National Data Services IG Charter

Introduction

Given the increased value of research data as a national research asset, many countries are establishing national and regional level support for research data. This interest group targets such national/regional services with broad cross-discipline scope.

For members of the RDA community, *"how to effectively form and operate such national data services?"* is an important question that this interest group aims to shed light on.

For the purposes of this interest group "data services" are broadly inclusive of many possible services such as national data storage services, computational services, analysis services, discovery services, identifier services, support and training services, etc.

The IG is inclusive of and acknowledges a variety of configurations, consortia, and approaches to delivering national multi-discipline data services. Indeed documenting the various types and configurations of national data services is one of the objectives of the group.

This interest group is intended as a peer support mechanism for exchanging ideas and information between national data services. The peers in this group can learn from each other's experiences and form task forces on specific issues that can potentially lead to new Working Groups in RDA.

By allowing national data services to learn from the experience of each other, the desired outcome is to increase efficiency for the individual operators of national data services and to promote a more coherent joined-up, community of practitioners.

User scenario(s) or use case(s) the IG wishes to address

User story: "I am part of an organisation that aspires to collaborate and form a consortium with other organisations in my country to receive national research infrastructure funds to provide national data services which will allow researchers in our country to access national-scale services and participate in global initiatives. Who else has done this elsewhere? How can I learn from what other jurisdictions have tried? What services can we fruitfully offer? Can we leverage work elsewhere? Can we solve common issues jointly?"

There are a variety of suggested topics that have arisen from discussions with various potential members of this IG, including:

- Exploring how one might set up a national data service
- What kind of collaboration, consortia, and governance models do national data services use to organise themselves?
- What services do national data services typically provide? e.g. data curation, data storage, data computation, data management, data discovery, data registration, training and education, national data policy advocacy.
- Technical and social challenges (and solutions) for national data services.
- Business procedures of national data services

Objectives

This group aims to:

- Exchange information among national data services
- Establish networks among national data services
- Identify opportunities for collaborative action

The group aims to help aspiring national data services to benefit from the experience of their peers in other jurisdictions. There is no other peer network specifically for national data services outside or inside RDA. The IG will also provide a useful forum for national data service providers as a group to identify common issues to address jointly.

Participation

Group membership would be open to those providing national data services or planning to do so.

This IG would interact with other working groups to create synergies and reduce duplication of effort. The IG has already organised joint sessions with both the Domain Repositories IG, and the Data Fabric IG to coordinate and jointly address shared concerns. The Data Fabric IG envisages many of the elements of the "data fabric" being delivered through "national/regional data centres". Domain repositories share some of the challenges of building national data services.

*The proposed IG will also leverage the work of many RDA working groups, **validating and applying their outputs through the medium of national data services**.* For example the proposed IG will investigate how the outputs of the PID IG can be applied by national-level identifier services (e.g. through national DataCite registration agencies or national ORCID consortia).

Outcomes

- Natural typology of national data services via the community wiki output:
    - what services/activities do national data services offer?
    - what organisational models do they use?
- Information exchange sessions at plenaries covering specific topics
- Discussion forums and informal mentoring networks
- Identification and definition of joint projects, task forces, or working groups

Mechanism:

The group will run sessions at plenaries 7, 8, 9, and 10. Between plenaries, monthly virtual meetings will alternate at times that are convenient for both western and eastern hemispheres.

Timeline:

- **6 months:** Finalise framework to document and categorise :
    - services typically offered by national data services
    - organisational models used to build national scale services
- **12 months:** Create a list of common issues, challenges, and opportunities
- **18 months:** Propose joint activities for informal collaborations or relevant WGs

Potential Group Members

Co-Chairs: Kevin Ashley (DCC), Adrian Burton (ANDS)
The following organisations have expressed an interest in contributing to the establishment of such a group:

- Australian National Data Service
- JISC
- DCC
- eScience China
- Portage/Research Data Canada
- DANS
- OpenAIRE
- US NDS
- EUDAT
- NeSI - New Zealand eScience Infrastructure

Current members of the RDA NDS IG site:
Adrian Burton
Amir Aryani
Antonio Jesús Sánchez Padial
Armin Straube
Ayla Stein
Christopher Brown
Damien Lecarpentier
David Medyckyj-Scott
Dejan Vitlacil
Elaine Sedenberg
Eva Méndez
Kathrin Beck
Kevin Ashley
Lesley Wyborn
Linda Naughton
Mark van de Sanden
Natalia Manola
Nick Jones
Rebecca Grant
Solomon Mekonnen Tekle
Stefanie Kethers
Timea Biro
Veerle Van den Eynden
Ville Tenhunen
Wojtek Sylwestrzak

Other members of the RDA community who have contributed to or have been consulted in the course of building of this IG:

Giuseppe Fiameni
John Towns
Ed Seidel
Bob Hanisch
Rob Pennington
Nick Jones
Kathy Fontaine
Ingrid Dillo

Peter Doorn
George Alter
Ruth Duerr