RDA’s Digital Practices in History and Ethnography Interest Group (DHPG-IG) works to advance data standards, practices and infrastructure for historical and ethnographic research, contributing to broader efforts in the digital humanities and social sciences.

**Goals**
- Advance development of digital infrastructure for historical and ethnographic research through engagement with concrete scholarly practice and projects (such as Open Folklore, the Nunaliit Atlas Framework, the Platform for Experimental and Collaborative Ethnography and Indiana University’s Mathers Museum of World Cultures).
- Advance conceptualization of the special characteristics and digital potential of humanities and qualitative social science data, including conceptualization of ethnographic and historical research data as “big data.”
- Advance capacity to share, integrate, visualize and act with different kinds of data and analyses, including qualitative data and the kinds of analyses produced through historical and ethnographic research.

**Planned Outcomes & Benefits**
- Build a global network of people involved in the development of data infrastructure for historical and ethnographic research, providing opportunities to share digital tools and project development experience. Monthly, call-in “project shares” since summer 2013 contribute to this.
- Link people involved in development of data infrastructure for historical and ethnographic research to data scientists and technologists, and to people in other research domains involved in data infrastructure development (leveraging the connections provided by RDA). Call-in “issue shares” support this.
- Characterize and recommend best-practice data management for the empirical humanities.
- Develop an ethnographic project to document and analyze data practices, infrastructures and culture in different research communities. The comparative knowledge created by the project can undergird deep collaboration across diverse fields, and can help specify the data practices and infrastructure challenges of the empirical humanities.

**Who**
Membership in the DPHG-IG includes historical and ethnographic researchers working in diverse fields and settings, including folklore, Arctic Studies, Ancient Studies, and Science and Technology Studies, in universities, museums, national labs, and corporate labs. Membership also includes librarians, software developers and data scientists interested in the humanities and qualitative social sciences, as well as advocates for open data and systems in these fields.

**Chairs:** Mike Fortun and Kim Fortun (Department of Science and Technology Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)  
Jason Baird Jackson (Mathers Museum of World Cultures, Indiana University)
DATA CULTURES

RDA’s Digital Practices in History and Ethnography Interest Group supports ongoing dialogue and research to advance understanding of differences between research communities that implicate data practices, infrastructure, and potential for collaboration. The dialogue and research also helps characterize the special needs and contributions of research in the empirical humanities.
PROJECT SHARES

RDA's Digital Practices in History and Ethnography Interest Group hosts monthly call-in “project shares” during which an emerging or showcase digital project in the empirical humanities is presented.
ISSUE SHARES

RDA's Digital Practices in History and Ethnography Interest Group hosts call-in “issue shares” that provide opportunities for interaction with other RDA groups.
RDA’s Digital Practices in History and Ethnography Interest Group is organizing a spin-off Working Group on Empirical Humanities Metadata. The goal is to characterize and recommend best-practice meta-data standards for researcher-created primary data (field notes, recorded interviews, etc.) in history and ethnography. In the future, the DPHE-IG will advance Working Groups to characterize and recommend user agreements, citation practices, digital exhibition protocols, and other mechanisms that will facilitate sharing and public availability of historical and ethnographic data and analyses.
RDA ADOPTION PROJECTS

RDA's Digital Practices in History and Ethnography Interest Group has supported the adoption of recommendations by RDA's Practical Policies [for data management] Working Group in the Platform for Experimental, Collaborative Ethnography, under development at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, USA.