



RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

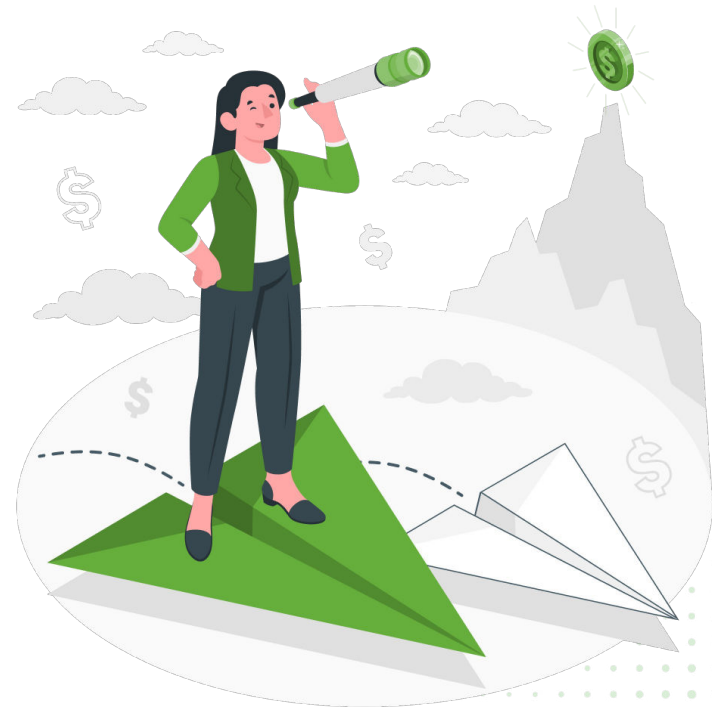
For Newcomers





RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

VALUES AND GOVERNANCE



What is the RDA?

The RDA is an **international member-based organisation** focused on the development of **infrastructure** and **community activities** that reduce barriers to **data sharing** and **accelerate data-driven innovation** worldwide.



15,000+ members



150+ countries

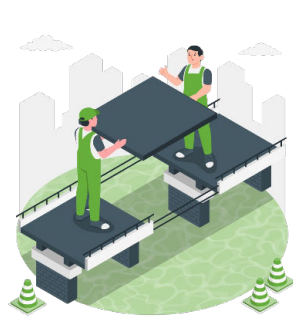


Researchers, scientists,
data professionals



Different disciplines, domains,
thematic fields

RDA VALUES



Vision

Researchers and innovators openly share and reuse data across technologies, disciplines, and countries to address the grand challenges of society.

Mission

The RDA builds the social and technical bridges that enable open sharing and reuse of data.



[How the RDA works](#)

Guiding Principles



Openness



Consensus



Inclusivity



Harmonisation



Community-driven



Non-profit &
technology-neutral

The RDA consists of four governance bodies **made up of volunteer community members**:



COUNCIL

Organisational
vision
and strategy



**ORGANISATIONAL
ADVISORY BOARD**

Needs, adoption,
business advice



**REGIONAL
ADVISORY BOARD**

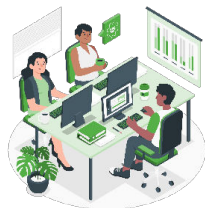
Liaison between regions
and council



**TECHNICAL
ADVISORY BOARD**

Socio-technical vision
and strategy

These bodies and the RDA global community are supported by:



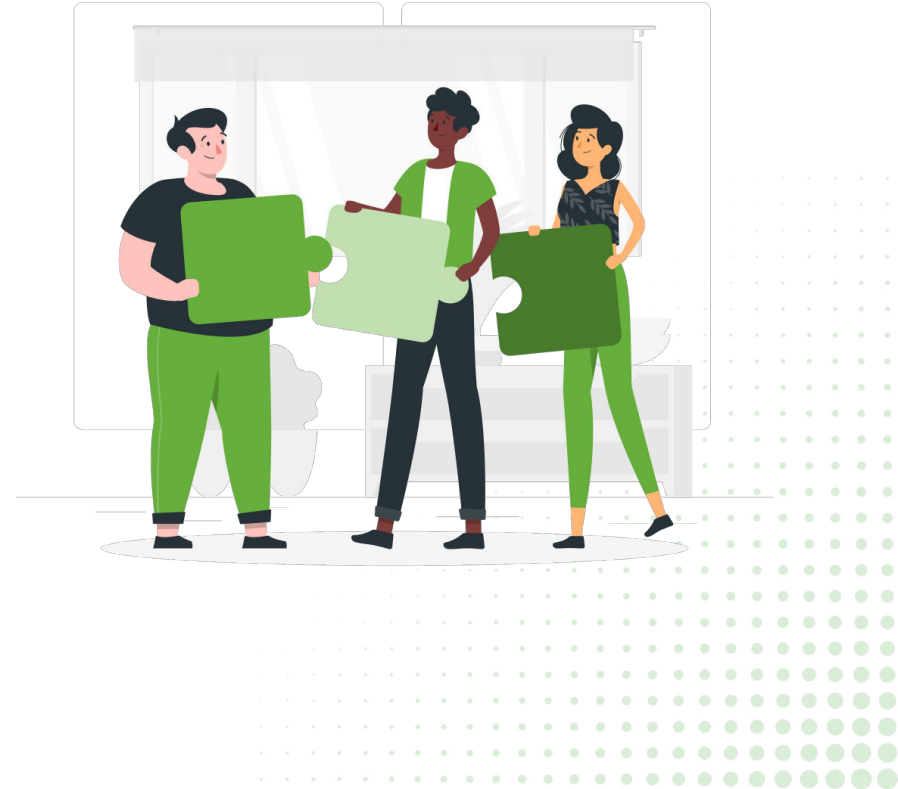
SECRETARIAT

Administration
and operations

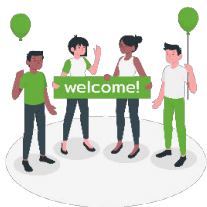


RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP



MEMBERSHIP TYPES



INDIVIDUALS

15,900+

A strategic 'think tank' to enhance constructive dialogue and collaboration on data related topics, and to present the latest research results in many areas.

Collaborate in groups and generate outputs



[Members Directory](#)



ORGANISATIONS

90+

A forum where organisational representatives directly interact and collaborate to develop and implement solutions and best practices.

Adopt, implement and customise outputs



[Organisation Directory](#)



REGIONS

35+

A global perspective to assist in sharing best practices, experiences and common needs to achieve efficiency and reduce duplication of efforts.

Localise (linguistically and culturally) and network



[Regional Groups](#)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS



Collaborate
across
the globe



Create and join
community-driven
RDA groups



Tackle infrastructure
and data sharing
challenges



Exchange
knowledge and
share discoveries



Discuss barriers and
potential solutions



Explore and define
policies



Test and harmonise
standards



Enhance and
facilitate global data
sharing and reuse

MEMBER BENEFITS

JOIN FOR
FREE



Contribute to acceleration of data infrastructure developments



Become part of the global community and expand your professional network



Create, access and adopt RDA Recommendations and Outputs



[The value for members](#)



[Become a member](#)



Receive regular updates on the work of the RDA community



Gain expertise in data-related topics regardless of career stage



Participate in community events, including webinars, workshops and Plenaries





RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

GROUPS AND OUTPUTS



COMMUNITY GROUPS

109
GROUPS



WORKING GROUPS (WG)

45

Develop tools, policies, practices and products for data that are adopted by projects, organisations and communities. Lifespan: 12-18 months.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Concrete deliverables (e.g., running code, tools, standards)



[All Working Groups](#)



INTEREST GROUPS (IG)

62

Focus on solving a specific data sharing problem and identifying what kind of infrastructure needs to be built. Lifespan: As long as group is active.

OUTPUTS:

Best practices, guidelines, new WGs.



[All Interest Groups](#)



COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoP)

2

'Umbrella groups' that focus on a domain / discipline and have a coordination and awareness raising role. Lifespan: As long as CoP is active (review every 18 months).

OUTPUTS:

New WGs and IGs, bridge building across the RDA and externally.



[All Communities of Practice](#)

RDA Groups & Areas of Focus

Research Data Alliance community organisation by themes and domains

D

Research Domains

Life Sciences & Health

Genomics, health data modelling, marine biology, structural biology

Agricultural Sciences

Crop data interoperability, food security, agricultural standards

Environmental Sciences

Climate data, oceanography, earth sciences monitoring

Social Sciences

Humanities data, archaeology, cultural heritage datasets

Physical Sciences

Materials science, space sciences, physics, astronomy

T

Technical Infrastructure

Data Standards

Metadata frameworks, FAIR principles, quality assurance

Data Repositories

Repository attributes, publishing services, PIDs

Interoperability

Vocabulary services, data citation, discovery tools

Technical Systems

Research software, cloud computing, federated systems

C

Cross-Cutting Themes

Data Governance

Legal frameworks, ethics, indigenous data rights

Education & Training

Skills development, library services, capacity building

Global Collaboration

International standards, regional networks, partnerships

Open Science

Research assessment, transparency, reproducibility

E

Emerging Areas

AI & Machine Learning

AI for research, automated processing, algorithmic ethics

New Technologies

Digital twins, blockchain, IoT data management

Non-Traditional Research

Alternative outputs, new assessment methods

Future Challenges

Sustainability, inclusivity, equity in data science



[Group Directory](#)

RDA Recommendations and Outputs



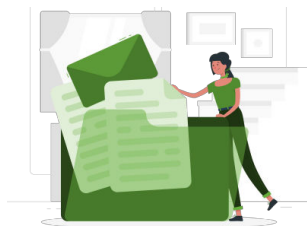
RECOMMENDATIONS

42

RDA's flagship outputs and the equivalent of 'specifications' or 'standards'. Recommendations are reviewed by the RDA community, endorsed by Council and adopted by organisations.



[All Recommendations](#)



SUPPORTING OUTPUTS

47

Community-reviewed educational materials and guidelines from RDA Working Groups, Interest Groups, or Communities of Practice that inform and educate stakeholders.



[All Supporting Outputs](#)



OTHER OUTPUTS

32

Examples include workshop reports, published articles, survey results, etc. produced by RDA groups. Upon request by the groups, these outputs are posted on the RDA website but have no level of endorsement.



[All Other Outputs](#)



RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

PLENARIES & INTERNATIONAL DATA WEEK 2025

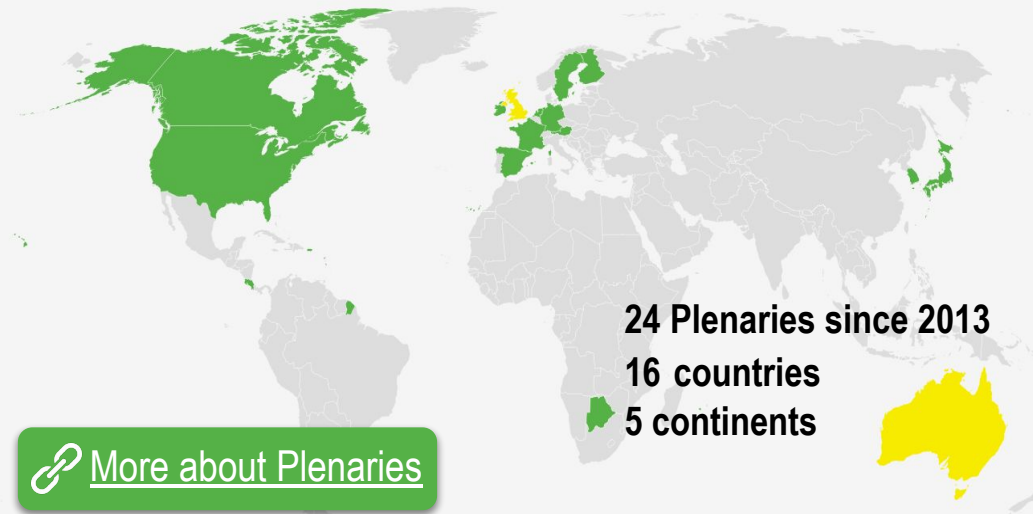




RDA Plenaries

RDA Plenaries are **working meetings** that bring together **global RDA community of data professionals**.

Plenaries help **move the RDA community forward** in creating tangible **deliverables** that improve **data sharing and reuse** across disciplines, technologies and countries.



RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

24th Plenary Meeting

P24
RDA



Data for Emerging
Technologies

7-11 April | 2025
online



[Highlights](#)



**INTERNATIONAL
DATA WEEK**
13-16 October 2025
Brisbane, Australia



[About IDW 2025](#)



#IDWSalzburg2023



Benefits of Attending RDA Plenaries



Exchange knowledge, share discoveries, discuss barriers and potential solutions



Learn about new trends, strategies, research developments, directions and policies



Expand your network and meet new committed and passionate data professionals, working in multiple disciplines



Contribute to acceleration of data infrastructure development



RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

25th PLENARY MEETING

13-16 OCTOBER
2025, BRISBANE,
AUSTRALIA AND
ONLINE



As part of International Data Week 2025

- 4 days
- Over 650 registered attendees
- Hybrid accessibility: in-person and online
- 159 working sessions, lightning talks, and presentations of which
- 50 RDA Working, Interest Groups, Community of Practice, and Birds of a Feather RDA sessions
- 11 breakout sessions
- 63 Global RDA Posters
- 2 Plenary Sessions highlighting RDA's worldwide influence and achievements
- RDA sessions on strategic announcements and community updates
- Recorded sessions shared with everyone

Brisbane	Monday, 13 October 2025	Tuesday, 14 October 2025	Wednesday, 15 October 2025	Thursday, 16 October 2025	
07:30-08:00					
08:00-08:30	Registration open from 07:30 AEST				
08:30-09:00					
09:00-09:30	Opening session	Plenary session 2, WDS led	Breakout session 6, SciDataCon	Breakout session 9, RDA	
09:30-10:00					
10:00-10:30	Plenary Session 1 (ARDC led)	Networking Tea & Coffee Break	Networking Tea & Coffee Break	Networking Tea & Coffee Break	
10:30-11:00					
11:00-11:30	Networking Tea & Coffee Break	Breakout session 4, SciDataCon	Breakout session 7, RDA	Breakout session 10, SciDataCon	
11:30-12:00					
12:00-12:30	Breakout session 1 RDA	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
12:30-13:00					
13:00-13:30	Lunch	Plenary Session 5 (RDA led)	Breakout session 8, SciDataCon	Breakout session 11, RDA	
13:30-14:00					
14:00-14:30	Breakout session 2 SciDataCon	Networking Tea & Coffee Break	Networking Tea & Coffee Break	Networking Tea & Coffee Break	
14:30-15:00					
15:00-15:30	Networking Tea & Coffee Break	Breakout session 5, SciDataCon	Plenary session 4 CODATA led	Plenary Session 5 (RDA led)	
15:30-16:00					
16:00-16:30	Breakout session 3 RDA			Closing Ceremony	
16:30-17:00					
17:00-17:30	Poster Session - Drinks Reception	Social programme Billabongs	Social programme - EAT STREET SOCIAL (river cruise)		
17:30-18:00					
18:00-18:30					
18:30-19:00					
18:00-18:30					
18:30-19:00					
19:00-19:30					
19:30-20:00					
20:00-20:30					

Plenaries in 2026:

16-20 March 2026, Online



RDA
RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE
26th Plenary Meeting

RDA
VP26

16-20 MARCH 2026
ONLINE

Uniting Scientists and
Researchers through
Global FAIR Data

www.rd-alliance.org



 [About RDA VP26](#)

6-8 October 2026, London, UK



RDA
RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

UKRI
UK Research
and Innovation

**Research Data
Alliance 27th
Plenary Meeting
(RDA P27)**

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

6-8 OCTOBER 2026



 [About RDA P27](#)

Contact us

The Secretariat staff are employed by the RDA Foundation and some members are made available through in-kind support from Regional partners.

The Secretary General leads the Secretariat and is CEO of the RDA Foundation.

Hilary Hanahoe

Secretary General

hilary.hanahoe@rda-foundation.org

Connie Clare

Community Development Manager

connie.clare@rda-foundation.org

Irina Hope

Global Events Manager

irina.hope@rda-foundation.org

Trish Radotic

Community Development Manager Oceania & East Asia

trish.radotic@rda-foundation.org

Bridget Walker

Operations and Accounts Manager

bridget.walker@rda-foundation.org