The Research Data Alliance: Collaborating globally & locally

16 September 2020

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Vision

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

Mission

RDA builds the social and technical bridges that enable open sharing and re-use of data.
OPENNESS
Membership is open to all interested individuals who subscribe to the RDAs Guiding Principles. RDA community meetings and processes are open, and the deliverables of RDA working Groups will be publicly disseminated.

CONSENSUS
The RDA moves forward by achieving consensus among its membership. RDA processes and procedures include appropriate mechanisms to resolve conflicts.

BALANCE
The RDA seeks to promote balanced representation of its membership and stakeholder communities.

HARMONIZATION
The RDA works to achieve harmonization across data standards, policies, technologies, infrastructure and communities.

COMMUNITY-DRIVE
The RDA is a public, community-driven body constituted of volunteer members and organizations, supported by the RDA Secretariat.

NON-PROFIT
RDA does not promote, endorse, or sell commercial products, technologies or services.
Global (Virtual) Community, Collaboration & Co-operation
If you want to go fast, go alone
If you want to go far, go together

African Proverb
Who is the Research Data Alliance?
10,997+ RDA members from 145 different countries

650+ French members

A truly global community
RDA Organisational Type

- 69% Academia / Research
- 14% Gov / Public Admin
- 9% Alliances
Become a Community Member

1. Click “Registration”
2. Complete Form
3. Adhere to RDA Guiding principles & Code of Conduct
4. Submit
5. Approval (by RDA Secretariat) within 2-3 working days
The Heart of RDA ... 94 groups

**Working Groups**
- develop and implement tools, policy, practices & products for data management that are adopted and used by projects, organisations, communities
- TIMING: 12-18 MONTHS
- TOTAL: 37 Working Groups

**Interest Groups**
- focus on solving a specific data sharing problem and identifying what kind of infrastructure needs to be built.
- TIMING: as long as group is active
- TOTAL: 57 Interest Groups

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Concrete deliverables - “Running code”, tools, standards, etc.

**OUTPUT:** Possibly case statements for new WGs, guidelines, best practice, etc.
New category of RDA work ...

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COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (coming soon)
- ...
- ...
- ...

RECOMMENDATIONS: Concrete deliverables - “Running code”, tools, standards, etc.

OUTPUT: Possibly case statements for new WGs, guidelines, best practice, etc.
COVID-19 In a Nutshell

- 600 RDA members and newcomers involved in 7 sub groups
- 200+ active contributors to the outputs
- 4 research areas: clinical data, omics practices, epidemiology and social sciences
- 4 overarching areas: legal and ethical considerations, research software, community participation and indigenous data
- 17 open webinars and meetings
- 5 requests for comments periods
- 5 draft versions April – June 2020
- **1 Final release** – 30 June 2020 with 1 Zotero Resource library and 1 Infographic
- 1 Decision Tool – ETA Sept 2020

- guidelines on data sharing under the present COVID-19 circumstances to help stakeholders follow best practices to maximize the efficiency of their work, and to act as a blueprint for future emergencies;

- recommendations for policymakers to maximise timely, quality data sharing and appropriate responses in such health emergencies;

- addresses the interests of researchers, policy makers, funders, publishers, and providers of data sharing infrastructures.

https://www.rd-alliance.org/value-rda-covid-19-0
Mandate early use of Data Management Plans
Expedite ethical review and approval
Adopt licenses and agreements that enable downstream data sharing

Leverage existing data infrastructure for COVID-19 research and target investment in new infrastructure, human resources and digital skills.

Create and manage datasets along FAIR principles
Make data as open as possible while ensuring privacy
Support inclusive data collection across diverse communities
Obtain and trace data provenance

Coordinate data sharing policies across sectors and jurisdictions.
Promote the use of FAIR and open source research software

 ✓ Ensure adequate protection of sensitive information
 ✓ Obtain consent to address future use
 ✓ Recognise data as a first class research output to encourage stewardship

 ✓ Release data as quickly as possible

 ✓ Deposit data in domain-specific certified trustworthy data repositories
 ✓ Require use of common metadata standards, field-specific vocabularies

 ✓ Coordinate data sharing policies across sectors and jurisdictions.
 ✓ Promote the use of FAIR and open source research software
### RDA Recommendations & Outputs

#### RECOMMENDATIONS
Equivalent of the “specifications” or “standards” that other organisations create and endorse.

- **26 Recommendations**
  - of which **8 ICT Technical Specifications**

#### SUPPORTING OUTPUTS
Outputs of RDA WGs and IGs that are fruit of RDA work, but are not necessarily adoptable bridges.

- **24 Supporting Outputs**

#### OTHER OUTPUTS
Anything a WG or IG wants to register and report, e.g. workshop reports, articles, survey results, etc.

100+ adoption cases
Curating a research institutional scholarly record connecting externally deposited datasets

University of Manchester adopted the Scholix Metadata Schema for Exchange of Scholarly Communication Links

- identify the relevant externally deposited datasets
- harvest their metadata to populate the current research information system (CRIS)
- Now over 6000 objects in CRIS
- Code Github available to all
- Multistakeholder collaboration across multiple departments at the university

RDA RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED:

RDA/WDS Scholarly Link Exchange (Scholix) Recommendation - YOUTUBE
Fostering reproducible research.
Supporting researchers to publish FAIR data alongside their scholarly publication

Challenge

✓ formally archived research data are more likely to remain accessible for future use
✓ that data being made available alongside the scholarly literature is a key component for research reproducibility
✓ researchers often do not know which repository to choose for their data

Adoption & Impact

✓ FAIRsharing records are actively curated and maintained, therefore the data contained will not be out of date
✓ linking to data sharing standards from each repository, makes this RDA output even more useful for publishers who wish to promote good data sharing and management
✓ practical help for researchers to ensure they publish FAIR data

RDA RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED:

FAIRsharing Registry and Recommendations: Interlinking Standards, Databases and Data Policies
Global & Local Impact

- Global data agreements
- Standards
- Institutional change
- Discipline & research domain specific solutions
- Cross | multi | inter disciplinary solutions
- Education and Training
- Policy
SAVE THE DATE
International Data Week 2023
A Festival of Data
23–26 October 2023
Salzburg, Austria
15th Plenary Meeting
18-20 March 2020
Melbourne, Australia

https://rd-alliance.org/plenaries/rda-16th-plenary-meeting-costa-rica-virtual

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https://rd-alliance.org/plenaries/rda-16th-plenary-meeting-costa-rica-virtual
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The Research Data Alliance: Collaborating globally & locally

RDA France 2020, 16th September 2019

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

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RDA Further Information Resources
Communication Kit

✓ RDA Logos & Templates
✓ RDA Recommendations and Outputs
✓ RDA in a Nutshell
✓ RDA Videos

✓ RDA Value statements for:
  • COVID-19
  • Individuals
  • Organisations performing Research
  • Student/Early Careers
  • Funders
  • Libraries
  • The European Open Science Cloud
  • Regions

https://www.rd-alliance.org/about-rda/communication-kit

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