



Ver. 1	Initial version
Ver. 1.1	Revision after initial review from an OM.
Ver. 1.1.1	Link to Org. Member process document added.
Ver. 1.2	Clarified OM vs. individual member
Ver. 1.3	Clarified duration of membership and renewal.
Ver. 1.4	Re-clarified timing and payment schedule of membership.
Ver. 1.5	Softened the requirements of members a bit in response to Council
Ver. 1.6	Modified in response to legal review to limit liability
Ver. 1.7	Pre-final version (minor editing comments)
Ver. 1.8	Final version
Ver. 1.9	Amended version (Correction on duration)
Ver. 2.0	Changed invoicing period to match calendar year
Ver. 2.1	2018 updates
Ver, 2.2	2021 updates, alignment with website content

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Research Data Alliance

Organisational Membership Agreement

3

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Version 10 November 2021

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6 Membership agreement effective _____ by and between the Research Data Alliance
7 (RDA) and _____ (the “Organisational Member”) whereby
8 the Organisational Member wishes to officially participate in the RDA as an organisational entity.

9 **Goals of RDA**

10 The RDA is a distributed, volunteer member organisation supported by the RDA Foundation, a Charity
11 registered in England and Wales. The Research Data Alliance enables data to be shared across barriers
12 through outputs developed by focused Working Groups and Interest Groups, formed of volunteer
13 experts from around the world and drawn from academia, private sector and government. The RDA
14 has a grass-roots, inclusive approach covering all data lifecycle stages, engaging data producers, users
15 and stewards, addressing data exchange, processing, and storage. It has succeeded in creating the
16 neutral social platform where international research data experts meet to exchange views and to
17 agree on topics including social hurdles on data sharing, education and training challenges, data
18 management plans and certification of data repositories, disciplinary and interdisciplinary
19 interoperability, as well as technological aspects. The goal of the RDA is achieved through the
20 development, adoption, and deployment of infrastructure, policy, practice, standards, and other
21 deliverables. The emphasis of the RDA is the adoption and deployment of technology and



22 infrastructure, rather than research and development of new technology or infrastructure that is
23 undertaken in other projects.

24 To effectively facilitate the achievement of this goal, the RDA adopts the following Guiding Principles.

25 **Guiding Principles of the RDA:**

- 26 • **Openness** - Individual membership is open to all interested individuals who subscribe to the
27 RDA's Guiding Principles. RDA community meetings and processes are open, and the outputs
28 of RDA Working Groups are publicly disseminated;
- 29 • **Consensus** - The RDA moves forward by achieving consensus among its membership. RDA
30 processes and procedures include appropriate mechanisms to resolve conflicts;
- 31 • **Inclusivity** - The RDA seeks to promote broad, balanced and inclusive representation of its
32 membership and stakeholder communities;
- 33 • **Harmonization** - The RDA works to achieve harmonization across data standards, policies,
34 technologies, infrastructure, and communities;
- 35 • **Community-driven** - The RDA is a public, community-driven body constituted of volunteer
36 members and organisations, supported by the RDA Secretariat;
- 37 • **Non-profit and Technology-neutral**- RDA does not promote, endorse, or sell commercial
38 products, technologies, or services and the development of open and re-usable recommendations
39 and outputs within the RDA is mandatory.

40 These guiding principles underlie and steer the conduct and evolution of the organisation.

41 **Organisational Membership**

42 Organisational Members of RDA may be R&D agencies, for-profit companies and non-profit
43 foundations, community organisations, libraries, institutions, or any other organisation that has an
44 interest in furthering the goal of the RDA and subscribes to the RDA Guiding Principles. Organisational
45 Members provide an organisational perspective on the work of RDA, influence its direction and assist
46 in the implementation and adoption of RDA Recommendations and Outputs of the RDA Working
47 Groups. Organisational Members designate a representative who speaks on behalf of the
48 organisation. In contrast, individual members of the RDA do not represent their organisation and do
49 not have voting rights in the Organisational Assembly.

50 **Organisational Members have the right to and benefit from:**

- 51 • Participating in all RDA Organisational Forums
- 52 • Receiving regular, customised updates on the work of the RDA
- 53 • Attending Organisational Assembly meetings and voting on proposed policies for consideration by
54 the RDA Council and for members of the Organisational Advisory Board (OAB), with one vote per
55 Organisational Member. Organisational member views are represented on Council through the
56 OAB co-chairs
- 57 • Providing advice to Council through the Organisational Advisory Board.

- 58 • Being recognised on the RDA Website and at RDA Meetings as a supporter of data sharing and
59 interoperability
- 60 • Influencing the RDA work and directions on data sharing and interoperability in their sectors,
61 markets and geographies
- 62 • Communicating open job positions in your organisation to whole RDA community
- 63 • Early bird reduced RDA plenary registration fee for all Organisational Members extended through
64 to the start of the plenary
- 65 • Having the opportunity to act as early adopters of RDA Recommendations and other Outputs
- 66 • Exchanging news, strategies and policies across regions.

67 **Organisational Members should:**

- 68 • Work towards the aims of the RDA and subscribe to the RDA Guiding Principles.
- 69 • Contribute financial support to the RDA at a level defined in the published fee structure for the
70 term of their membership.
- 71 • Participate in the Organisational Assembly.
- 72 • Generally adhere to the “[Norms for contributing to and using RDA products](#)” when contributing
73 to the development, review, and implementation of formal RDA Recommendations.

74 Further details on the benefits of Organisational Membership, as well as the initial policies governing
75 the Organisational Assembly and Advisory Board, are described in the *RDA Organisational*
76 *Membership Processes Document* (<http://dx.doi.org/%2010.15497/2921FEB4-B68B-452D-AC5A-6B90B22E4C91>).

78 **Remuneration and Term of Membership**

79 The Organisational Member agrees to pay an annual membership fee to the RDA Foundation
80 according to the schedule and terms in the *Organisational Membership Processes Document*.
81 Membership runs for a calendar year and is automatically renewed annually upon payment of the
82 annual fee. Organisational Members may join at any time. First year dues are prorated by quarter if
83 the Organisational Member joins during the membership year. Payment is due within 45 days of the
84 corresponding invoice issuance.

85 The Organisational Member may terminate this Agreement at any time by providing 30-day advance,
86 written notice to the RDA Secretary General¹. No refunds will be provided.

87 Council approves and removes affiliate members and delegates the decision on organisational
88 member expiration (e.g. non-payment of annual fee) and revocation (e.g. non-compliance with RDA
89 guiding principles) to OAB. Where necessary Council will make the final decision. The procedures for
90 this and appeal mechanisms are described in the [Organisational Membership Processes Document](#).

91 **Communications**

¹ secretary.general[at]rda-foundation.org or hilary.hanahoe[at]rda-foundation.org



92 The Organisational Member shall designate a representative who will act as a primary point of contact
93 and who will participate in the Organisational Assembly. The Organisation may change the
94 representative at any time by notifying the RDA and providing the following contact details for the
95 representative:

96 Name:

97 Work Address:

98 Phone:

99 E-mail:

100 The RDA Secretary General will be the point of contact for the RDA:

101 Hilary Hanahoe

102 Research Data Alliance Foundation, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Harwell Oxford Didcot,
103 Oxfordshire, OX11 0QX, England

104 +39-334-9875702

105 secretary.general@rda-foundation.org | hilary.hanahoe@rda-foundation.org

106 Agreement

107 The relationship of the parties under this Agreement shall be that of a voluntary association. The
108 Agreement does not create a separate legal entity, and this Agreement does not create a formal
109 partnership or joint venture.

110 The RDA seeks to facilitate open access to and sharing and re-use of data. Notwithstanding the
111 foregoing, the Organisational Member acknowledges and agrees that the RDA is not responsible for
112 any specific data or data sets, and the Organisational Member releases the RDA and its members,
113 directors, officers, employees, agents and advisors, from any and all liability related to any data
114 received or shared through processes or technology recommended, supported or made available by
115 the RDA.

116 The parties confirm this Agreement as signed by the RDA Secretary General and the chief executive or
117 duly authorised representative of the Organisational Member.

118

Signed on behalf of the Organisational Member

Signed on behalf of RDA

Name

Name



Position

Position

Date

Date

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