RDA Organisational and Process Status

Mark A. Parsons
Secretary General

Organisational Advisory Board
26 February 2015
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.
RDA Organisational Framework

**RDA Strategy and Leadership:** Council
*Responsible for overarching mission, vision, sustainability of RDA*

**Technical Leadership:**
**Technical Advisory Board (TAB)**
*Responsible for Technical Roadmap*

**Administrative Leadership:**
**Secretariat**
*Responsible for administration and operations*

**Organizational Partners:**
**Organizational Advisory Board (OAG)**
*Responsible for process and strategic advice*

**Community Impact:** Working Groups
*Responsible for impactful, outcome-oriented efforts*

**Community Planning:** Interest Groups
*Responsible for defining and refining common issues*

**RDA Colloquium**
*Appropriate International R&D Agency Support*
How RDA is growing?

RDA Community Members (16-02-2015): 2668
RDA Members from 95 countries
RDA Regional Membership

- Europe: 50%
- South America: 1%
- Africa: 2%
- Asia: 6%
- Australia: 4%
- North America: 37%
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
- 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.
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RDA Interest Groups

1. Agricultural Data Interoperability IG
2. Active Data Management Plans*
3. Big Data Analytics IG
4. Biodiversity Data Integration IG
5. Brokering IG
6. Community Capability Model IG
7. Data Fabric IG
8. Data for Development
9. Data Foundations and Terminology IG*
10. Data in Context IG
11. Development of cloud computing capacity and education in developing world research*
12. Development of cloud computing capacity and education in developing world research
13. Digital Practices in History and Ethnography IG
14. Domain Repositories Interest Group
15. Education and Training on handling of research data
16. ELIXIR Bridging Force IG
17. Engagement IG
18. Federated Identity Management
19. Geospatial IG*
20. Libraries for Research Data
21. Long tail of research data IG
22. Marine Data Harmonization IG
23. Metabolomics
24. Metadata IG
25. PID Interest Group
26. Preservation e-Infrastructure IG
27. Quality of Urban Life Interest Group
28. RDA/CODATA Legal Interoperability IG
29. RDA/CODATA Materials Data, Infrastructure & Interoperability IG
30. RDA/WDS Certification of Digital Repositories IG
31. RDA/WDS Publishing Data Cost Recovery for Data Centres
32. RDA/WDS Publishing Data IG
33. Reproducibility IG
34. Research data needs of the Photon and Neutron Science community
35. Research Data Provenance
36. Service Management IG
37. Structural Biology IG
38. Toxicogenomics Interoperability IG

* in review
RDA Working Groups

1. Brokering Governance
2. Data Citation WG
3. Data Description Registry Interoperability
4. Data Foundation and Terminology WG
5. Data Type Registries WG
7. PID Information Types WG
8. Practical Policy WG
9. RDA/CODATA Summer Schools in Data Science and Cloud Computing in the Developing World
10. RDA/WDS Publishing Data Bibliometrics WG
11. RDA/WDS Publishing Data Services WG
12. RDA/WDS Publishing Data Workflows WG
13. Repository Audit and Certification DSA–WDS Partnership WG
14. Repository Platforms for Research Data*
15. The BioSharing Registry: connecting data policies, standards & databases in life sciences*
16. Wheat Data Interoperability WG

* in review
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 discovery.
  • A unified repository certification scheme to reduce confusion and improve trust.
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Organisational Assembly

What

• Organisations play an essential role as adopters of RDA outputs.
• Organisational Assembly = Organisational Members and Affiliates.
• Organisational Advisory Board represents Organisational Assembly to Council
• An OAB Chairs is an Observer on Council
• To join, members pay dues and affiliates develop MoUs.
• Have a special voice within RDA helping ensure RDA outputs stay relevant.
• Provide guidance on organisational operations and processes.

Past and Future

• OA last organisational body to form. First a task force then an interim OAB of initially interested organisations.
• Formal OAB established at P4 as a committee of the whole OA.
• Invoices out in January for official 2015 membership.
• 12-member OAB to be elected by the OA
  • Election occurs at a plenary (P7?) once 36 Members and Affiliates have joined.
  • Initial chairs plus 5 one-year members and 5 two-year members
• OAB elects co-chairs to two-year offset terms.
• Focus for 2015 is growing and enhancing adoption.
Organizational Members Composition

- IT Consultancy/Development: 5%
- SMEs: 5%
- Other: 9%
- Academia/Research: 57%
- Government/Public Services: 24%

research data sharing without barriers
rd-alliance.org
# RDA Organizational Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Current Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington University in St. Louis</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSC</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>Purdue University Libraries</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>Australian National Data Service</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data Archiving and Networked Services</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science and Technology Facilities Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>EGI.eu</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Curation Centre</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>CANARIE</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Griffith University</td>
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<td>Cap Digital</td>
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<td>AIST</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Internet 2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualitative Data Repository</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barcelona Supercomputing Center</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCC, University of Glasgow</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand eScience Infrastructure</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>American University Library</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Int Assoc STM Publishers</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>LIBER</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPARC</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terrestrial Ecosystem Research Network</td>
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Technical Advisory Board

What

• Develop and maintain overall socio-technical strategy for RDA outputs.
• 12-member board is elected to three-year terms (4 each year) by the overall membership.
• “Balancing” requirements ensure balance of regional representation, discipline, and professional expertise.
• A TAB Chair is an Observer on Council
• Review WG case statements, IG charters, and deliverables against RDA principles
• Facilitate coordination of cross-WG and IG activities

Past and Future

• Initial six-member TAB by Council was appointed summer of 2013.
• Additional six members elected at Sept. 2013 (P2).
• Four appointees replaced or reelected Sept. 2014 (P4)
• Next election (P6) will replace last appointees and two of the original electees. Regular cycle thereafter.
• Focus for 2015
  • clustering and coordinating groups to reduce overlap and address gaps.
  • clarify definition and endorsement of RDA “outputs”.
Secretariat

What

- Responsible for administration and operations.
- Secretary General is (currently) the only member of the international Secretariat and supported by multiple governments.
- Other Secretariat Members are contributed by RDA/Regional projects.
- Secretary General is an Observer on Council
- Develop and maintain communications

Past and Future

- Initial 4-member (~1.5 FTE international) begun early 2013.
- Secretary General hired March 2014
- By P4 grown to 8 member (3.2 FTE)
- Goal: 6 FTE and $1.7M (direct and in-kind). 2015 Shortfall: 2.8 FTE and $378K direct funding.
- Focus for 2015
  - Routinizing processes and operations, incl. sound and audit-able business practices
  - Communications plan and web refresh
  - External relations and adoption

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Council

What
• Maintains mission, vision, and sustainability of RDA.
• Nine-member board serving rotating three year terms.
• Slate of three candidates selected by a nomination committee and approved by members.
• Sets overall strategy for RDA
• Assess and confirm consensus within the organisation
• Engage with funding agencies for support of RDA

Past and Future
• Initial three members appointed by original funders Early 2013.
• Additional four members appointed over 2013.
• Final two members appointed late 2014.
• Terms and election cycle to be discussed at next Council meeting.
• Focus for 2015
  • Strategic planning
  • Funder engagement and expansion
Important Documents and Plans

- Governance Document(s)
  - Articles of Association for RDA Foundation
  - Governance Document for RDA Foundation
  - Governance Document for RDA (good but needs an update)
- Organisational membership scoping and process documents.
- Organisational Document (an evolving hub-like document, still draft)
  - Business plan (RDA/regions need more coherence on budget, need more $)
  - Operational plan (needs update)
- Group clustering process and plan (near completion)
- Group Endorsement Processes
- Output definitions and processes (needs update based on initial outputs)
- Communications Plan (in development)
- Strategic Plan (a process more than a document, needs to be more formalized)

See https://rd-alliance.org/group/wiki/organisational-document.html

green = complete and operational — yellow = incomplete or dated but operational — red = not yet operational
2015 Operational Issues and Needs

- Collaborative strategic planning for unity and sustainability
- Plan for rotation of Council members and chairs
- Sustained funding of the international Secretariat
  - Accounting, audit, and tax support
  - General secretarial support
  - Support for Council travel and meetings
- Communications planning and implementation
- Facilitating inter- and intra- WG and IG operations
- Identification of P8 and P10 locations (P9 likely set)
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