



Research Data Alliance – Current Status

January, 2013

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Digital Data driving modern research, education, practice



Commission proposes a comprehensive reform of the data protection rules

Date: 25/01/2012

Brussels, 25 January 2012 – The European Commission has today proposed a comprehensive reform of the EU's 1995 data protection rules to strengthen rights and boost Europe's digital economy. Technological progress and globalisation have profoundly changed the way our data is collected, accessed and used. In some EU Member States have implemented the 1995 rules differently, resulting in a fragmented legal landscape. A single law will do away with the current fragmentation.



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RESEARCH DATA AUSTRALIA Advanced Search

Research Data Australia is a discovery service for Australian research data.

What's in Research Data Australia Spotlight on research domains

Research datasets or collections of research materials. More information on research data infrastructure for specific domains:




Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
New Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Rick Weiss 202 456-6037 rweiss@ostp.eop.gov
March 29, 2012 Lisa-Joy Zgorski 703 292-8311 lisajoy@nsf.gov

**OBAMA ADMINISTRATION UNVEILS "BIG DATA" INITIATIVE:
ANNOUNCES \$200 MILLION IN NEW R&D INVESTMENTS**

Aiming to make the most of the fast-growing volume of digital data, the Obama Administration today announced a "Big Data Research and Development Initiative." By improving our ability to extract knowledge and insights from large and complex collections of digital data, the initiative promises to help solve some of the Nation's most pressing challenges.



It's Not Just Your Data, It's Other People's Data ...

- To accelerate innovation, research community needs to build a culture of data sharing and reciprocity
- *Needs span technology, infrastructure, community coordination / consensus, policy, practice*
 - Common tools and coordinated infrastructure that facilitate data-sharing, exchange, and discoverability
 - Development, harmonization of standards that enable open access data sharing
 - Creation / Adoption of Data sharing policy and best practice, etc.

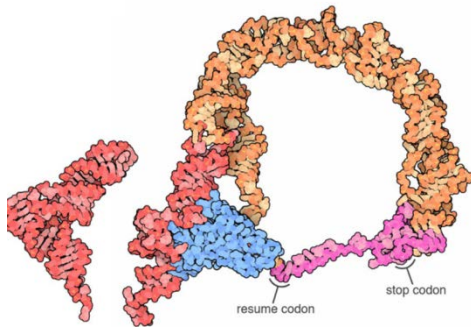
“4 threats to establishing a Global Data Infrastructure” (Alan Blatecky, NSF)

1. Not understanding the critical importance of sharing data for next century science and education
2. Not understanding the urgency of addressing and creating a global data infrastructure now
3. Relying on additional workshops, conferences, committees and so forth to study and provide more recommendations
4. Waiting for standards to be approved that will enable data sharing, interoperability, and support the entire data life cycle



Community coordination needed to accelerate data-driven discovery and innovation

- “Just do it” -- Focused efforts help communities drive tangible progress



PDB
PROTEIN DATA BANK

Creation / adoption of **data sharing policies** have accelerated research innovation

Development and adoption of **parallel communication protocols** through the MPI Forum drove a generation of advances



Transfer-Messenger RNA image (PDB Molecule of the Month for January 2013) courtesy of David Goodsell and the RCSB PDB

Francine Berman

Development of a publicly available **shared data collection** enabling new results for Alzheimer's



I E T F[®]
Now 25 years old, the Internet Engineering Task Force's mission “to make the Internet work better” has resulted in key specifications of **Internet standards** that support innovation

MPI Forum image from <http://lists.mpi-forum.org/mpi-forum/2008/12/0198.php>

Research Data Alliance: New Organization to Accelerate Global Data Sharing and Exchange

- The Research Data Alliance (RDA) is a new organization forming to facilitate **specific, short-term efforts that accelerate the sharing and exchange of research data**
- **Working groups will serve as accelerants** to data sharing practice and infrastructure. Work products / deliverables to include
 - Adopted standards
 - Deployed infrastructure
 - Adopted policy
 - Implemented best practice, etc.



Focused Efforts, Tangible Progress

RDA Working Group Expectations

- **Contribute to coordinated global infrastructures** that drive data-driven innovation
- **Can be accomplished in 12-18 months** of work and eliminate a roadblock for a substantial community
- **Have substantive applicability** to cohorts within the data community, but may not apply to everyone
- **Create actionable deliverables that are adopted** by Working Group members and others
- **Enable working scientists and researchers to move forward today** while complementary long-term and far-reaching solutions are being appropriately pursued in other venues



RDA timeline: 2011 - 2013

Pre- 2011 and 2011: Broad spectrum of national initiatives, international projects, “bottom up” community efforts world-wide

2011 - 2012

2011, 2012: informal International meetings

Spring, 2012: Concept Paper – Data Web Forum (US)

RDA Steering Group established in August, 2012 (US, EU, AU representatives)

Summer 2012 – Winter 2013: BRDI, EUDAT Conference, e-IRG Meeting, CNI Meeting, ESIP Meeting, CENDI, etc. all having RDA sessions

October 2012: Global Data Meeting (RDA Planning Meeting) in Washington DC

2012 - 2013

October, 2012: First RDA Council members announced at EUDAT: John Wood (EU), Ross Wilkinson (AU), Fran Berman (US)

RDA Launch and first Plenary scheduled for March 18-20, 2013 Gothenburg, Sweden



RDA Development Status

Pre-Global Data Meeting

- Initial discussions: Vision, Purpose, WG, Governance, Membership, etc.
- Planning for October Meeting

Global Data Meeting

- Community information and input
- Feedback on initial discussion issues
- Germination of vanguard Working Groups

Pre-launch

- Continuing conceptualization of operations and bylaws, etc with expanding RDA community
- Population of Council, Sec., Working Groups

March 2013 Plenary Launch

- High-level plenary speakers
- Discussion of by-laws, charter, etc.
- Reports on initial WGs and approval of new WGs, etc.



Community Momentum

National Science Foundation
Office of International Science & Engineering (OISE)

Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE)

All Images

Press Release 12-210
NSF-Supported Research Data Alliance/U.S. Collaborates with International Partners to Accelerate Data Sharing

Rensselaer computer scientist Francine Berman to lead U.S. engagement

DPN
THE DIGITAL PRESERVATION NETWORK

HOME ABOUT MEMBERS NEWS CONTACT

Research Data Alliance kicks off new initiatives

Posted on: 10-4-2012 by: DPN Staff

Fran Berman and the Research Data Alliance (formally the Data Web Forum) discuss an upcoming working group meeting in DC with representatives from the world. Steven Morales and Fran Berman met to discuss how DPN might...

EOS
Eos, Transactions, American Geophysical Union

News

Initiative to establish Research Data Alliance moves forward

Track

Published online: 7 SEP 2012
2012EO370002

Back

Issue

Eos, Transactions American Geophysical Union
Volume 93, Issue 37, page 354, September 2012



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Research Data Alliance aims to jumpstart global data exchange by enabling sharing of what works—code, tools++ rd-alliance.org #cni12f

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Initializing RDA

Goal: Evolve RDA as an open community organization with a focus on real impact and inclusion



RDA Guiding Principles: RDA should

- Be open and transparent to the community
- Be community-driven, consensus-focused, voluntary, not-for-profit
- Include a balanced representation of stakeholders
- Facilitate harmonization across standards, policies, technologies, tools, infrastructure



Initializing RDA: Organizers

- **Initial Council:**

- John Wood, EU
- Ross Wilkinson, AU
- Fran Berman, US

- **Secretariat:**

- Herman Stehouwers, EU
- Stefanie Kethers, AU
- Mark Parsons, US

- **Steering Group**

- Fran Berman, US
- Juan Bicarregui, UK
- Leif Laaksonen, EU
- Beth Plale, US
- Andrew Treloar, AU
- Ross Wilkinson, AU
- Peter Wittenburg, EU
- John Wood, EU



Initializing RDA: Organizational Framework (Work in Progress ...)

Plenary (Membership)

RDA Strategy and Leadership: **Council**

Responsible for overarching mission, vision, sustainability of RDA

Technical
Leadership:
**Technical Advisory
Group (TAG)**

*Responsible for
Technical Roadmap*

Administrative
Leadership:
Secretariat

*Responsible for
Administration and
Operations*

Organizational Partners:
**Organisational
Advisory Group (OAG)**

*Responsible for Process
Reference Document*

Community Impact: **Working Groups**

Responsible for impactful, outcome-oriented efforts

Government Group

Appropriate International R&D Agency Support

Francine Berman



Initial Sponsors

- **US:**

- Research Data Alliance / U.S. – funded by NSF, in-kind support from NIST

- **AU:**

- Australian National Data Service – funded by the Australian Government

- **EU:**

- iCORDI – funded by the European Commission

- **Organizational Partners**

- ***Discussions in Progress***

- Organizational partners expected to include
 - Public sector R&D agencies
 - Private sector companies
 - Community organizations
- Working through “win-win” partnership models focused on financial or in-kind support for RDA efforts



First Gathering: The October 2012 Global Data Meeting

- Initial meeting combining the NSF DataNet / Interop community (US), the DAITF community (EU), and others to evolve the Research Data Alliance structure and vision



- 10+ discussion groups formed to work through potential foci for RDA Working Groups
- Global Data Meeting participants formed a basis for RDA's first members and forum discussions



First Interest Groups

Title	Chairs
Harmonization and Use of PID Information Types	Tobias Weigel , Tim DiLauro
UPC Code for Data	Jim Myers , Margret Hedstrom
Data Type Registries	Larry Lannom , Daan Broeder
Metadata	Jane Greenberg , Rebecca Koskela
Pub/Data Citation/Linking	Yannis Ioannidis
Data Foundation and Terminology	Gerhard Budin , Peter Wittenburg , Gary Berg-Cross
Practical Policy	Reagan Moore , Rainer Stotzka
Legal Interoperability	Paul F. Uhler , Enrique Alonso Garcia
Defining Urban Data Exchange for Science	Charlie Catlett , Walter Stewart , Theresa Pardo
The Engagement Group	Inna Kouper , Andrew Maffei , Marcio Faerman
Marine Data Harmonization	Helen Graves
Repository Audit and Certification	Ingrid Dillo



Creating Working Group Efforts

“Bottom-up” increase of interest → development of a Interest Group Case Statement (some groups forming via forum.rd-alliance.org)

Case Statement

Community feedback (via forum.rd-alliance.org) and continued development of Case Statement; submission to Council

Council Approval

RDA Working Group: 12-18 month out-come oriented effort culminating in adoption and implementation of its “Action Plan”

Group Culmination

Post-completion continuation of action of Working Group members and broader community, continued promotion by RDA



Case Statements: Articulation of Proposed Effort and Community Impact

1. **WG Charter:** *What will be done? What are the deliverables?*
2. **Value Proposition:** *Who will benefit and how?*
3. **Engagement with Existing Work in the Area:** *What else is going on? What can we leverage?*
4. **Action Plan:** *Who will adopt / implement within the Working Group? What are the plans for adoption / implementation of the deliverables more broadly?*
4. **Work Plan:** *How will the Working Group operate?*
5. **Initial Membership:** *Who will be involved? Who will lead?*



Evaluating Case Statements for Alignment with RDA

- **FOCUS:**

- *Are the deliverables/outcomes and the WG Action Plan achievable? Do they produce tangible results?*
- *Are there measurable outcomes?*

- **IMPACT and ENGAGEMENT:**

- *Are there adopters for the deliverables?*
- *Will the outcome(s) of the Working Group foster data sharing and/or exchange?*

- **TIMEFRAME:**

- *Can the proposed work be accomplished in 12-18 months?*

- **SCOPE / FIT:**

- *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?*



Initializing RDA: Web and Communications

- **Second iteration of rd-alliance.org website**
 - Continuing to evolve / develop community portal that includes information, support for forums and feedback, impacts and news, etc.
- **Increasing need for professional-level communications and outreach**
 - Within RDA community
 - To larger stakeholder community



RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

Researchers around the world sharing and using research data without barriers

- About
- Organization
- Working Groups
- News & Events
- Next Meeting
- Documents & Publications

Research Data Alliance

The Research Data Alliance is a organization that aims to assist and facilitate research data sharing and exchange. The work of the Research Data Alliance will primarily be undertaken through its working groups. Development in working groups, creating new working groups, and assistance at the voluntary/plenary meetings is open to all.

Launch

The first plenary meeting will be held in Copenhagen from March 18-20, 2013. Please mark your diaries now and plan to attend!

Purpose

The purpose of the Research Data Alliance is to assist international dissemination of innovation and discovery by facilitating research data sharing and exchange, use and reuse, standards harmonization, and interoperability. This will be achieved through the development and adoption of infrastructure, policy, practice, standards, and other deliverables.

Partners

The Research Data Alliance is being brought into existence by an initial three research funding organizations:

- The Australian Commonwealth Government through the Australian National Data Service supported by the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy Program and the Australian Innovation Fund (AIF) Super Science Initiative
- The European Commission through the ICare4 project funded under the 7th Framework Program
- The United States of America through the SD/US activity funded by the National Science Foundation

Contact

If you would like to access the Research Data Alliance, please email: enquiries@rd-alliance.org

If you would like to sign up for regular email updates, please register online.

Timeline

Event	Key Activities
Pre-Global Data Meeting	Initial discussions: issues, papers, WG, Governance, Membership, etc. Planning for October Meeting
Global Data Meeting	Community consultation and input; Feedback on initial discussion issues; Seminars on research Working Groups
Pre-launch	Confirming conceptual foundations of operations and beliefs, etc with existing RDA community; Population of Council, Sec., Language Working Groups
March 2013 Monthly Launch	High-impact marketing activities; Approval of by-laws, charter, etc.; Reports on progress WG's and approval of new WGs, etc.

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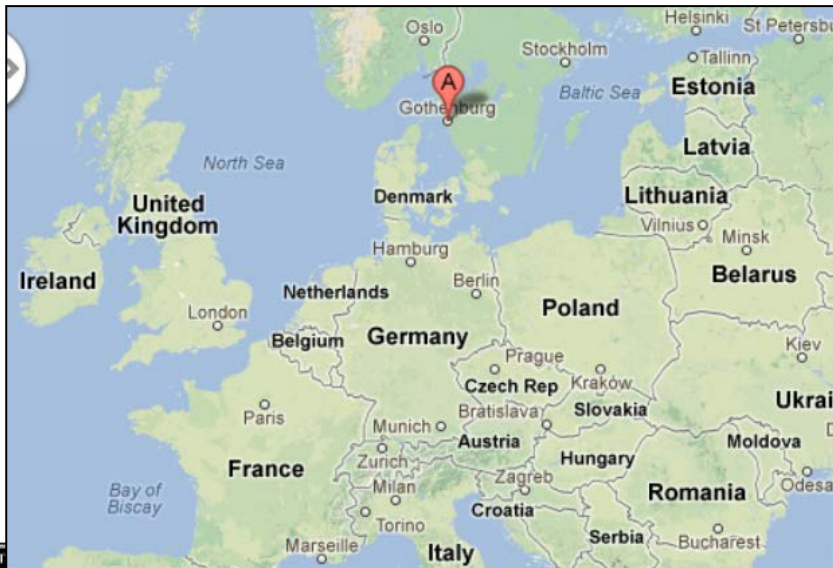
Towards “T=0” in 2013: High-profile, high impact RDA Plenary and Launch

- **March 18 -20, 2013**

- Official launch event and first Plenary for RDA: Chalmers University, Gothenburg Sweden

- **Agenda includes**

- High-level international speakers (U.S.: Farnam Jahanian and Alan Blatecky, Chris Greer (NIST), others awaiting confirmation).
- Birds of a Feather Sessions for RDA Interest Groups
- Data Organization and International Data Panels
- RDA all-hands meetings, etc.



Accelerating RDA Momentum

- **Growing the RDA Community**
 - **Increase membership** through the rd-alliance.org website and forums
 - **Create a pipeline of impact-oriented deliverables** through the development and cultivation of RDA Working Groups
 - **Promote the Launch and Plenary** as a gathering place for the community
- **Growing the RDA Organization**
 - **Develop a functional and effective organizational structure** (v.1 by the Plenary)
 - **Reach out to founding Organizational Partners** and create a win-win partnership model
- **Growing RDA Leadership**
 - **Populate the initial Council, Secretariat, Technical Advisory Group**
 - **Work with initial active community members** to take on greater roles and responsibilities



Thank You

- **Information:**
rd-alliance.org
- **Questions, comments:**
enquiries@rd-alliance.org
- **Registration and Forum:**
forum.rd-alliance.org

