



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 Subscription Agreement

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Version 10 November 2021

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6 Subscription agreement effective \_\_\_\_\_ by and between the Research Data Alliance  
7 (RDA) and \_\_\_\_\_ (the “Organisational Subscriber”) whereby  
8 the Organisational Subscriber 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** – the 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 Subscription**

42 Organisational Subscribers 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 Subscribers 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 Subscribers 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 Subscribers 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 Subscriber. 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 Subscribers 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 Subscriber 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 Subscription runs for a calendar year and is automatically renewed annually upon payment of the  
82 annual fee. Organisational Subscribers may join at any time. First year dues are prorated by quarter if  
83 the Organisational Subscribers joins during the membership year. Payment is due within 45 days of  
84 the corresponding invoice issuance.

85 The Organisational Subscriber may terminate this Agreement at any time by providing 30-day  
86 advance, written notice to the RDA Secretary General<sup>1</sup>. No refunds will be provided.

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

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<sup>1</sup> secretary.general[at]rda-foundation.org or hilary.hanahoe[at]rda-foundation.org



## 92 **Communications**

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

97 Name:

98 Work Address:

99 Phone:

100 E-mail:

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

102 Hilary Hanahoe

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

105 +39-334-9875702

106 [secretary.general@rda-foundation.org](mailto:secretary.general@rda-foundation.org) or [hilary.hanahoe@rda-foundation.org](mailto:hilary.hanahoe@rda-foundation.org)

## 107 **Agreement**

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

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

117 The parties confirm this Agreement as signed by the RDA Secretary General and the chief executive or  
118 duly authorised representatives of the Organisational Subscriber.

119

**Signed on behalf of the Organisational Subscriber**

**Signed on behalf of RDA**



**Name**

**Position**

**Date**

**Name**

**Position**

**Date**

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