Introducing the Research Data Alliance (RDA) and RDA Sweden

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*SND network meeting*
Lund University, 2019-11-26
Research Data Alliance (RDA)

- RDA is a **non-profit international organisation**, launched in 2013 as a **community-driven initiative** in 2013
- RDA’s vision is researchers and innovators **openly sharing data** across technologies, disciplines, and countries to **address the grand challenges of society**
- RDA is building the **social and technical bridges** that enable **open sharing of data**

Read more at [https://rd-alliance.org/](https://rd-alliance.org/)
UN Sustainable Development Goals
RDA in numbers
(September 2019)

- **8938 individual members** from **137 countries** (68% Academia & Research, 14% Public Administration, 13% Enterprise & Industry)
- **49 organisational members & 9 affiliate members**
- **84 groups** working on **global data interoperability challenges**
  (28 working groups & 56 interest groups)
- **32 flagship outputs** of which 4 ICT Technical Specifications*)
- **75 adoption cases** across multiple disciplines, organisations & countries

*) Information and communication technology (ICT) technical specifications defined by the European Commission as eligible for referencing in public procurement processes.

RDA statistics (September 2019)

World-wide growth

https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/1kDVNn0Qz_xBHWljIRrvC9XspsrHg2Wuq/page/05kT
RDA statistics (September 2019)

Geographical distribution

[Map and pie chart showing distribution]

Europe: 51.4%
North America: 27.7%
Asia: 8.1%
Africa: 4.7%
Oceania: 5%
South America: 4.7%

https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/1kDVNn0Qz_xBHWljIRrvC9XspsrHg2Wuq/page/05kT
RDA statistics (September 2019)

Members’ organisations

- Academia/Research: 68%
- Other: 14.1%
- Large Enterprise: 5.3%
- IT Consultancy/Development: 5.1%
- Policy/Funding Agency: 4.9%
- Small and Medium Enterprise: 1.8%
- Press and Media: 1.2%
What does RDA do?

- Activities centre around self-formed, volunteer and focused Working Groups and exploratory Interest Groups
- Aims are to
  - exchange knowledge
  - share discoveries,
  - discuss barriers and potential solutions,
  - explore and define policies and
  - test and harmonise standards to enhance and facilitate global data sharing & re-use.

28 working groups & 56 interest groups

https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups
RDA working groups (examples)

- Data Citation
- Data Type Registries
- DMP Common Standards
- FAIR Data Maturity Model
- Persistent Identification of Instruments
- Research Data Collections
- Research Data Repository Interoperability

https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups
RDA interest groups (examples)

- Active Data Management Plans
- Data Fabric
- Domain Repositories
- Education and Training on handling of research data
- Libraries for Research Data
- Long tail of research data
- Metadata
- RDA/WDS Certification of Digital Repositories

https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups
RDA recommendations & outputs

- **Recommendations**: RDA’s flagship outputs and the equivalent of “specifications” or “standards” that other organisations create and endorse.
- **Supporting Outputs**: RDA outputs that originate from the work of RDA groups, but not always adoptable by other organisations.
- **Other Outputs**: Workshop reports, published articles, survey results, etc. produced by RDA groups. (Not formally endorsed.)

[https://www.rd-alliance.org/recommendations-outputs](https://www.rd-alliance.org/recommendations-outputs)
RDA Endorsed Recommendations

- Scalable Dynamic-data Citation Methodology
- Data Description Registry Interoperability Model
- Basic Vocabulary of Foundational Terminology Query Tool
- Data Type Model and Registry
- **FAIRsharing: standards, databases, repositories and policies**
- Persistent Identifier Type Registry
- Machine Actionable Policy Templates
- Repository Audit and Certification Catalogues
- **Recommendation on Research Data Collections**
- **Workflows for Research Data Publishing: Models and Key Components**
- Research Data Repository Interoperability WG Final Recommendations
- Wheat Data Interoperability Guidelines, Ontologies and User Cases

RDA Recommendations (being endorsed)

- 39 Hints To Facilitate The Use Of Semantics For Data On Agriculture And Nutrition
- **WDS/RDA Assessment Of Data Fitness For Use**
  WG Outputs And Recommendations
- Sustainable Business Models for Brokering Middleware to support Research Interoperability
- **Metadata Standards Directory**
- Recommendation on PID Kernel Information

- **A curriculum for foundational Research Data Science skills for Early Career Researchers**
  Framework for Summer Schools in Data Science and Cloud Computing
- RDA/TDWG Attribution Metadata Working Group: Final Recommendations
- An open, universal literature-data cross-linking service

RDA Supporting Outputs

• 23 Things: Libraries For Research Data
• A survey of current practices in data search services
• Addressing the Gaps: Recommendations for Supporting the Long Tail of Research Data
• Data Discovery Paradigms: User Requirements and Recommendations for Data Repositories
• Eleven Quick Tips for Finding Research Data
• Federated Identity Management for Research Collaborations
• Income Streams for Data Repositories
• Legal Interoperability of Research Data: Principles and Implementation Guidelines
• Matrix of use cases and functional requirements for research data repository platforms
• Persistent identifiers: Consolidated assertions
• Research Data Repository Interoperability Primer
• Summary of Virtual Layer Recommendations

RDA plenary meetings

- Plenaries take place 2 times per year
- P14: Helsinki, Finland - October 2019
- **P15**: Melbourne, Australia – March 2020
- P16: San José, Costa Rica – November 2020
- P17: Edinburgh, UK – April 2021

[https://www.rd-alliance.org/plenaries](https://www.rd-alliance.org/plenaries)

[RDA Europe travelling support grants available – see [https://grants.rd-alliance.org/](https://grants.rd-alliance.org/) (deadline 2010-02-03)](https://grants.rd-alliance.org/)!!
Joining RDA

- Any individual can join the RDA for free
- **Only requirement** is to agree to the RDA’s **guiding principles** are Openness, Consensus, Balance, Harmonization, Community-driven, Non-profit and technology-neutral
- Once a member, you can
  - Sign up for as many groups as you like
  - Comment on all outputs & RDA web content
  - Participate in RDA plenaries meetings
  - Vote for candidates to the RDA Council & Technical Advisory Board
Regional & national groups

• RDA encourages the initiative and support of its members across the globe to animate their communities on a national level

• National and regional nodes provide platforms for exchanging information (in the local language) about the RDA, its activities and outputs

• In Europe, the H2020 project “RDA Europe” is supporting the formation of national nodes (currently 19)

https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/national-groups
RDA-SE organization

- National node of RDA global, via RDA Europe
- Swedish National Data service (SND) is host institution
  - Core team at SND Gothenburg + Lund
  - Working groups, advisory group
- Application in April 2019 successful!
- “Seed money” (-> May 2020)
RDA-SE aims

- Spread info about RDA in Sweden
- Increase Sweden-based individuals’ membership in RDA
- RDA working & interest groups
  - identify interests, increase active involvement
  - inform, encourage and facilitate adoption of Outputs & Recommendations
- Be a platform for dialogue on research data issues
  - engage with broad range of stakeholders & funders
  - map out the Swedish “data landscape”
RDA-SE activities 2019-2020

- Set up a web site [https://rd-alliance.org/groups/rda-sweden](https://rd-alliance.org/groups/rda-sweden) (done!)
- Hold information events at SND consortium & network institutes
- Have info points at meetings & conferences (e.g. IFFIS-2019)
- Organize a workshop (spring 2020)
- Meetings with funding agencies, “academies” & professional organisations including “industry” (spring 2020)
- Join network of Nordic RDA nodes (done!)
“RDA is a window to the world’s data expertise”

- Everyone is welcome to join us!
- Become a RDA member at [https://www.rd-alliance.org/user/register](https://www.rd-alliance.org/user/register) (takes up to 1 working day)
- Go to RDA Sweden group page [https://rd-alliance.org/groups/rda-sweden](https://rd-alliance.org/groups/rda-sweden) and click “join group” button (-> mailing list)
- Contact Maggie Hellström ([margareta.hellstrom@nateko.lu.se](mailto:margareta.hellstrom@nateko.lu.se)) and Max Petzold ([max.petzold@snd.gu.se](mailto:max.petzold@snd.gu.se)) to learn more!
10-minute “beehive”:

Form small groups (4-6 people) and discuss one of these:

1. what can RDA Sweden do to promote engagement with RDA groups & other activities?
2. is it useful to spend time & resources in your organisation to adopt (implement/use) recommendations from RDA?
3. how can collaboration between data professionals in “academia” and “industry” be encouraged?