Engaging with the Research Data Alliance

The Value of the Research Data Alliance to Individuals

Any individual, regardless of profession or discipline, with an interest in reducing the barriers to data sharing and re-use and who agrees to RDA's guiding principles can join the RDA Community and Individual Membership is free of charge. See here.

WHY SHOULD INDIVIDUALS ENGAGE WITH RDA?

CONTRIBUTE TO DEBATES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTPUTS

- Propose new topics for discussion and possible new recommendations
- Create and shape RDA's future Recommendations and Outputs
- Engage with the Working and Interest groups of RDA
- Participate in exciting and global discussions on FAIR data principles and beyond
- Contribute to the practical development of concrete solutions
- Access and adopt/implement a Recommendation or Output from RDA
- Learn from lessons learnt by others and from their good practices for your own activities

BECOME PART OF THE COMMUNITY

- Access an extraordinary network of colleagues with a broad set of experiences, perspectives, practices, and intellectual frameworks relevant to data-driven innovation
- Become a voice for RDA and data interoperability in your organisations, sectors, markets and geographies
- Have a voice in RDA, providing advice and counsel on the needs of your sectors and the problems faced in data exchange

RECEIVE THE LATEST INFORMATION

- Receive regular updates on the work of the RDA
- Receive a 6-monthly report on the activities of RDA

PARTICIPATE IN PLENARIES/MEETINGS

- Participate in RDA scientific meetings
- Participate in bi-annual RDA Plenary Meetings, workshops and elections

- Participate in RDA voting processes

GAIN EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Gain greater experience and expertise in all stages of data lifecycle, and in data-related research, including data science regardless of whether one is a student, early or seasoned career professional
- Enhance the quality and effectiveness of personal work and activities
- Participate in an international network of people from different backgrounds
- Improve your competitive advantage professionally and position yourself for leadership within the broader research community

The Research Data Alliance's vision is Researchers and innovators openly sharing data across technologies, disciplines, and countries to address the grand challenges of society

The Research Data Alliance (RDA) is a community-driven organization whose mission is to develop the social and technical data infrastructure needed to drive innovation surrounding data sharing and data interoperability. Established in 2013, RDA supports more than 9,615 international members representing 137 countries (January 2020), has generated 32 concrete outputs (eight of which are recognized as European ICT technical specifications) with over 75 documented adoption cases (January 2020).

The Research Data Alliance enables data to be shared across barriers through outputs developed by focused Working Groups and Interest Groups, formed of volunteer experts from around the world and drawn from academia, private sector and government. Participation in RDA is open to anyone who agrees to its guiding principles of openness, consensus, balance, harmonisation, with a community-driven and non-profit approach. RDA has a grass-roots, inclusive approach covering all data lifecycle stages, engaging data producers, users and stewards, addressing data exchange, processing, and storage. It has succeeded in creating the neutral social platform where international research data experts meet to exchange views and to agree on topics including social hurdles on data sharing, education and training challenges, data management plans and certification of data repositories, disciplinary and interdisciplinary interoperability, as well as technological aspects

RDA is composed of two equally important components that support RDA's vision. The distinctions between these components are important in understanding the value and engagement possibilities.

- The **Work** of RDA is done by the volunteer community through self-formed, focused Working Groups and exploratory Interest Groups to build the social and technical connections or bridges.
- The **Business** of RDA is to support that community and facilitate the building and using of the bridges that enable open sharing of data.

RDA is a global forum shared by individuals engaged in research data sharing, whatever their profile.

Active members include, among others, researchers, librarians, IT specialists, project managers, working in academia, research funding organisations, NGOs, the public and the private sector. There are several different ways for an individual to get involved with the RDA.

For the complete RDA Value statement for Individuals click here

[1] RDA Outputs are the technical and social infrastructure solutions developed by RDA Working Groups or Interest Groups that enable data sharing, exchange, and interoperability. These Outputs have an important impact in two areas: solving problems, and incorporation and/or adoption in infrastructure environments by individuals, projects and organisations. RDA Outputs have the following classifications: 1. RDA Recommendations; 2. Supporting Outputs; 3. Other Outputs