices, identify new cases, and keep the engagement between interested stakeholders alive (see Objectives). Additionally, the overwhelming number of responses collected during the survey highlighted engagement activities that exceeded the scope of the L4RD IG, including activities performed by parts of research institutions other than libraries such as research groups, individual researchers, IT departments, faculty, and data centres. Furthermore, some survey responses fell outside the scope of the initial project as they described initiatives outside of or across research institutions:

- Research Infrastructures (RIs), that are producing tailored services and training material in support of their research communities' needs for effective data management.
  - (Example) the CESSDA Data Management Expert Guide is a good example of research community engagement activity in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH).
- Active projects on the Open Science and FAIR Data Management spectrum, that undertake engagement activities to communicate best practices on various areas, as they appear within the projects timeline.
  - (Example) the EOSC Stakeholder report on engagement activities (D8.5 EOSC Stakeholder Engagement Report) which includes a list of recommendations from successful attempts of their communication team.
- Initiatives that target early career researchers, not only to build capacity, but also to support their scholarly communication and networking activities.
  - (Example) the RDA Early Career and Engagement Interest Group (ECEIG) is a good example of Mentoring Programmes for research data.

The informal group has also already facilitated engagement with many colleagues who were previously unfamiliar with RDA. The topic of researcher engagement is important and relevant to virtually all stakeholders who work with data producers and, as a result, several colleagues who were not RDA members joined this informal group and RDA because of their interest in the subject. For example, of the

eight colleagues who participated in writing up cases studies, six were not members of RDA. Since then, four have joined RDA and participated in the Plenary 14 meeting.

During RDA Plenary 14, the group had its first dedicated Birds of a Feather session to solicit feedback on its charter and agree on the work that the group should be doing. More than 30 people have indicated that they would like to join the group.

## Objectives

*(A specific set of focus areas for discussion, including use cases that pointed to the need for the IG in the first place. Articulate how this group is different from other current activities inside or outside of RDA.):*

This group will exchange best practices on how to effectively engage with researchers about research data, and develop resources to help various research organisations increase their researcher engagement.

Participants in the project would like to keep the group and its forum for information exchange alive to stay abreast of new innovative activities aiming to increase researcher engagement with research data. There is currently no venue in the international community where this topic can be directly addressed. In addition, this is a topic of interest and concern to colleagues outside the library community, and therefore outside the scope of the current Libraries for Research Data Interest Group.

Furthermore, during the open online peer-review of 'Engaging Researchers with Research Data: The Cookbook', two groups of people approached the project group. The first group asked if it would be possible to add cases from their institutions to the case study collection in the future, and the second wished to be kept up to date about any evaluation or further development efforts of the approaches described. Both demonstrated broad community interest in these topics and the desire to have a dedicated forum to facilitate these discussions.

In addition, the group would like to continue working on deliverables. At P14 the participants of the Birds of a Feather discussion session put forward the following possible projects/outputs:

- A researcher engagement toolkit for low income countries
- A toolkit for researchers, focusing on how to engage librarians and other information professionals with data management
- Guidelines for what NOT to do when trying to engage with researchers
- Turn existing case studies into informative podcasts
- Develop toolkits for how to get started on initiatives/projects highlighted in selected case studies
- List compelling arguments to convince researchers of the benefits of data management
- List interview questions to convince researchers of the benefits of data management

Many RDA Interest Groups tangentially work in the engagement space, including but not limited to Libraries for Research Data, the Education and Training on handling of research data IG, and the Active

DMP IG. This group aims to unite all activities related to engaging researchers regardless of domain or technical perspective. For example, the informal group has already proved useful in bringing both IT, Library and Data Champions perspectives together into one group. For those new to RDA who don't fit into an established IG this will offer a 'profession neutral' option for education, learning and best practice exchange around engagement. This proposed group is distinct, but will need to work in conjunction with many other groups to highlight and support the engagement of researchers across all disciplines.

Specific objectives of this group are:

- Increase global representation of the current list of innovative case studies included in the [‘Engaging Researchers with Data Management: The Cookbook’](#).
- Provide a platform for interested stakeholders to exchange best practices on how other institutions, projects, or initiatives engage researchers with research data on a global scale;
- Inspire each other to implement new engagement activities with researchers about research data;
- Discover and promote activities most suitable for a given institutional setting (according to size, research profile, resources available for data management, target audience, etc.);
- Discuss specific challenges associated with various tactics and possible tips to overcome these;
- Stimulate collaboration, creation of new connections and cooperation between group members and beyond.
- Create tools and resources to help others better engage with researchers about research data
- Contribute to the global RDA community growth through new members joining this group

## Participation

*(Address which communities will be involved, what skills or knowledge should they have, and how will you engage these communities. Also address how this group proposes to coordinate its activity with relevant related groups.):*

This group brings together anyone interested in research data management and tactics to help effectively engage with researchers about research data. This includes, among others, librarians, data managers, data stewards, archivists, members of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) departments, colleagues from legal and financial support, faculty management, senior executives at institutions, researchers and students who want to change practices among their peers, funders, policy makers, publishers and members of the commercial sector. In addition to the connections already developed during the project which led to the creation of this informal group (see the list in Potential Group Members), the project group has liaised with several stakeholder groups about this work (60 funders, 80 scientific institutions, and 28 mailing lists). All these stakeholders are invited to participate in the activities of this group.

The Birds of a Feather session at RDA Plenary 14 was attended by around 60 people: 23% librarians, 23% Data Steward/Data Support, 19% research support, 15% researchers and 12% IT. This demonstrates

that this topic is highly relevant for a broad range of audiences. Of these attendees, 35% participated in the session because they were looking for good ideas and inspiration, 33% wanted to improve their engagement with researchers and 26% wanted to let others know about tools or tactics they use to increase researchers' engagement with research data. This again demonstrates that the topics the group will address are highly relevant to community needs.

## Outcomes

*(Discuss what the IG intends to accomplish. Include examples of WG topics or supporting IG-level outputs that might lead to WGs later on.):*

- Provide a forum to exchange information on new innovative approaches which increase researchers' engagement with research data
  - This might lead to a second edition of “Engaging Researchers with Research Data: The Cookbook” once a sufficient number of new cases are developed
- Follow up with the case study contributors included the book “Engaging Researchers with Research Data: The Cookbook” to gather information on any evaluation or reflection activities, as well as potential iterations to their approaches
  - This might lead to a second edition of “Engaging Researchers with Research Data: The Cookbook”
- Promote the case studies described in “Engaging Researchers with Research Data: The Cookbook”, as well as newly collected case studies, through quarterly webinars.
- Work on new deliverables:
  - Research engagement toolkit for low income countries
  - Toolkit for researchers: how to engage librarians with data management
  - Guidelines for what NOT to do when trying to engage with researchers
  - Podcasts describing existing case studies
  - Toolkits for how to get started for selected case studies
  - Compelling arguments to convince researchers about the benefits of data management
  - Interview questions to convince researchers about the benefits of data management
- Evaluate existing RDA outputs and recommendations that could help increase researcher engagement (for example, RDA-CODATA Summer Schools in Data Science, 10 FAIR Things etc.).

## Mechanism

*(Describe how often your group will meet and how will you maintain momentum between Plenaries.):*

The group will meet in person at RDA Plenaries to exchange new ideas and tactics for facilitating researcher engagement, and also to update each other on the progress of task forces working on specific deliverables. Plenary meetings will also be used as opportunities to recruit and engage with new members.

Between Plenaries, the group will communicate through a mailing list and Slack. This proved to be very effective during the RDA Engaging Researchers with Research Data project, and for the intensive communication needs of the Task Force responsible for ‘Engaging Researchers with Research Data Management: The Cookbook’. So far the Group has been using an informal Google group for this purpose. Separate task groups will be formed to work on specific deliverables and will work on these between plenary sessions. In addition, the Group is planning to organise webinars presenting selected case studies on how institutions can effectively engage with their research communities about research data. These webinars will be open to anyone to attend, including colleagues who are not members of the IG.

## Timeline

*(Describe draft milestones and goals for the first 12 months):*

The group has already had the first Birds of a Feather meeting at RDA Plenary 14, during which feedback was received on the draft charter for the Interest Group, and key future deliverables were agreed upon. The draft charter has been then updated and shared for feedback with the 70+ prospect members. The draft charter has been currently submitted to RDA for official consideration. Given that the group does not yet have a formal status, another Birds of a Feather session proposal has been submitted for P15. However, we hope that the group can formalise in advance of P15 and formally kick off its work at the plenary.

Timeline of the proposed group activities for the first 12 months from formalisation:

- Create the official RDA Interest Group:
  - Create the official group page on RDA website and provide a link to the existing output of the group: “[Engaging Researchers with Data Management: The Cookbook](#)” (output currently under RDA community review)
  - Transfer existing members from the Google groups to the official RDA mailing list
  - Vote on Co-Chairs of the group (all members to elect co-chairs from the list of prospective co-chairs)
- Convene a session at the first RDA Plenary after formalisation:
  - Official start of the group
  - Co-Chairs announced
  - Breakout session to form task forces to work on new deliverables
- Formalise task forces and start working on prospective new deliverables (see “Outcomes” above)
  - Convene a session at the following Plenary:
  - Reporting on the progress of individual task forces

- Presentation and discussion about new developments in tactics for researcher engagement
- Encouragement of new members to join the task forces
- Organise four webinars promoting the existing case studies

## Potential Group Members

The list below consists of people who were already members of the informal group, or who attended the Birds of a Feather session at P14 and said they wished to be members of the group (30+ additional people).

| First Name  | Last name    | Email | Title        |
|-------------|--------------|-------|--------------|
| Helene N.   | Andreassen   |       | Group Member |
| Szymon      | Andrzejewski |       | Group Member |
| Pauli       | Assinen      |       | Group Member |
| Daniel      | Bangert      |       | Group Member |
| Jill        | Benn         |       | Group Member |
| Tom         | Blom         |       | Group Member |
| Miriam      | Braskova     |       | Group Member |
| Christopher | Brown        |       | Group Member |
| Grzegorz    | Bulczak      |       | Group Member |
| Lauren      | Cadwallader  |       | Group Member |
| Ieva        | Ceseviciute  |       | Group Member |
| Josiline    | Chigwada     |       | Group Member |
| John        | Chodacki     |       | Group Member |
| Connie      | Clare        |       | Group Member |
| Julien      | Colomb       |       | Group Member |
| Philipp     | Conzett      |       | Group Member |
| Maria       | Cruz         |       | Group Member |
| Katrien     | De Smet      |       | Group Member |
| Mary        | Donaldson    |       | Group Member |

|                 |                 |  |                      |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| Biswanath       | Dutta           |  | Group Member         |
| Victor          | Eggenhuizen     |  | Group Member         |
| Briana          | Ezray           |  | Prospective Co-Chair |
| Esther          | Fernandez       |  | Group Member         |
| Anne Sofie      | Fink Kjeldgaard |  | Group Member         |
| Joshua          | Finnell         |  | Group Member         |
| Margaret Louise | Fotland         |  | Group Member         |
| Jari            | Friman          |  | Group Member         |
| Raman           | Ganguly         |  | Prospective Co-Chair |
| Lambert         | Heller          |  | Group Member         |
| Patricia        | Henning         |  | Group Member         |
| Rosie           | Higman          |  | Group Member         |
| Amy             | Hodge           |  | Group Member         |
| Stein           | Høydalsvik      |  | Group Member         |
| Jessica         | Hrudey          |  | Group Member         |
| Greg            | Janée           |  | Group Member         |
| Charlotte B.    | Jensen          |  | Group Member         |
| Mijke           | Jetten          |  | Group Member         |
| Lynda           | Kellam          |  | Group Member         |
| Gabor           | Kismihok        |  | Group Member         |
| Tuija           | Korhonen        |  | Group Member         |
| Iryna           | Kuchma          |  | Group Member         |
| Narendra        | Kumar Bhoi      |  | Group Member         |
| Kevin           | Lang            |  | Group Member         |

|            |                  |  |                      |
|------------|------------------|--|----------------------|
| Young-Joo  | Lee              |  | Group Member         |
| Leif       | Longva           |  | Group Member         |
| Andrea     | Medina-Smith     |  | Prospective Co-Chair |
| Solomon    | Mekonnen         |  | Group Member         |
| Remedios   | Melero           |  | Group Member         |
| Turkka     | Nappila          |  | Group Member         |
| Peter      | Neish            |  | Group Member         |
| Ilkka      | Nokelainen       |  | Group Member         |
| Wolmar     | Nyberg Åkerström |  | Group Member         |
| Rising     | Osazuwa          |  | Group Member         |
| Elli       | Papadopoulou     |  | Prospective Co-Chair |
| Fernanda   | Peset            |  | Group Member         |
| Jaana      | Pinnick          |  | Group Member         |
| Esther     | Plomp            |  | Group Member         |
| Tatu       | Polvinen         |  | Group Member         |
| Vanessa    | Proudman         |  | Group Member         |
| Tovo       | Rabemanantsoa    |  | Group Member         |
| Piyachat   | Ratana           |  | Group Member         |
| Annika     | Rockenberger     |  | Group Member         |
| Gerry      | Ryder            |  | Group Member         |
| James      | Savage           |  | Prospective Co-chair |
| Shannon    | Sheridan         |  | Prospective Co-Chair |
| Souleymane | Sogoba           |  | Group Member         |
| Sarah      | Stryeck          |  | Group Member         |

|             |                   |  |                      |
|-------------|-------------------|--|----------------------|
| Rainer      | Stotzka           |  | Group Member         |
| Alexander   | Sussman           |  | Group Member         |
| Magdalena   | Szuflita-Żurawska |  | Group Member         |
| Marta       | Teperek           |  | Prospective Co-Chair |
| Ralf        | Toepfer           |  | Group Member         |
| Kathryn     | Unsworth          |  | Group Member         |
| Ellen       | Verbakel          |  | Group Member         |
| Irena       | Vipavc Brvar      |  | Group Member         |
| Jacquelynne | Waldron           |  | Group Member         |
| Anna        | Wałek             |  | Group Member         |
| Yan         | Wang              |  | Group Member         |
| Iza         | Witkowska         |  | Group Member         |
| Joanne      | Yeomans           |  | Prospective Co-Chair |