Getting Involved in the Research Data Alliance

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Becoming a Member of the RDA

- **Individuals**
  - Agree with the RDA’s Guiding Principles listed at https://rd-alliance.org/get-involved.html
  - Sign up to the Research Data Alliance at https://www.rd-alliance.org/user/register

- **Organisations**
  - See https://rd-alliance.org/organisation/rda-organisation-affiliate-members/rda-organisational-membership.html for information on membership benefits, costs, and expectations.
Organisational Members provide expertise and funding to RDA.

Each Organisational Member and Organisational Affiliate is expected to nominate one representative who will become part of the Organisational Assembly (OA).

OA members have elected an Organisational Assembly Board (OAB).

The OAB advises Council on the directions, processes, and mechanisms of RDA.
As representative of an organisational member, you can contribute in many ways, including by:

- Participating in the Organisational Assembly
- Standing for / participating in the election of the OAB
- Providing advice to Council via the OAB

- … and as an individual member (see next slide)
Contributing as Individual Member

You can contribute in many ways, including by:

- Standing for election as a TAB member
- Joining / Initiating BoFs, Working or Interest Groups
- Adopting RDA Outputs
- Providing input on documents currently under community review (see the “Request for Comments” box on http://rd-alliance.org)
- Attending RDA Plenaries
- Displaying a poster at an RDA Plenary
Vote in the TAB Election!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karl Benedict</td>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>Data Technologist</td>
<td>Natural sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Uhlir</td>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>Data Policy Maker</td>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devika Madalli</td>
<td>Asia and Oceania</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Glaves</td>
<td>Europe and Africa</td>
<td>Data Manager</td>
<td>Natural sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Müller-Pfefferkorn</td>
<td>Europe and Africa</td>
<td>Data Technologist</td>
<td>Engineering and technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mervyn O’Luing</td>
<td>Europe and Africa</td>
<td>Data User</td>
<td>Natural sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Giacomo Pongiglione</td>
<td>Europe and Africa</td>
<td>Data User</td>
<td>Medical and Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rainer Stotzka</td>
<td>Europe and Africa</td>
<td>Data Generator</td>
<td>Engineering and technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tobias Weigel</td>
<td>Europe and Africa</td>
<td>Data User</td>
<td>Natural sciences</td>
</tr>
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More Information

- [https://rd-alliance.org/tab-member-election-2016](https://rd-alliance.org/tab-member-election-2016)
- Meet the Candidates: [https://rd-alliance.org/tab-elections-2016-candidates](https://rd-alliance.org/tab-elections-2016-candidates)
How to Get even more Involved…
Starting a New Group

- Any member of the RDA can initiate a new BoF, Interest or Working Group
- Before starting a new group, please have a look at existing Working and Interest Groups at [https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups](https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups)
- If there is a group covering your topic of interest, or closely related to it, please join the group rather than start a new one
- BoFs are meant to gauge interest in the proposed topic and are closely associated with a Plenary
To Start a New Interest or Working Group

- Be an RDA member
- Find a group of interested participants:
  - From 3 or more continents
  - From multiple sectors/disciplines
  - Willing to commit to the group’s goals over the lifespan of the group
- Develop the Charter (IG) or Case Statement (WG)
- All IGs and WGs undergo a review process by the RDA Community, the Technical Advisory Board, and Council before being recognized and endorsed. (See https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/group-process-procedures.html for more detail)
Group Decisions

- Should this be an Interest Group (IG), or a Working Group (WG)? (See https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/group-process-procedures.html)
  - IGs do not have a specific lifespan and produce important deliverables such as surveys, recommendations, reports
  - WGs have a 12-18 month lifespan and develop and implement specific tools, code, best practices, standards, etc. at multiple institutions (see https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/goals-and-outcomes.html)
- Who will be the 2-4 Co-Chairs? For Group Chair responsibilities, see https://rd-alliance.org/rda-working-and-interest-group-chairs-roles-and-responsibilities.html
Overview of Working and Interest Group Initiation

1. Become a member of RDA
2. Decide to start new group
3. Start Interest or Working Group?
   - Interest Group
   - Working Group
4. Find co-chairs and group members
5. Develop Case Statement
6. Develop Charter
7. Publish Charter / Case Statement on RDA Web site
8. Review
9. Group recognized and endorsed?
   - Yes: Group set-up
   - No: Withdraw Group
To Start an Interest Group

1. Contact enquiries@rd-alliance.org to request the Interest Group Charter template. A Secretariat Liaison will be assigned to your group.

2. The group puts together a short Charter using the template

3. A group co-chair or member then
   - Creates a new Charter and posts this via “New Case Statement”, if there is already an RDA Organic Group for the group, or
   - Creates a new Interest Group via the “Initiate new group” button in the “Working and Interest Groups” menu, then adds the charter to this group as described above, or
   - Emails enquiries@rd-alliance.org to request help with this step

4. Review Process
Interest Group Review Criteria

- 2-4 co-chairs leading the initiative
- Members are international experts
- Ideally, the group spans at least 3 continents
- Group will serve as a platform for communication and coordination around the topic of interest
- Not promoting one specific product or technology
- No* overlap with existing IGs / WGs
To Start a Working Group

1. Contact enquiries@rd-alliance.org. A Secretariat liaison will be assigned to your group.

2. The group develops its Case Statement (see https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/case-statements.html)

3. A group co-chair or member then
   - Creates a new Case Statement, if there is already an RDA Organic Group for the group, or
   - Creates a new Working Group via the “Initiate new group” button in the “Working and Interest Groups” menu, then adds the Case Statement to this group as described above, or
   - Contacts their Secretariat liaison to request help with this step

4. Review Process
Working Group Review Criteria

- Are there measurable outcomes?
- Will the outcome(s) of the Working Group be taken up by the intended community?
- Will the outcome(s) of the Working Group foster data sharing and/or exchange?
- Can the proposed work, outcomes /deliverables, and Action Plan described in the Case Statement be accomplished in 12-18 months?
- Is the scope too large for effective progress, too small for an RDA effort, or not appropriate for the RDA?
- Overall, is this a worthwhile effort for the RDA to take on? Is this an effort that adds value over and above what is currently being done within the community?

For more detail, see https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/case-statements.html
Review Process

1. Community Review and Initial TAB Review (4 weeks)
   ▪ Charter / Case Statement will appear in “Request for Comments” box on RDA Homepage
   ▪ Please follow the discussion and respond to community comments
   ▪ TAB will start their review process in parallel

2. Final TAB Review (2 weeks)
   ▪ Revisions may be requested

3. Council Review (2-4 weeks)
   ▪ Revisions may be requested
After the Review

- Once the group is recognised, the Secretariat Liaison will help the group establish working, communication, and recording processes.
- Joint activities with RDA affiliates are encouraged.
- Groups are encouraged to meet at RDA Plenaries.
- Working Groups report on their outputs at RDA Plenaries after ~12 and ~18 months.
- The outputs of recognized Working Groups are strongly promoted by Council, the TAB, the Secretariat, and the RDA Membership at large.
Further Information

- RDA “Primer” for Newcomers: https://rd-alliance.org/rda-newcomers-some-notes
- List of all RDA WGs and IGs: https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups
- Overview of Group Processes: https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/group-process-procedures.html
- WG Goals and Outcomes: https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/goals-and-outcomes.html
- WG Case Statements and Review Criteria: https://www.rd-alliance.org/working-and-interest-groups/case-statements.html

Questions or comments? Please contact enquiries@rd-alliance.org
If you have more questions or would just like to have a chat, come to the Newcomers’ lunch table today at Katie Mullen’s (down the escalator)