



RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

rd-alliance.org

Research Data Alliance Foundation

C/o Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
Harwell Oxford
Didcot
Oxfordshire, OX11 0QX
England

Research Data Alliance Privacy Policy

<i>Effective Date:</i>	<i>1 July 2024</i>
<i>Last Reviewed</i>	<i>4 June 2026</i>
<i>Version</i>	<i>2.1</i>
<i>Data Controller</i>	<i>Research Data Alliance Foundation</i>
<i>Contact</i>	<i>enquiries@rd-alliance.org</i>

The Research Data Alliance (RDA), www.rd-alliance.org (the "Site"), is committed to protecting the personal information of all individuals who use our services. This Privacy Policy explains what personal data we collect, why we collect it, the legal basis for doing so, how we use it, and your rights under the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ("GDPR") and applicable UK data protection law.

"Personal data" means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual.

1 Data Controller

The Data Controller for this website and all its content is:

Organisation	Research Data Alliance Foundation
Address	Rutherford Appleton Library, Harwell Oxford, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0QX, England
Company No.	09021881
Charity No.	1162762
Email	enquiries@rd-alliance.org

The Site is operated on behalf of the RDA Foundation by Marameo Design PTY LTD (Australian Business Number: 33 631 679 25).

The RDA Foundation does not have a designated Data Protection Officer (DPO), as this is not currently required under Article 37 GDPR given the nature and scale of our processing. This

research data
sharing without
barriers

assessment is reviewed periodically. Any data protection queries should be directed to the contact address above.

2 Scope

This Privacy Policy applies to personal data collected through the Site and through electronic communications sent to the RDA. It does not apply to third-party websites linked from the Site. The RDA does not endorse and is not responsible for the content or privacy practices of third-party websites.

3 What data we collect and how

3.1 Data you provide voluntarily

You may browse the Site without providing personal data. However, certain functions — such as registering for events, subscribing to newsletters, or submitting a contact form — require you to provide personal data including:

- Name and surname
- Email address
- Organisation / company
- City or country of location
- Any other information you choose to include in a message to us

3.2 Registration and community membership

To become a member of the RDA community and access RDA services, users must register an account. The personal data collected during registration is used to manage your membership, communicate with you, and provide access to RDA resources.

3.3 Automatically collected data

Our servers automatically collect certain technical information when you visit the Site, including:

- IP address (anonymised where possible)
- Browser type and version
- Operating system
- Pages visited and time spent
- Referring website
- Date and time of visit

Some of this information is collected via cookies and similar tracking technologies. Please see Section 11 for further details.

3.4 Event registration data

When you register for webinars or other RDA events, data such as your name, organisation, and email address may be collected via third-party event platforms. Those platforms process your data subject to their own privacy policies, which we will make available to you at the point of registration.

3.5 Children

The Site is not directed at children under the age of 16. We do not knowingly collect personal data from children. If you believe we have inadvertently done so, please contact us at enquiries@rd-alliance.org and we will delete the data promptly.

3.6 AI Chat Assistant

The RDA website uses an AI-powered chat assistant ("RDA Concierge") provided by Contexto, to help visitors navigate our content and services. This feature is available on a trial basis from 10 June 2026.

When you interact with the RDA Concierge, the content of your conversation — including any personal data you choose to share in your messages — may be processed by Contexto in order to generate responses. We recommend you do not submit sensitive personal data through the chat interface.

Data processed through the AI Concierge is hosted exclusively on Amazon Web Services (AWS) infrastructure located in Frankfurt, Germany (EU) and does not leave the European Economic Area for the duration of this service. No international transfer safeguards under Article 46 GDPR are therefore required.

The RDA Concierge is operated by Contexto as a third-party service provider. Data processed through this tool is subject to Contexto's own privacy practices, which you can review at contexto.com.au/privacy. Appropriate data processing arrangements are in place between the RDA Foundation and Marameo (RDA web agency who have a direct processing agreement with Contexto).

This processing is carried out on the basis of our legitimate interests in improving the accessibility and usability of our website (Article 6(1)(f) GDPR).

4 Legal basis for processing

We process your personal data only where we have a lawful basis to do so under Article 6 GDPR. The basis depends on the purpose:

Purpose	Legal Basis	GDPR Article
Responding to your enquiries	Contract / legitimate interests	6(1)(b) / 6(1)(f)

Sending newsletters (opt-in)	Consent	6(1)(a)
Event registration and attendance tracking	Contract / legitimate interests	6(1)(b) / 6(1)(f)
Site operation and security	Legitimate interests	6(1)(f)
Statistical analysis of Site usage	Legitimate interests	6(1)(f)
Compliance with legal obligations	Legal obligation	6(1)(c)
Sharing with RDA members for knowledge base	Legitimate interests	6(1)(f)

Where we rely on legitimate interests, we have assessed that our interests do not override your rights and freedoms. You may request a copy of our Legitimate Interests Assessment by contacting us at enquiries@rd-alliance.org.

Where we rely on consent, you have the right to withdraw that consent at any time. Withdrawal of consent does not affect the lawfulness of processing before the withdrawal.

5 How we use your data

- To respond to your enquiries and fulfil requests
- To register you for events and track attendance
- To send you publications, newsletters, or other communications you have requested
- To operate and improve the Site
- To conduct statistical analysis of Site usage (in aggregated, non-identifying form)
- For internal business purposes including audits
- To maintain our community membership database

6 Disclosure of your data

6.1 RDA Members

We may share certain personal data with RDA organisational and regional members for the purpose of building a shared knowledge base and supporting collaboration within the RDA community. This processing is based on our legitimate interests. You have the right to object to this processing — see Section 9.5.

6.2 Third-party service providers

We use a number of third-party services that may process your personal data on our behalf as data processors. These include analytics providers, email platforms, and event management tools. We ensure appropriate data processing agreements are in place with these providers.

6.3 Legal disclosure

We may disclose your data where required to do so by law or in response to valid requests from public authorities. We will notify you of such requests where legally permitted to do so.

6.4 Business transfers

In the event of a merger, acquisition, or restructuring of the RDA Foundation, personal data may be transferred as part of that process, subject to equivalent data protection obligations.

7 International Data Transfers

The RDA operates globally and uses third-party service providers (including Google Analytics) that may transfer data outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and the United Kingdom. Where such transfers occur, we ensure they are protected by one or more of the following safeguards:

- An adequacy decision by the European Commission or UK Secretary of State
- Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs) approved by the European Commission
- UK International Data Transfer Agreements (IDTAs) where applicable

You may request further information about the safeguards in place for international transfers by contacting enquiries@rd-alliance.org.

8 Data Retention

We retain personal data only for as long as necessary for the purposes set out in this Policy, unless a longer retention period is required or permitted by law. The following indicative retention periods apply:

Category of Data	Indicative Retention Period
Community membership data	Duration of membership plus 3 years
Event registration data	3 years from the date of the event
Contact / enquiry data	2 years from last contact
Newsletter subscription data	Until unsubscription plus 1 year
Server log / technical data	12 months
Financial / legal records	7 years (legal obligation)

9 Your rights

Under the GDPR and applicable UK data protection law, you have the following rights in relation to your personal data. These are not absolute rights and may be subject to limitations.

9.1 Right of access (Article 15)

You have the right to request a copy of the personal data we hold about you, along with information about how we use it. We will provide this free of charge within one calendar month of receipt of your request.

9.2 Right to rectification (Article 16)

You have the right to request correction of inaccurate or incomplete personal data we hold about you.

9.3 Right to erasure (Article 17)

You have the right to request deletion of your personal data in certain circumstances, for example where the data is no longer necessary for the purposes for which it was collected, or where you withdraw consent. To exercise this right, contact enquiries@rd-alliance.org.

9.4 Right to restriction of processing (Article 18)

You have the right to request that we restrict the processing of your personal data in certain circumstances, for example while the accuracy of the data is being contested.

9.5 Right to object (Article 21)

You have the right to object at any time to processing of your personal data where we rely on legitimate interests as the lawful basis. This includes processing for direct marketing purposes or sharing with RDA members. Where you object, we must stop processing unless we can demonstrate compelling legitimate grounds that override your interests, rights, and freedoms. To object to any processing, contact us at enquiries@rd-alliance.org.

9.6 Right to data portability (Article 20)

Where processing is based on consent or contract and is carried out by automated means, you have the right to receive your personal data in a structured, commonly used, machine-readable format.

9.7 Right to withdraw consent

Where processing is based on consent, you may withdraw that consent at any time without affecting the lawfulness of processing before withdrawal. To unsubscribe from newsletters, use the unsubscribe link in any newsletter email, or contact us directly at enquiries@rd-alliance.org.

9.8 Right to lodge a complaint

You have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority. In the UK, this is the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO): www.ico.org.uk / 0303 123 1113. In EU member states, you may also contact your national supervisory authority. To exercise any of the rights above, please contact enquiries@rd-alliance.org. We will respond within one calendar month. We may need to verify your identity before processing your request.

10 Security

We implement commercially reasonable technical and organisational measures to protect your personal data against loss, misuse, and unauthorised access or alteration. However, no method of transmission over the internet is completely secure, and we cannot guarantee absolute security.

Email communications are generally transmitted unencrypted. If you need to share sensitive information with us, please indicate this so we can arrange a more secure channel.

11 Cookies and Tracking Technologies

We use cookies and similar technologies to operate the Site, personalise your experience, and conduct statistical analysis. The following third-party services set cookies on your device when you visit the Site:

Service	Purpose	Personal Data Collected	Lawful Basis
Google Analytics	Statistical analysis of Site usage	Anonymised IP address, cookies, usage data	Legitimate interests
Google Tag Manager	Tag and script management	Cookies, usage data	Legitimate interests
Google Maps Widget	Display of maps	Cookies, usage data	Legitimate interests / consent
Social media widgets (X / LinkedIn / Facebook)	Social sharing functionality	Cookies, usage data	Consent
Contact form	User enquiries	Name, email, city, message content	Legitimate interests / contract
Newsletter platform	Contact management	Name, email address	Consent
RSS feed	Content distribution	Cookies, usage data	Legitimate interests

Service	Purpose	Personal Data Collected	Lawful Basis
Contexto AI Concierge	AI-assisted website navigation	Chat conversation content, cookies, usage data	Legitimate interests

You can manage your cookie preferences through your browser settings. Note that disabling certain cookies may affect the functionality of the Site.

12 Updates to this Policy

We review and update this Privacy Policy periodically. Where changes are significant, we will post a prominent notice on the Site for a reasonable period and notify registered users by email where practicable. Continued use of the Site after the revised Policy takes effect constitutes acknowledgement of the changes. Where we rely on consent for any new processing, we will seek fresh consent before commencing that processing. If you object to any change, please contact us at enquiries@rd-alliance.org.

13 How to contact us

For any questions, concerns, or requests relating to this Privacy Policy or our data protection practices, please contact:

Organisation	Research Data Alliance Foundation
Email	enquiries@rd-alliance.org
Postal address	Rutherford Appleton Library, Harwell Oxford, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0QX, England