



RDA Disciplinary Interoperability Framework

Session report and action items

Session Title:

Towards RDA disciplinary interoperability framework Interest Group

Type of Session:

BoF

RDA Plenary:

P9 – Barcelona | 5-7 April 2017 | Barcelona, Spain

Session Date:

Friday 7 April

Convener:

Dimitris Koureas

Speakers:

- Françoise Genova
- Bridget Almas
- Dimitris Koureas

Original meeting objectives

1. Assess and describe the value proposition of the group;
2. Refine mission and key objectives;
3. Define the participation mode and mode of operation;
4. Identify initial membership and co-chairs.

Number of participants:

30

Short report

Participation

The meeting was attended by approximately 30 people. 30% of the attendees participated in the session as co-chairs of other RDA disciplinary or technical focused interest and working groups (**Figure 1**), whilst, another 25% participated as representative members of such groups.

Furthermore, a significant percentage of participants were from RDA organisational groups. A significant amount of scientific disciplines were represented in the session (more than 12) (**figure 2**).

The scope of the meeting was to identify the need for the creation of a new group within the RDA landscape that would act as a forum for those groups (and individuals) in the RDA ecosystem that represent scientific disciplines and would further increase adoption of RDA outputs in the practices of these disciplinary communities. A key issue addressed was the identification of the key challenges that currently prevent different disciplines to engage and finally adopt RDA outputs. Specifically, the



participants identified lack of awareness of these outputs and their potential value as the key barrier, which prevents further engagement (**Figure 3**).

Other key challenges identified were, lack of funding, easy access to the outputs, socio-cultural barriers within the disciplinary communities.

In a subsequent discussion about the potential scope of a new Disciplinary Interoperability Framework Group, the participants tried to define what the key mission of such a group should be. Specifically, (i) Identifying the commonalities between the disciplinary groups, (ii) harmonising technical and socio-cultural requirements relevant to their research data needs, (iii) connecting groups, and (iv) performing outreach activities, were identified as the main items to be included in the mission of such a group (**Figure 4**).

The participants also attempted to define a tangible list of tasks and outputs from the group operation. They assessed a list of 10 potential tasks/outputs (linked to the mission statements above), in terms of the feasibility and value. This exercise enabled the group to prioritise some tasks, as quick wins of the group.

Tasks/outputs were ranked as follows:

- I. Easy to achieve and of high value/impact**
 - a. Act as an inter-disciplinary open forum;
 - b. Act as a forum to introduce and discuss RDA outputs;
 - c. Perform a gap analysis for disciplinary participation in RDA;
 - d. Support RDA domain ambassadors and the ambassadors' scheme;
 - e. Act as a single authoritative voice in RDA, representing disciplines.
- II. Easy to achieve and of medium value**
 - a. Identify and prioritise common technical challenges.
- III. Not easy to achieve but of high value**
 - a. Use the group as a window to RDA for scientific communities that currently do not participate in RDA;
 - b. Provide authoritative opinions to TAB/OAB/Council as needed on disciplinary engagement and coordination matters;
 - c. Take actions towards the defragmentation of the disciplinary groups landscape.

Participants have also discussed issues relevant to the mode of operation and methods of communication within and outside the RDA ecosystem.

Finally, based on the above the participants were asked whether a new group on the above premise needs to be initiated; 90% agreed that such a group is needed and that immediate actions are required to set it up.

Action items

- 1. Create a space in RDA website for sustaining communication with perspective group members;**
- 2. Draft the group charter and issue a call for participation;**
- 3. Draft this report and circulate widely.**

Figure 1. RDA role through which participants attended the session (according to own declaration).

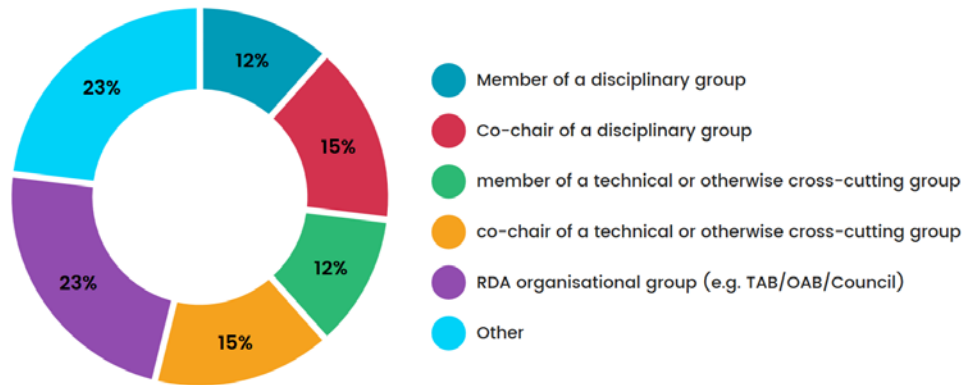


Figure 2. Word cloud of represented disciplines according to attendees' own declaration



Figure 3. Word cloud of key challenges for adoption of RDA outputs by communities of practice in different scientific disciplines, as collated during the session.



Figure 4. Word cloud of potential mission statements for the new group, as collated during the session.



Figure 5. Evaluation of feasibility and value of 10 potential tasks/outputs of the group operation

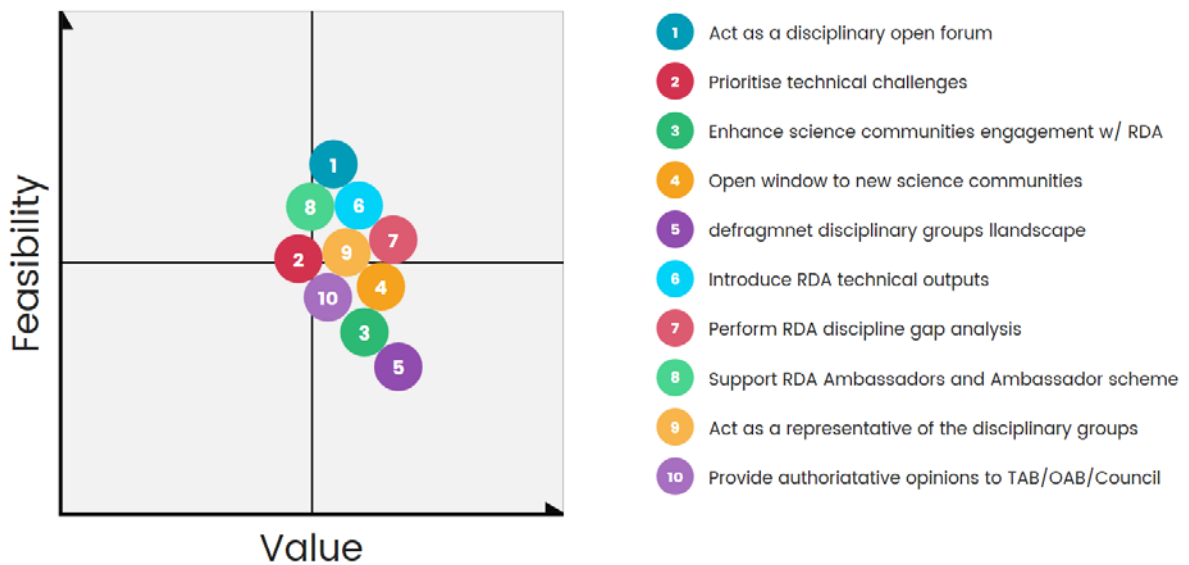


Figure 6. Voting results from participants in the session on whether there is an immediate need to formally set-up the DIF group.

