

Workshop report

FAIR data maturity model Working Group

Online meeting #11 — 11 November 2020

Project	RDA FAIR data maturity model working group	Date & Time	11 November 2020 12:00 — 01:30 UTC
Type	Online meeting	Location	Zoom meeting
Meeting Chairs	Keith Russell Shelley Stall Edit Herczog	Issue date	2020-11-27

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction to the meeting
2. History of the working group
3. Survey on bridging the gap between funders and communities
4. Presentations and discussions
5. Outline of the maintenance phase
6. Closing

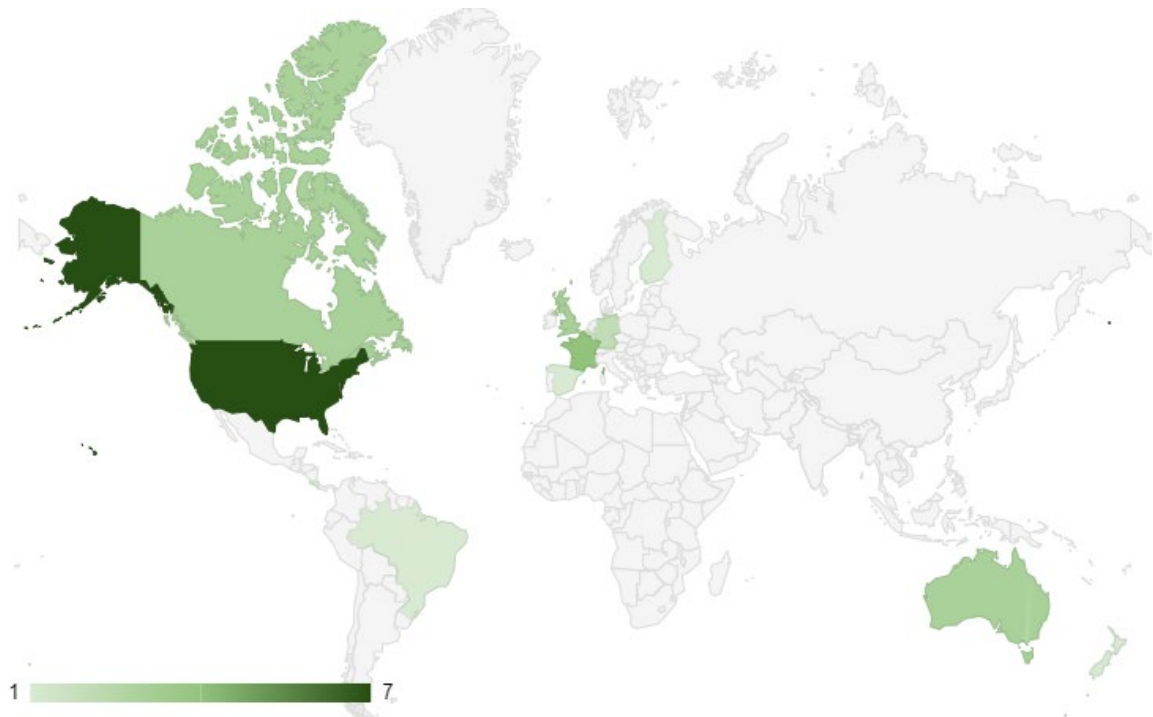
Participants

The workshop was well attended. Here below is a non-exhaustive list of the participants.

Name		Affiliation
Andrew McKenna-Foster	US	Figshare
Bob Hanisch	US	NIST, director, Office of Data and Informatics
Catherine Patterson	US	Scientist at Getty Conservation Institute
Chris Seal	NZ	eResearch Support, University of Auckland, NZ
Christophe Bahim	BE	PwC, Editor team
David Carr	GB	Wellcome Trust
Edit Herczog	BE	Chair, Vision & values SPRL
Françoise Genova	FR	Strasbourg Astronomical Data Center
Jessica Salas	US	Distributed Bio Inc
John Graybeal	US	Stanford University's School of Medicine
Keith Russell	AU	Chair, ARDC
Laurence El Khouri	FR	CNRS/France Open science research management
Makx Dekkers	ES	Independent Consultant, Editor team

Markus Kubin	DE	Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin
Mary O'Brien Uhlmansiek	US	RDA-US & Secretariat liaison
Michael Smolinski	CA	Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Nichola Burton	AU	ARDC
Nichole DeMichelis	CA	Vancouver Public Library
Patricia Herterich	GB	Digital Curation Center
Pedro Luiz Pizzigatti Corrêa	BR	University of São Paulo
Pete McQuilton	GB	University of Oxford
Reyna Jenkyns	CA	Ocean Networks Canada
Romain David	FR	INRA
Shelley Stall	US	Chair, American Geophysical Union
Sophie Aubin	FR	INRA
Steve McEachern	AU	Australian National University
Thomas Jejkal	DE	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Vera Gerner	CR	Universidad de Costa Rica
Ville Tenhunen	FI	EGI Foundation, Service architect

Here below is a map representing the provenance of the different participants



Meeting summary

The chairs welcomed the participants and introduced the agenda of the meeting. On the agenda of the meeting were the history of the working group, the report on the survey on bridging the gap between funders and communities, guest speakers and the outline of the maintenance phase.

The meeting started with a tour de table, where participants were asked to share their name and affiliation. Then the chairs introduced the context and what the FAIR data maturity model was trying to address and the output of this working group. Further, the chairs clarified what this working group does not aim to do (e.g. develop yet another evaluation method nor define how the core criteria need to be evaluated) and listed the milestones for the past one year and half;

- Establishment of the WG
- Landscaping report
- First draft of the FAIR data maturity model
- Testing phase
- Publication of version 1 of the model
- Turning the WG into maintenance mode

Besides, the chairs unveiled the tentative schedule for the end of the year, which starts with a report on the survey aiming at bridging the gap between funders and communities, establish a work plan for 2021 and wrap up the year by participation in the CODATA International FAIR convergence symposium.

On top of that, the chairs reported three major publications of the working group.

- Publication of the [FAIR Data Maturity Model: Specification and Guidelines](#) as an RDA recommendation, 25 June 2020
- EOSC-SYNERGY [Intermediate report on technical framework for FAIR principles implementation](#), 2 Sept. 2020
- Publication of [The FAIR Data Maturity Model: An Approach to Harmonise FAIR Assessments](#) as a paper in the Data Science Journal, 27 Oct. 2020

The editors introduced the survey on FAIR assessments which tries to improve the understanding of benefits and challenges of the FAIR assessments from the perspective of the funders and communities. This survey had a twofold objective: (i) formulate conclusions and recommendations on the level of policy, (i.e. better understanding of the perspectives of both sides) and (ii) finding out how the research community and the funders' community might want to use the model and what changes they would want to see.

Results were analyzed and the editors reported some trends already. First of all, the survey results were divided into two parts. On the one hand, results were about policy & adoption matters. For instance, it was unveiled that both communities and funders see the RDA as a neutral platform to bring stakeholders together and create cross-community understanding. On the other hand, results were about the future work (for the FDMM). Both communities and funders agreed on considering the scoring mechanism in the context of community targets and practices, making the assessment approach more practical as well as creating actionable guidelines.

Françoise Genova shared her worry about the unintended consequences of quantifying FAIRness. Pete McQuilton also shared his concern about scoring in the context of community targets. Françoise reported that the EOSC FAIR

WG has been producing reports which deal with this issue. One of which is about FAIR Community practices (almost in final form), the other is about EOSC Metrics and its second draft is open for comments. In both reports, they pleaded for caution in evaluating FAIRness. Romain David reminded that however, validating criteria is an inevitable step.

The full report will be available soon and published on the RDA FAIR data maturity model WG web page.

The chairs introduced the two guest speakers;

- Dr. Chris Seal from the University of Auckland, and
- Dr Pedro Luiz Pizzigatti Corrêa from the University of São Paulo

Chris presented what is happening at the University of Auckland in terms of FAIRness and more particularly about Māori Data sovereignty, which is a cross-disciplinary project. Chris introduced the New Zealand Research sector, its 8 universities, \$2.5 billion funding and the open data values and how limited the incentives are. Chris gave a quick tour of the privacy principles which govern how one should collect, handle and use personal information as well as the Maori data sovereignty network.

Chris reported how his university is trying to enable FAIR. Everybody needs to speak the same language. He shared being an advocate of the Māori rights. Chris then briefly introduced New Zealand, how it is ethnically diverse and the University of Auckland and its research data management framework, for which best tools and practices - enabling FAIR, CARE & Māori Data Sovereignty principles - are a driver.

Chris presented in detail the research data management framework and its components (e.g. research plan, data catalogue, active data storage, etc.) and the University of Auckland's data ecosystem. PIDs is the battle horse (people are encouraged to use them) of that ecosystem, and the university is working towards an interconnected data ecosystem.

Pedro presented the University of São Paulo, which is the most complete and important engineering school in Latin America. Research on management and analysis of large volumes of scientific data are performed in the university. All the research projects call for scientific data management.

Pedro introduced the PARSEC project, which is about building new tools for data sharing and reuse. In respect with that, Pedro promoted the workshop on *data science: best practices on data sharing and data synthesis*, which will present the advances of PARSEC on sharing, attributing, reuse data, etc.

Then, Pedro talked about the general recommendations to improve FAIR in Brazil as well as the scientific data management following the FAIR principles and the path towards greater FAIRness. He noted that there is currently no culture of data management, and that people need to be made aware of the value of sharing. We need to be careful and cautious not to leave people behind. He suggested that it is important that there are policies to encourage researchers to share and reward them for it. He said that FAIR should be included in graduate programmes as part of the scientific methodology. In addition, more involvement from the private sector could be useful.

Romain David advised to build reachable steps for each community and each stakeholder each community. Convincing before acting on the need to improve FAIRness literacy. Edit Herczog commented that the FAIR data maturity model can be used as a self-improvement tool to define small steps to take towards ultimately improving FAIRness. However, increasing awareness is key. She also noted that there is a need for investment in FAIR, and a need for funding of initiatives. Chris Seal and Keith Russell noted that there may be a tension between the different

domains on research methods and the FAIR principles and raised the question on how to combine disciplinary and institutional policies.

Next to that, the editors introduced a list of topics likely to be investigated for the next versions of the FAIR data maturity model. The topics were proposed for a vote and below are the most voted for topics (by order of importance):

- Metadata practices: (i) Role of generic platforms in improving domain-specific metadata, (ii) Metadata at several levels, (iii) Consensus on minimum level for 'Rich' metadata and (iv) Shared understanding of knowledge representation
- Data granularity (collection, dataset, data item)
- Approaches toward evaluation of FAIR assessment tools and services, taking into account community aspects
- PID practices across communities (identifiers for metadata, data, separately, combined)

On the next steps, first, the WG will identify topics that need clarification and consensus and second it will address the governance and maintenance practical aspects. In 2021, the maintenance and preparation for the first first revision will take place (i.e. the topics will be developed and consensus-driven solutions to optimize the model and move away from a fit-for-all to a tailored solution will be proposed).

The chairs wrapped up the call by disclosing the agenda for the remainder of the year. On 19 November there is a [webinar on Aligning International Initiatives for Promoting and Assessing FAIR Data](#).

The next Working Group meeting will take place on 3 December in the context of the [CODATA International FAIR convergence symposium](#) discussing Priority issues for the RDA FAIR Data Maturity Model Working Group.