



## RDA WG/IG Collaboration Meetings

### Background

Shortly after the first five or so RDA Working Groups were formed in 2013, the Chairs of those groups started regular videoconferences to keep track of each other and to look for leverage across the group activities. As the number of groups grew and the bi-annual Plenaries grew more and more crowded with sessions and activities it became clear that for the Working Groups, and later including the Interest Groups, to keep track of each others' activities a separate series of meetings were desirable. The first of these was held in Munich in 2014 and was deemed useful by the participants. Since then there have been an alternating series of these 'Chairs Meetings' held between the Plenaries, in Europe in the summer and in the U.S. in the winter. This document is meant to formalize these meetings and add transparency to the process.

The RDA WG/IG Collaboration Meetings are meant to complement the other set of meetings involving WG and IG Chairs, and that is the TAB/Chairs meeting at the Plenaries. Other topics and other requirements may generate additional needs for Chair communications, but the RDA WG/IG Collaboration Meetings have so far stuck to their original purpose as a venue for the Chairs to update each other on their respective activities. The current funding that supports these meetings has been explicitly directed to that purpose.

### Funding

On the U.S. side, a grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) supports U.S. travel to both the EU and US Collaboration Meetings and NIST also supplies the venue for the US meeting. This small grant is renewed year-by-year and NIST is looking for activities that will, over time, lead to or support standards in the area of scientific and engineering data availability and management. The grant is to RPI and Larry Lannom has been tasked with managing the expenditure of the funds. To date the funds have been sufficient to support travel to all U.S. Chairs able and wanting to attend the meetings. The grant proposal itself includes the criteria for triaging this if needed, primarily along the lines of favoring WGs over IGs and after that favoring those WGs closest to completion. There is no guarantee that the grant will be renewed into the future.

On the EU side the RDA Europe project funded by the European Commission and currently led by Peter Wittenburg takes care of supporting the chairs meetings. Bids are requested from interested institutions that would like to run the chairs meeting and fund the local expenses. RDA Europe Board of Directors decides about the bids and is able to co-fund some travels of European chairs to the chairs meetings from the project's budget.



## Objectives

The RDA WG/IG Collaboration Meeting is a voluntary working meeting of the RDA Working Group and Interest Group chairs representing their corresponding groups. The objectives are:

- focused discussion among participants, something which has proved elusive at the packed RDA Plenary meetings;
- discussion on how to coordinate amongst RDA Working and Interest Groups to achieve more coherence across the groups and improve overall RDA outputs;
- exchange results, outcomes, and experiences;
- recommend actions to RDA in order to improve RDA as an organization;
- foster social interaction among the groups.

## Operations

The RDA WG/IG Collaboration Meeting itself is not an official body within RDA, that is, it does not have any mandate from RDA, does not have any defined responsibilities, and does not play a direct role in the creation of groups, policies, or recommendations.

Currently the chairs meet twice a year, once in the US and once in Europe. Other locations would of course be desirable but funding constraints make that impractical at this point.

The meetings are meant primarily as interaction forums on issues relevant to the RDA groups and not intended as general presentation forums.

All RDA Working and Interest Group chairs, RDA TAB and Secretariat members are invited to the meetings. To date the number of attendees has remained at a size commensurate with a working meeting but as the number of WGs and IGs grows the organizers may need to limit the attendance. The U.S. funding grant approach to control costs, as described above, provides one possible approach to this problem. No maximum size to the meeting has ever been set, but it may prove difficult to have a successful interactive meeting above 30 or so attendees.

The participants in the respective RDA WG/IG Collaboration Meetings decide about the organization and contents of the meeting.

Currently an organization committee consisting of Larry Lannom, Peter Wittenburg, Rainer Stotzka, and the local organizers prepare the meetings and compile the agenda based on input from participants.

At the beginning of each meeting the agenda is discussed and adapted according to the majority of the represented groups.



The minutes and results of the meeting are open to the public and are published on the corresponding web page of the meeting, e.g. <https://rd-alliance.org/groups/3nd-working-group-collaboration-meeting.html> or <https://rd-alliance.org/group/4th-wgig-collaboration-meeting/wiki/4th-wgig-collab-mtg-dec-8-9-2015-notes-and-presentations>.

At the end of each meeting, the location of the successive meeting is proposed and themes of common interest are identified.

June 2016

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