

Further Professionalising Data Stewardship: engaging with and building on experience, the work of Research Data Alliance PDS Interest Group.

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PV2023, May 2-4, 2023

Introduction





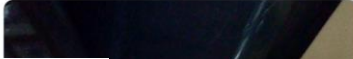
Dr. Graham Parton @gaparton

5/8 just arrived! Another of @DB_Bahn clean, but full, to Bruxelles Midi. ☺

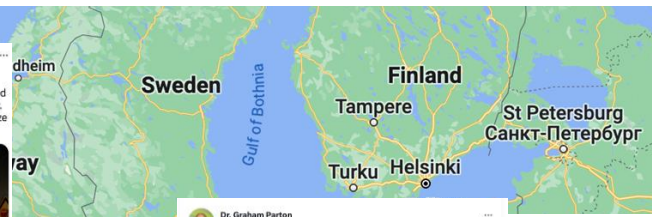


Dr. Graham Parton @gaparton

In true British fashion I get all the way from Sweden without a drop of rain on my head and the heavens open as I head for my last train home. 8/8 achieved, no stress! 3 1/2hrs left...but I have a pasty!



...ction (10mins) on paper, but my sleeper arrived 2/8 to Hannover from @redatall 20th plenary. a that allowed my route planning...was a breeze ie example of data sharing &UX



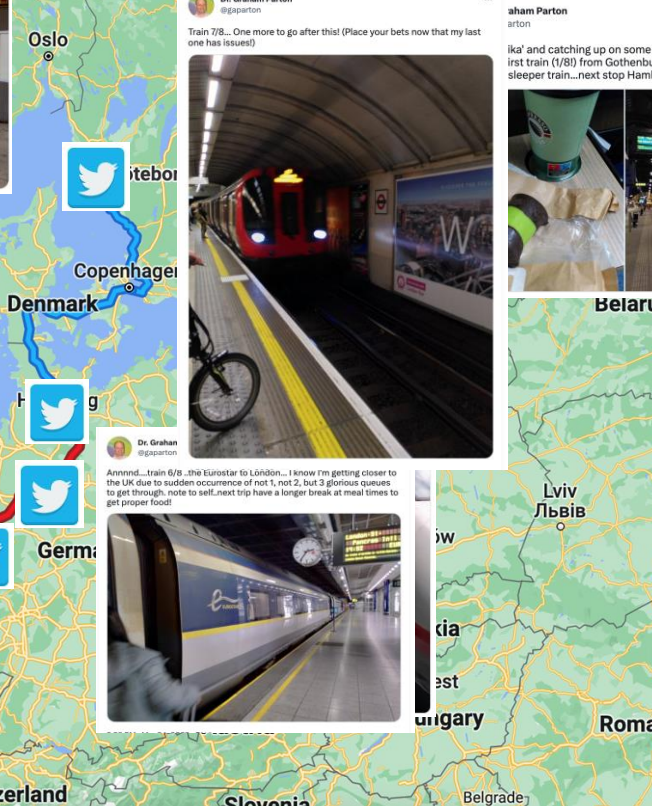
Dr. Graham Parton @gaparton

And I'm back!...walk, ferry, tram, train, underground and ev... time for a cuppa!...25hrs, stress free, hassle free and smooth as can be too. ☺



Dr. C @ga

...and a quick before train tof them!..b



Dr. Graham Parton @gaparton

Train 7/8... One more to go after this! (Place your bets now that my last one has issues!)



Dr. Graham Parton @gaparton

...ika' and catching up on some post -RDA plenary follow-up first train (1/8) from Gothenburg to Malmö, I'm now on the sleeper train...next stop Hamburg in 7hrs ☺



Dr. Graham Parton @gaparton

Amnnd...train 6/8...the Eurostar to Lisbon... I know I'm getting closer to the UK due to sudden occurrence of not 1, not 2, but 3 glorious queues to get through, note to self...next trip have a longer break at meal times to get proper food!



But... more about that journey later...

...and a moment of realisation it sparked..

The planning...

...relied on professional services that worked!

February 2023



RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

in a nutshell

Vision

Researchers and innovators openly share and **re-use** data across technologies, disciplines, and countries to address the grand challenges of society.

Mission

RDA builds the **social and technical bridges** that enable open sharing and **re-use** of data.

THE RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE

www.rd-alliance.org

building the social and technical bridges that enable open sharing and re-use of data

64 FLAGSHIP
OUTPUTS

including 8 ICT
Technical Specifications

200+ ADOPTION
CASES

across multiple
disciplines,

91 GROUPS WORKING ON GLOBAL DATA
INTEROPERABILITY CHALLENGES

34 Working Groups
56 Interest Groups
1 Community of Practice

13,338 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS FROM 150
COUNTRIES

69% Academia & Research
14% Public Administration
11% Enterprise & Industry

61 ORGANISATIONAL MEMBERS
12 AFFILIATE MEMBERS



O&A Members

71

Active Organisational & Affiliate members

MEMBERSHIP

Members: 13507

Becoming a member of RDA is simple and open to both individuals and organizations

[Register now](#)

RDA Groups

WG & IGs: 102

Discover what RDA Working and Interest Groups and all other Groups are up to and find out how to join them. [Explore Groups](#)

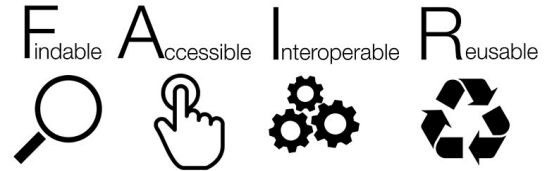
- over 35 regional networks covering 148 countries
- builds the social and technical infrastructure to enable open sharing and re-use of data.
- has a grass-roots, inclusive approach covering all data lifecycle stages, engaging data producers, users and stewards, addressing data exchange, processing, and storage.



Data Stewardship

(Research) Data Stewardship Definition:

“Responsible planning and executing of all actions on (digital) data before, during and after a research project, with the aim of optimizing the usability, reusability and reproducibility of the resulting data” (source: [DTL](#))



Data stewardship and data management skills are essential in the research process.....BUT...

*“[a] **lack of consensus** on the responsibilities, knowledge, skills, and value of data stewards ... leads to confusion about the role and **hampers building adequate data steward capacity**... [C]ombined with scarce resources for data stewardship [...this] limits vital developments such as defining recruitment procedures and career paths for current and future data stewards.”*

RDA PDS-IG charter

And that required capacity is huge!



Mons estimated at least 10 million serious data producers among the EU's 70 million science and technology professionals and 1.7 million researchers, arguing a need to:

*“...educate about **500,000 data stewards** of various kinds to support researchers through experimental design and data capture, curation, storage, analytics, publication and reuse.” ...*

*...and for the European Union “with €300 billion (US\$325 billion) of public money spent on research ... should expect to spend **€15 billion on data stewardship.**”*

Barend Mons (2020)

2020 : RDA Professionalising Data Stewardship IG constituted

The screenshot shows the RDA Professionalising Data Stewardship IG website. At the top, a green navigation bar contains the tagline "Building the social and technical bridges to enable open sharing and re-use of data", links for "RDA EU", "RDA US", "CONTACT US", "LOGIN", and "REGISTRATION", and social media icons for RSS, YouTube, GitHub, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Below this, a light green banner features the RDA logo and three main sections: "O&A Members" with a count of 71, "MEMBERSHIP" with 13507 members and a "Register now" link, and "RDA Groups" with 102 Working Groups and Interest Groups and an "Explore Groups" link. A white navigation bar below contains dropdown menus for "ABOUT RDA", "GET INVOLVED", "GROUPS", "RECOMMENDATIONS & OUTPUTS", "RDA FOR DISCIPLINES", "PLENARIES & EVENTS", and "NEWS & MEDIA", along with a search icon. The breadcrumb trail reads "Home » Working and Interest Groups » Interest Group » Professionalising Data Stewardship IG". The main content area has a green header for "Professionalising Data Stewardship IG" with a "Taxonomy" icon. Below this is a row of icons for "Posts", "Create Wiki index", "Events", "Repository", "Outputs", "Charter", "Plenaries", and "Members", followed by a "create new content" button. A "Group Status" section shows a green checkmark and "IG Established", with a "Join Group" button. A footer note states: "Please make sure the group follows the new RDA Groups Policy, which came into effect on 1 April 2021. Please contact enquiries[at]rd-alliance.org if you have any questions."

RDA PDS IG History - From Helsinki in 2019 to PV2023

P14 & VP15

BoF sessions, initial challenges identified, PDS IG [charter](#) written, task groups formed

VP16

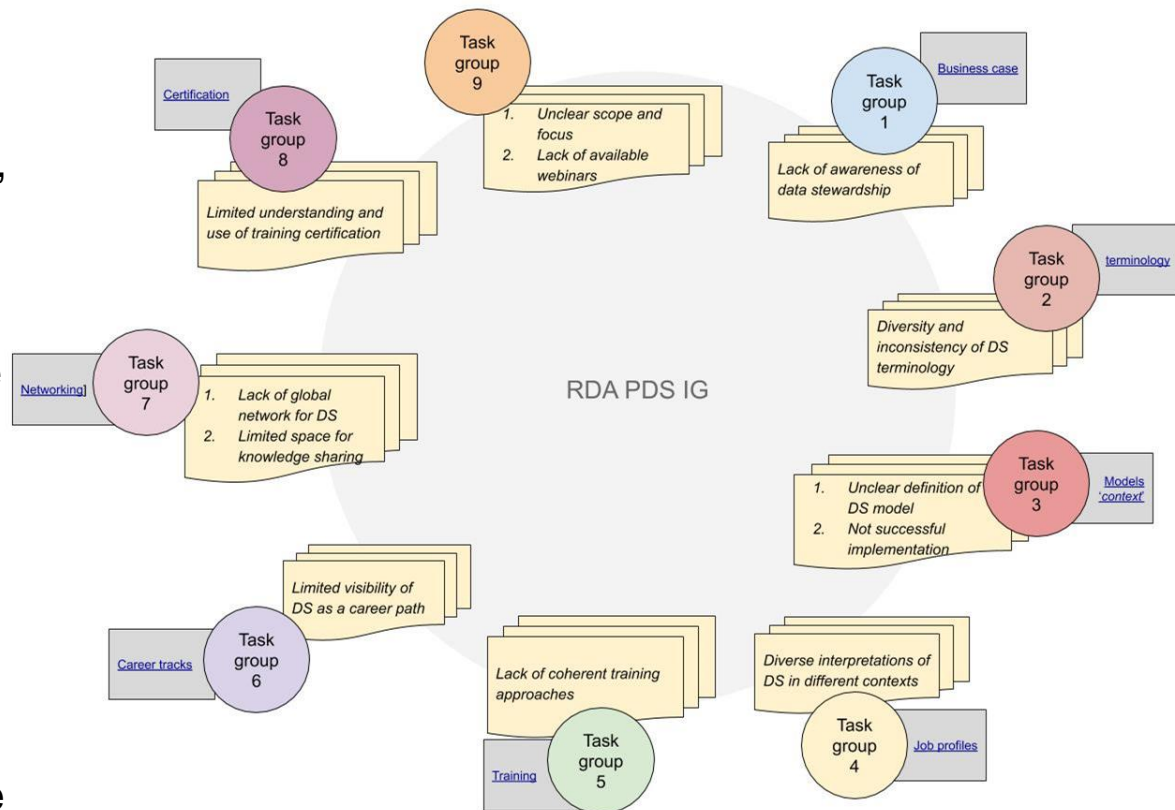
map interdependencies, prioritize

VP17

working sessions to advance tasks #1-#3

VP18 - Update and Roadmap

VP19 - Roundup and Next Phase discussions



Work to date

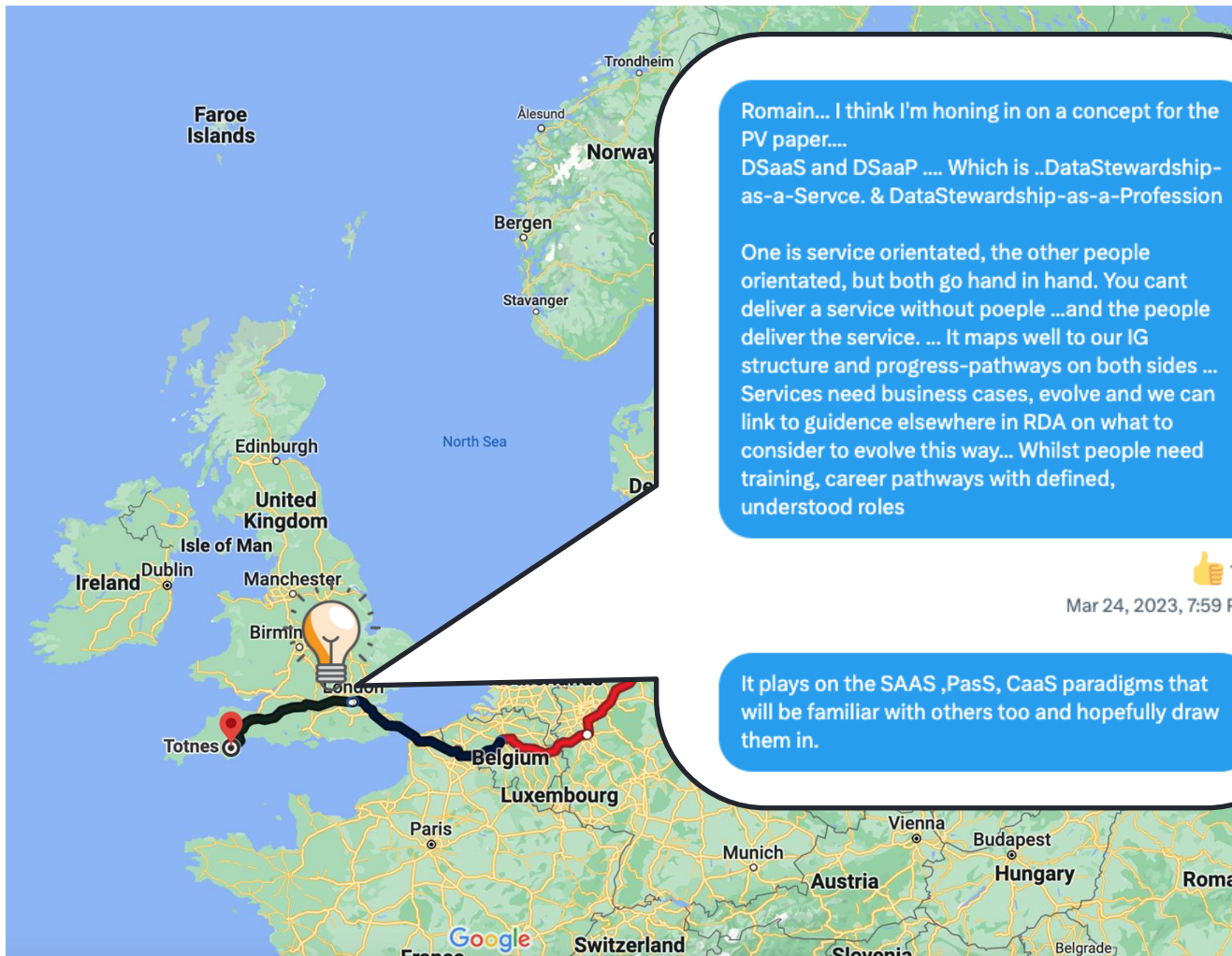


Data Stewardship



@resdataall
#datastewardship





Romain... I think I'm honing in on a concept for the PV paper...
 DSaaS and DSaaS ... Which is ..DataStewardship-as-a-Service. & DataStewardship-as-a-Profession

One is service orientated, the other people orientated, but both go hand in hand. You cant deliver a service without poeple ...and the people deliver the service. ... It maps well to our IG structure and progress-pathways on both sides ... Services need business cases, evolve and we can link to guidance elsewhere in RDA on what to consider to evolve this way... Whilst people need training, career pathways with defined, understood roles

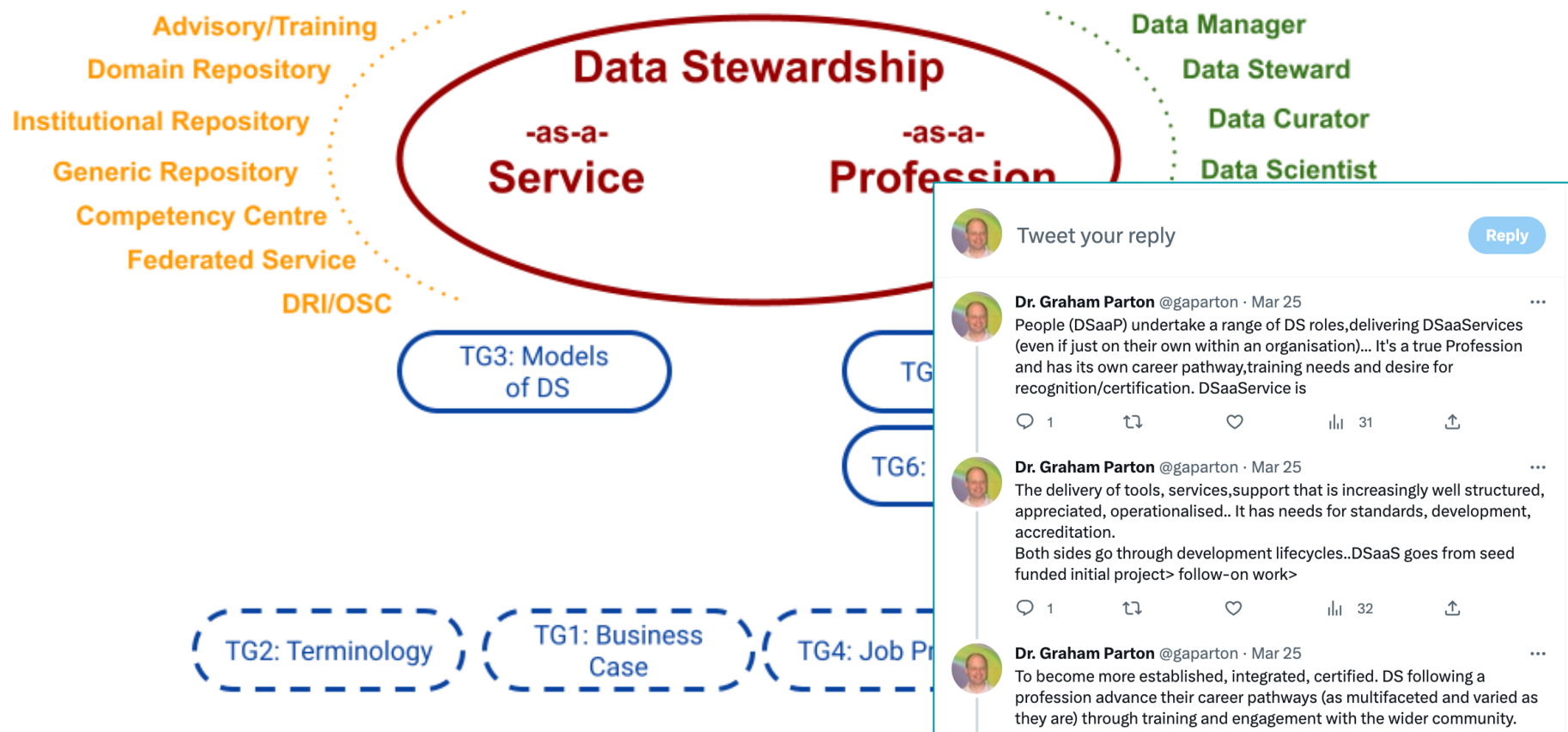


Mar 24, 2023, 7:59 PM

It plays on the SAAS ,PasS, CaaS paradigms that will be familiar with others too and hopefully draw them in.

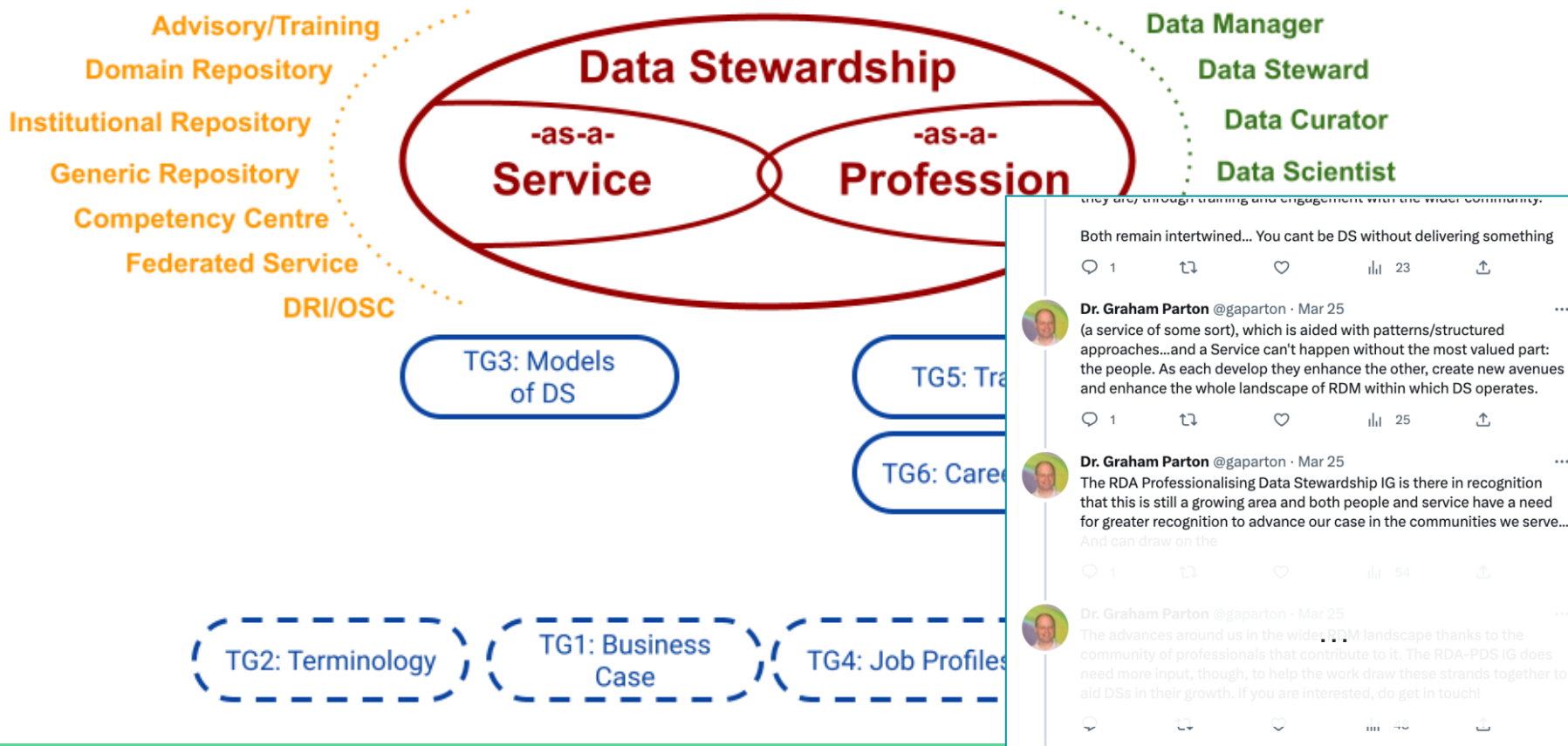
Data Stewardship-as-a-....

@resdataall
#datastewardship



Data Stewardship-as-a-Duality

@resdataall
#datastewardship



they are, through training and engagement with the wider community.

Both remain intertwined... You can't be DS without delivering something

1 23

Dr. Graham Parton @gaparton · Mar 25
(a service of some sort), which is aided with patterns/structured approaches...and a Service can't happen without the most valued part: the people. As each develop they enhance the other, create new avenues and enhance the whole landscape of RDM within which DS operates.

1 25

Dr. Graham Parton @gaparton · Mar 25
The RDA Professionalising Data Stewardship IG is there in recognition that this is still a growing area and both people and service have a need for greater recognition to advance our case in the communities we serve... And can draw on the

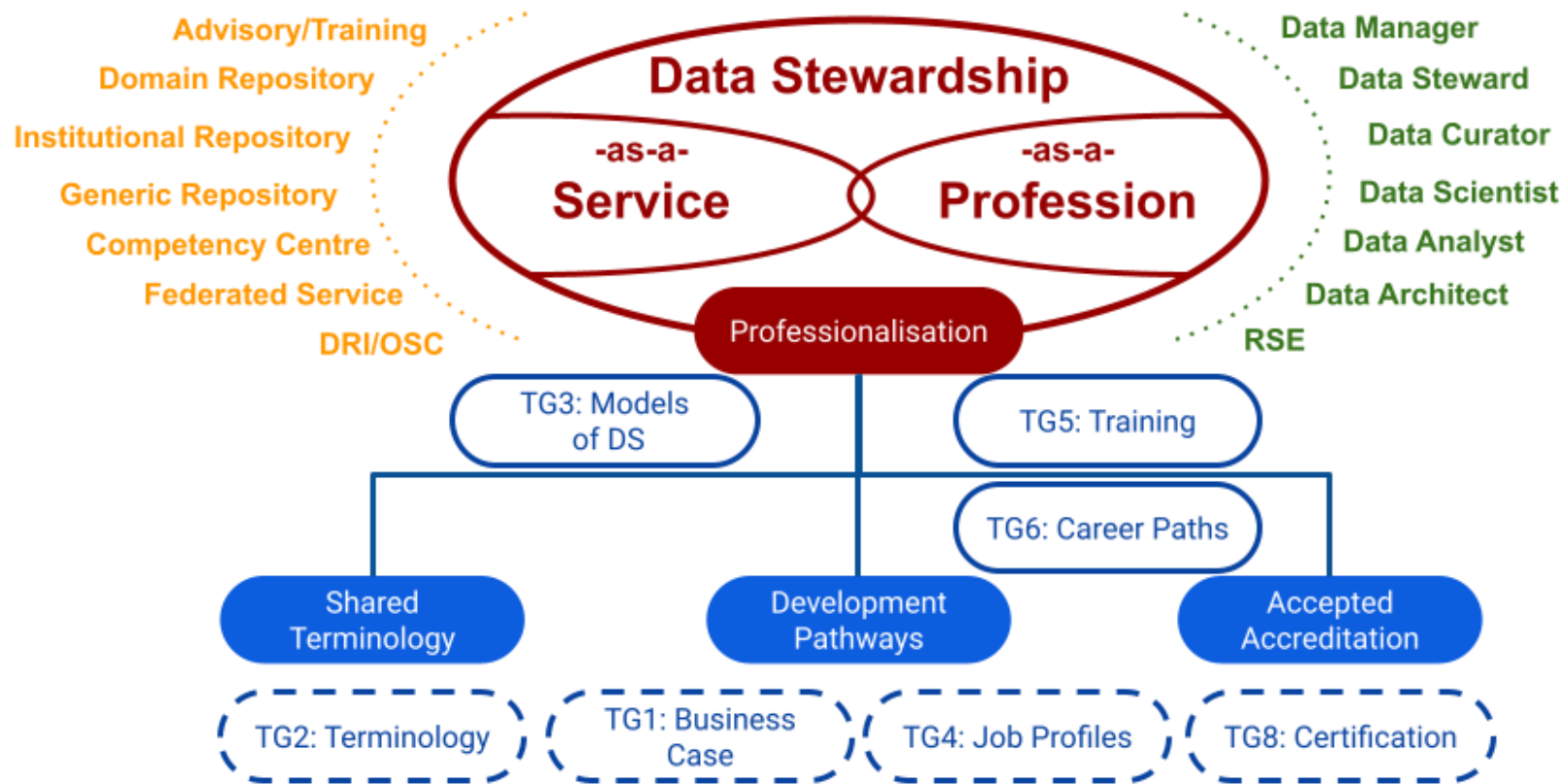
1 54

Dr. Graham Parton @gaparton · Mar 25
The advances around us in the wider RDM landscape thanks to the community of professionals that contribute to it. The RDA-PDS IG does need more input, though, to help the work draw these strands together to aid DSs in their growth. If you are interested, do get in touch!

1 40

Data Stewardship-as-a-Duality

@resdataall
#datastewardship



The DSaaS focus: Models of Data Stewardship

Group 3: Data Stewardship Models

Graham Parton (co-chair)

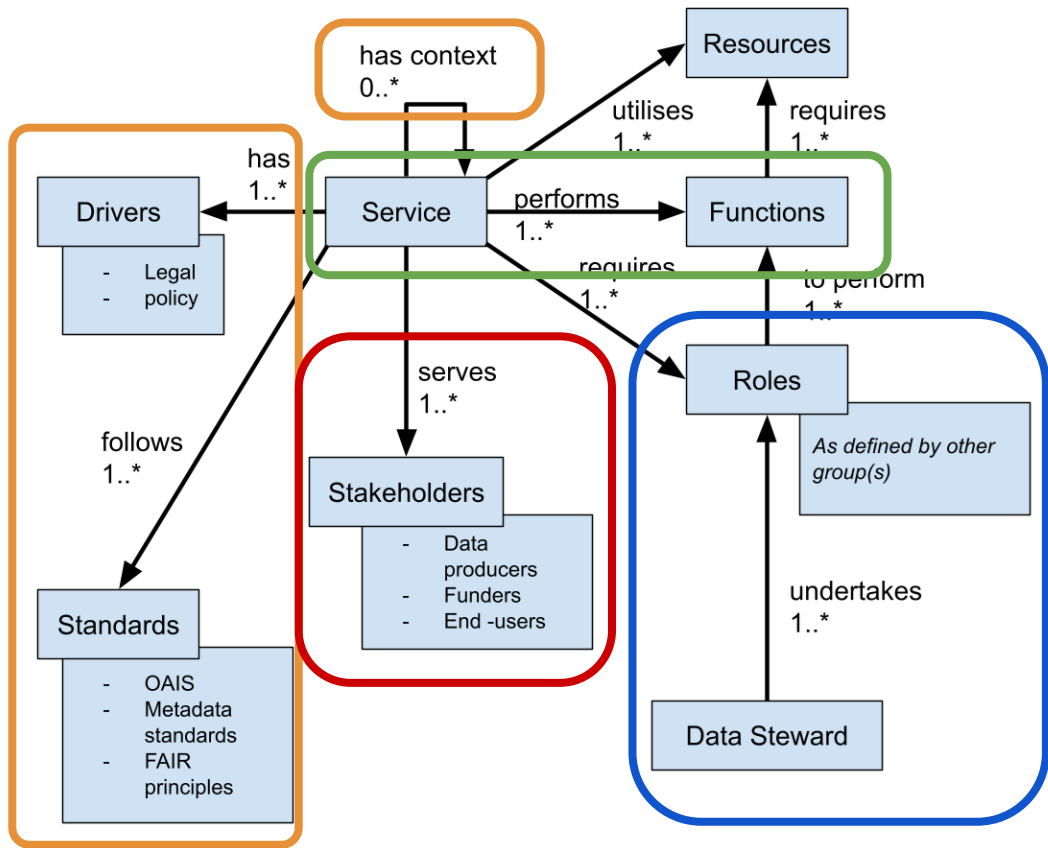
Bill Ayres (co-task group lead)

Liise Lehtsalu (co-task group lead)

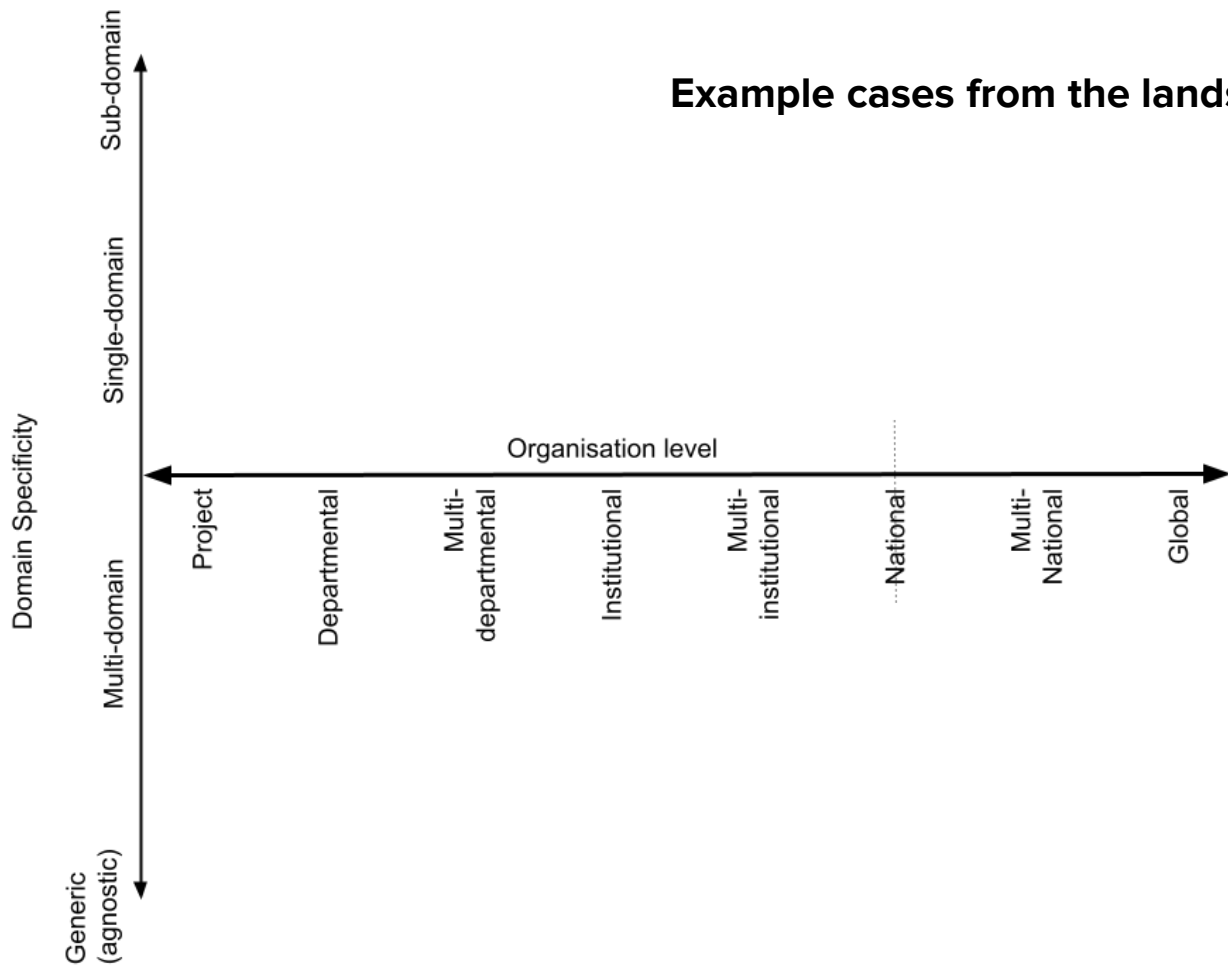
Niklas Zimmer, Angus Whyte, Iryna Kuchma, Adam Száldobágyi, Eleanor Warren

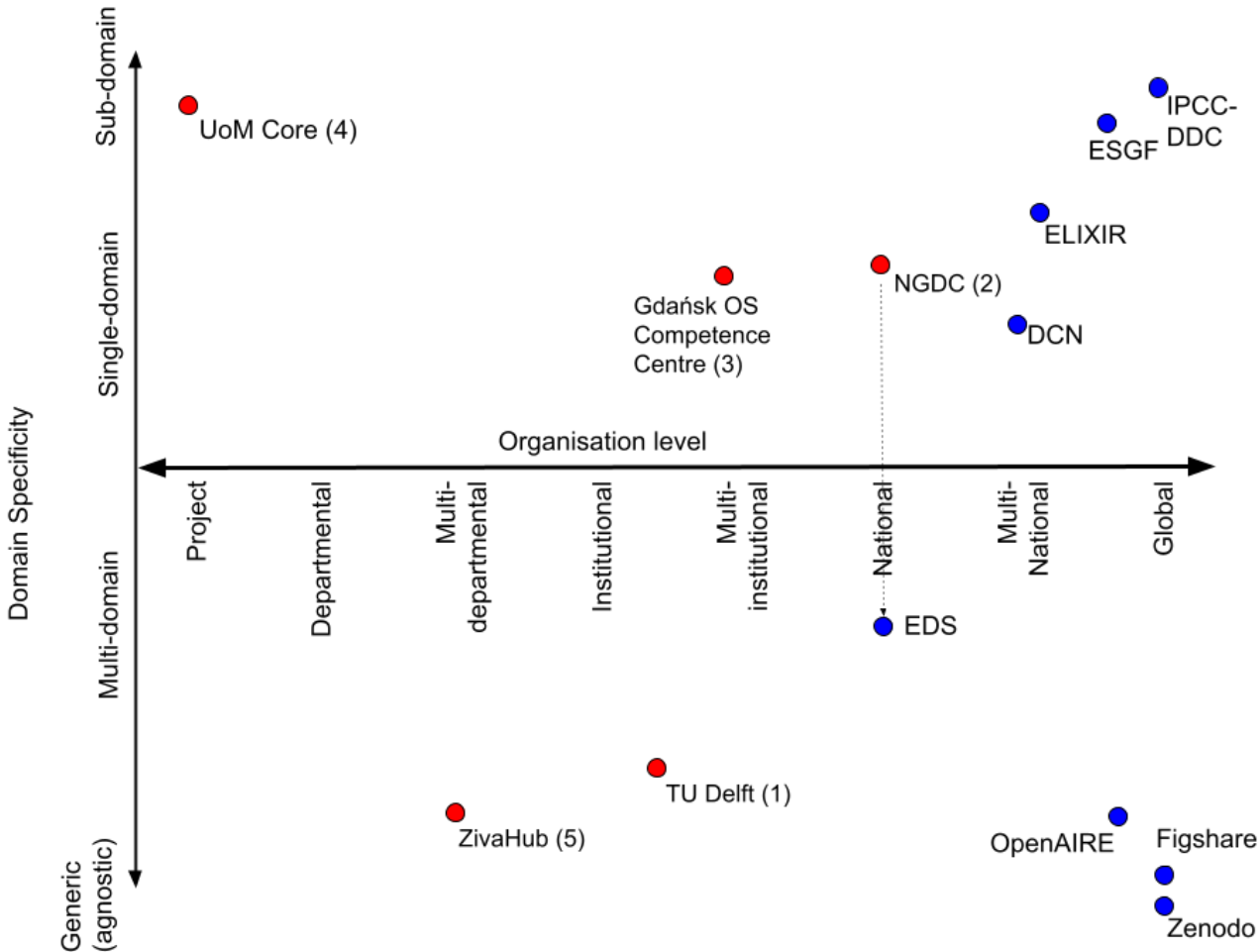
Conceptual diagram and TG aims

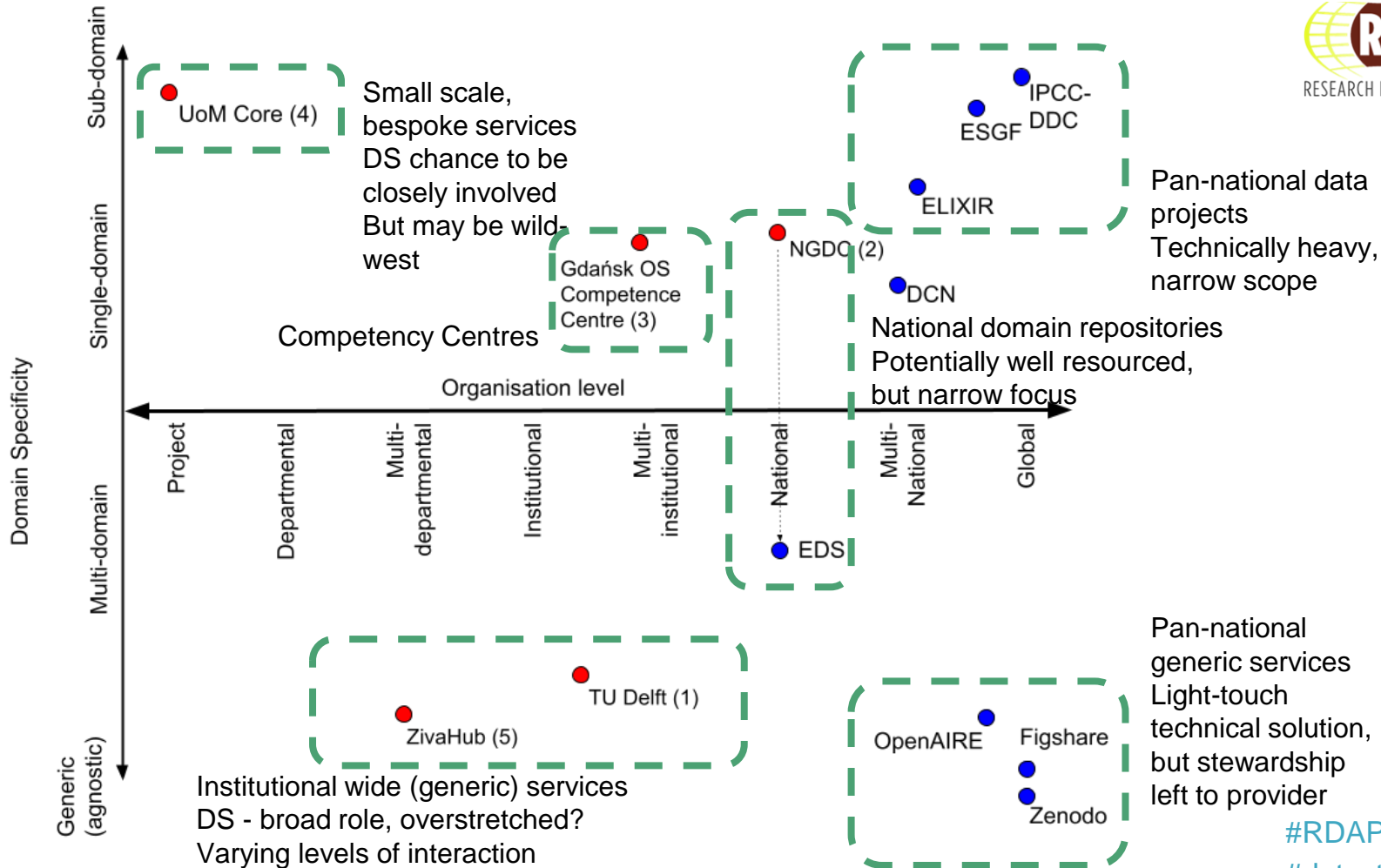
We aim to model the **Data Stewardship Roles** within particular **service provisions of Data Stewardship**, the larger **Organisational Contexts** within which such provisions exist, and how those roles and services interact with their **Target Communities**.



Example cases from the landscape







Survey report and dataset available in Zenodo



DOI: 10.15497/RDA00075

December 14, 2022

Other Open Access

RDA Professionalising Data Stewardship - Current Models of Data Stewardship: Survey Report

Ayres, Bill; Lehtsalu, Liise; Parton, Graham; Száldobágyi, Ádám; Warren, Eleanor; Whyte, Angus; Zimmer, Niklas

This report presents the first analysis of the Models of Data Stewardship survey completed by the Research Data Alliance Professionalising Data Stewardship Interest Group (RDA PDS-IG) in October-November 2021. The purpose of the survey, based around a conceptual model of data stewardship services, was to engage with the global research data management (RDM) community to capture information about data stewardship approaches taken by organisations and the wider landscape of data stewardship and services. In particular, this initial report provides insights on a) roles involved in providing data stewardship services, the functions these provide, to which customer groups, and at which stages of the data lifecycle; b) stakeholder involved in the governance of data stewardship; c) indicative ranges of service capacity of data stewardship services; d) benefits of data stewardship promoted by services; and e) main lessons learned by responding data stewardship services.

The dataset collected in the survey can be viewed at doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6665306

Preview

RDA Professionalising Data Stewardship - Current Models of Data Stewardship: Survey Report

RDA Supporting Output

DOI: [10.15497/RDA00075](https://doi.org/10.15497/RDA00075)

Authors: Bill Ayres, Liise Lehtsalu, Graham Parton, Ádám Száldobágyi, Eleanor Warren, Angus Whyte, Niklas Zimmer, [Professionalising Data Stewardship IG](#)

Published: 14 December 2022

Version: 1.0

Abstract: This report presents the first analysis of the Models of Data Stewardship survey completed by the Research Data Alliance Professionalising Data Stewardship Interest Group

DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.6665306

June 19, 2022

Dataset Open Access

RDA Data Stewardship Organisational Models Survey 2021 Output Dataset

Ayres, Bill; Lehtsalu, Liise; Kuchma, Iryna; Parton, Graham; Száldobágyi, Ádám; Warren, Eleanor; Whyte, Angus; Zimmer, Niklas

Data Stewardship comes in many forms and contexts, with the common goal of supporting data management. Yet that diversity can make it hard for the RDM community to further professionalise our work and services.

The RDA Professionalising Data Stewardship Interest Group (PDS-IG) Models Task Group sought input from the research data community to help model different approaches to research data stewardship through an online survey in October to November 2021. An offline copy of the survey is available as a linked resource from this record.

This dataset consists of a cleaned, anonymised responses from 136 respondents, though not all questions were answered by all respondents. The output are available in a CSV formatted file containing the full response set along with output from a thematic textual analysis undertaken on responses to a number of open-text questions in the survey.

Preview

RDA PDS-IG Data stewardship organisational models survey

Analysis of responses to open questions

Angus Whyte, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5198-0833>

Liise Lehtsalu, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6894-3377>

June 2022

This document contains analysis of the responses to open-ended questions in the survey conducted by the RDA Interest Group on Professionalising Data Stewardship, in late 2021. Further details of the survey are available on the RDA website [here](#) and an offline copy of the survey is available at: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6665146>

The relevant questions were on the topics shown in Table 1 ('question themes'). Responses were independently coded, firstly to identify themes specific to the question. Table 1 provides links to further question-specific themes.

data+stewardship"

The DSaaP focus: Career Pathways and Training Task Groups

Group 5: Research landscape of data stewardship training

Authors: Jukka Rantasaari [0000-0001-5927-3781](#)

Lorna Wildgaard [0000-0002-3900-5058](#)

Editors: Claudia Engelhardt [0000-0002-3391-7638](#)

Jaana Pinnick [0000-0002-7718-5133](#)

Gaps in data stewardship: What kind of needs for training do data stewards face in supporting research?

Take home messages:

1. Collaborate internationally on certified training
2. Enable researchers to share their data from the planning stage of their project
3. Address the increased need for technical skills in data stewardship



Gaps in data stewardship: What kind of needs for training do data stewards face in supporting research?



Picture credit: Patrick Hochstenbach in <https://zenodo.org/record/1212496>

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Editors

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Landscape report and Matrix available in Zenodo



DOI: 10.15497/RDA00076

October 4, 2022

Report Open Access

RDA Professionalising Data Stewardship - Data Stewardship Landscape Initial Report

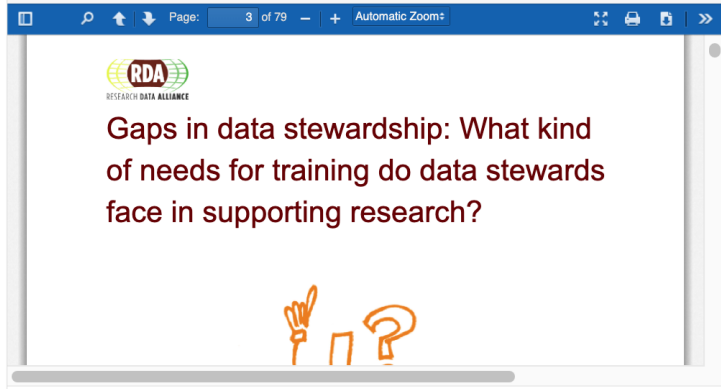
Wildgaard, Lorna; Rantasaari, Jukka

Editor(s)

Engelhardt, Claudia; Pinnick, Jaana

This report is based on a literature review published by the Research Data Alliance Professionalising Data Stewardship Interest Group (RDA PDS-IG) Training sub-group in October 2022. A framework for the literature collection was devised before the literature search began, based on common concepts of the division of the research disciplines. The literature search was conducted between March 2021 and July 2021. The selection was verified in a cross-walk exercise, where common terminologies were tracked across different ontologies to learn more about concepts and disciplinary differences and commonalities in research data management (RDM). In the reference management software Zotero, folders were created to structure the literature into the following categories: data stewardship; education and training of data stewards; RDM education; training materials; data management plan templates; documents about the skills needed to support EOSC and FAIR principles; data management in the humanities, industry, life sciences, natural sciences, public institutions and the social sciences. Further, the aim was to identify papers concerning the RDM needs of researchers and data stewards and their role in the RDM life cycle. The screening resulted in 125 papers that are used as the knowledge base for this report.

Preview



DOI: 10.15497/RDA00077

October 4, 2022

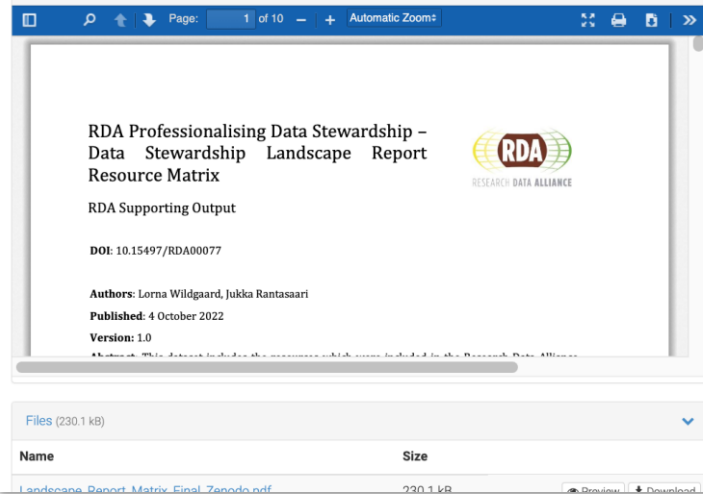
Other Open Access

RDA Professionalising Data Stewardship - Data Stewardship Landscape Report Resource Matrix

Wildgaard, Lorna; Rantasaari, Jukka

This dataset includes the resources which were included in the Research Data Alliance Professionalising Data Stewardship Interest Group (RDA PDS-IG) Training Landscape sub-group report published in October 2022. The literature was structured into the following categories: data stewardship; education and training of data stewards; RDM education; training materials; data management plan templates; documents about the skills needed to support EOSC and FAIR principles; data management in the humanities, industry, life sciences, natural sciences, public institutions and the social sciences. The aim was to identify papers concerning the RDM needs of researchers and data stewards and their role in the RDM life cycle. The screening resulted in 125 papers that are used as the knowledge base for the output report.

Preview



Group 6: Data Steward Career Tracks

Biru Zhou **0000-0001-6914-1432**

Liise Lehtsalu **0000-0002-6894-3377**

Valerie Mccutcheon **0000-0002-0705-4832**

Elizabeth Newbold **0000-0002-8255-9013**

Yan Wang **0000-0002-6317-7546**

Data Stewardship as a profession in academia



Challenges

- Research Data Management professional like Data Steward has not been recognized as a profession in academia
- Uncertain career paths, unsustainable pool of expertise, etc.

Group plan

- Community survey to understand current and future career perspectives

Expected outcomes

- Reach out to people who is/was working as Data Steward or similar RDM support roles across different regions and organizations
- Initial overview on the career perspective from the community
- Seek for volunteers who would like to provide more insightful inputs as case studies

Data Steward Career Tracks Survey

- Ran in October 2022
- Report due soon!

Next steps – webinar series with EOSC TF

Define a range of personas

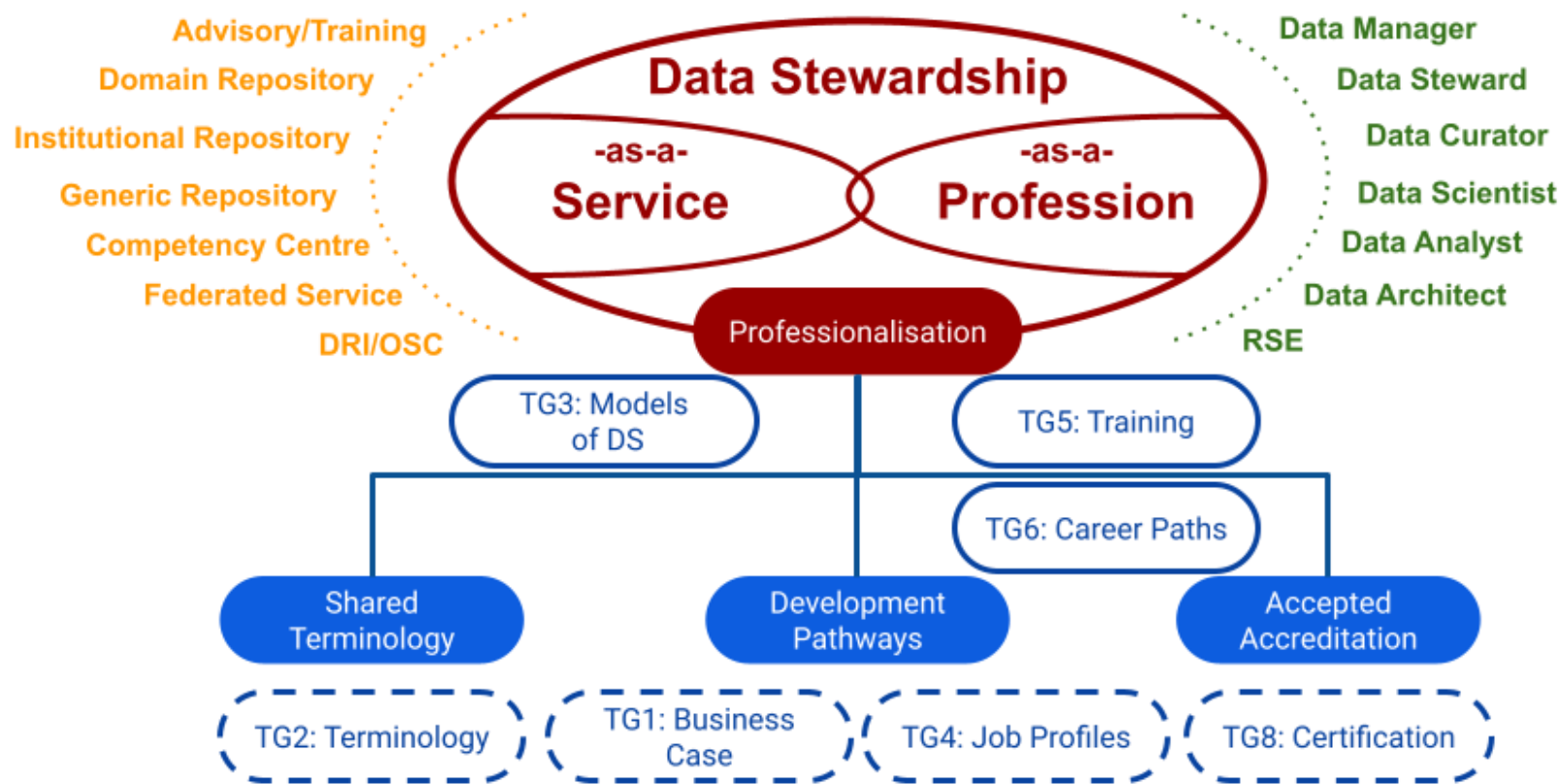


**EUROPEAN OPEN
SCIENCE CLOUD**

Other aspects and Future Work: Furthering the Professionalisation

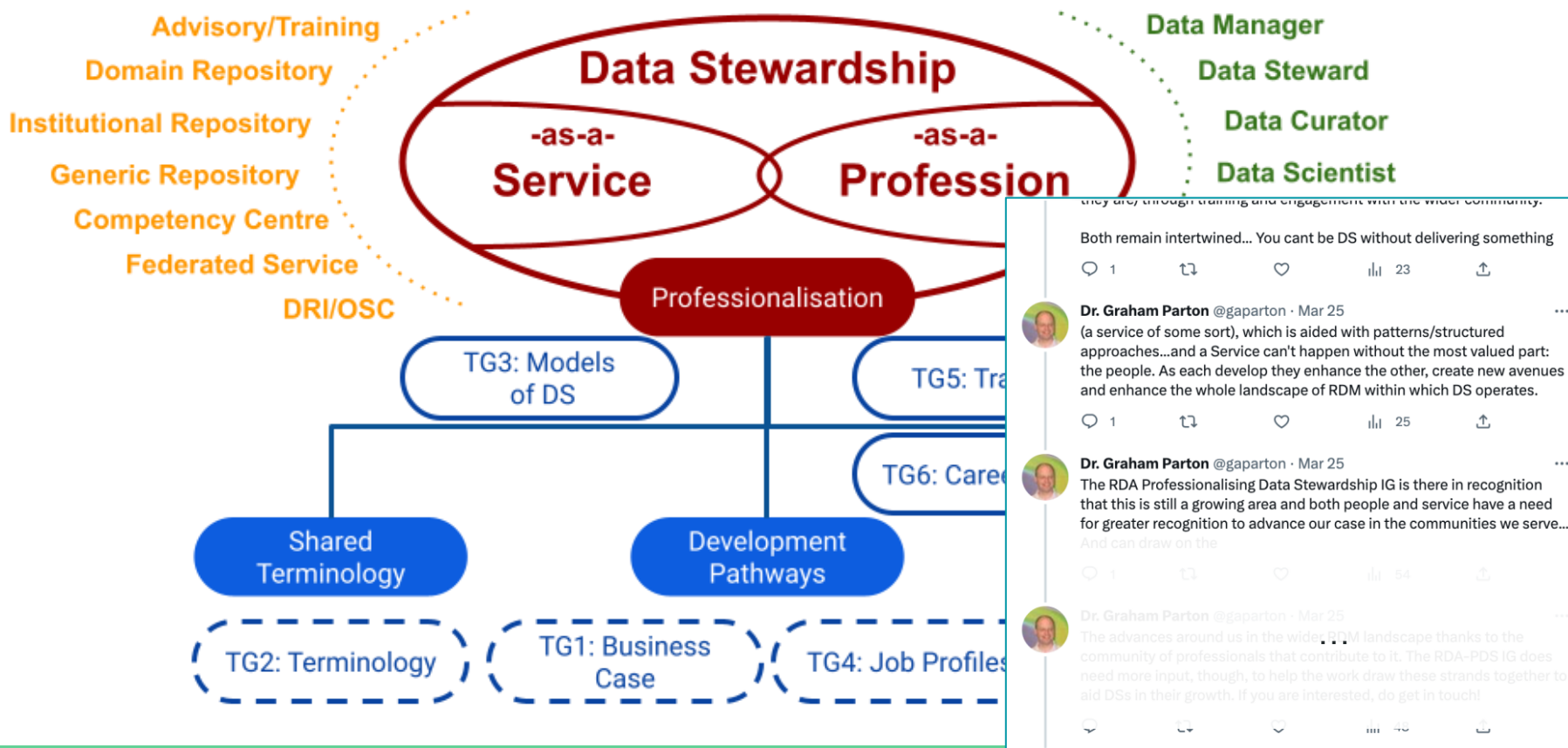
Data Stewardship-as-a-Duality

@resdataall
#datastewardship



Data Stewardship-as-a-Duality

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#datastewardship



Connecting with, and contributing to, the work of the PDS-IG

Next steps - Keeping in touch

- Up to the next plenary (P21, IDW 2023, 23-26 October 2023, Salzburg, Austria)
 - Participate / continue working in the task groups
 - Help formulate and participate in the Working Group proposals
 - **Join our monthly meetings**

We need you to make professionalising data stewardship a real community effort, by and for the community!


- So, you are very welcome to [join us](#)
- Contact your group's contact person to become actively involved
- Make sure to check into our [slack community](#) for regular communication
- Some TGs have regular Zoom meetings - contact them to get link
- Questions? Ideas? Want to collaborate? Make sure to [contact us](#)



<https://www.rd-alliance.org/groups/professionalising-data-stewardship-ig>

Building the social and technical bridges to enable open sharing and re-use of data

RDA EU RDA US CONTACT US LOGIN REGISTRATION



O&A Members 71

Active Organisational & Affiliate members

MEMBERSHIP Members: 13507

Becoming a member of RDA is simple and open to both individuals and organizations

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RDA Groups WG & IGs: 102

Discover what RDA Working and Interest Groups and all other Groups are up to and find out how to join them. [Explore Groups](#)

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Home » Working and Interest Groups » Interest Group » Professionalising Data Stewardship IG

IG Professionalising Data Stewardship IG

Taxonomy:

Posts Create Wiki index Events Repository Outputs Charter Plenaries Members

create new content

Group Status:  IG Established [Join Group](#)

Please make sure the group follows the new [RDA Groups Policy](#), which came into effect on 1 April 2021. Please contact [enquiries\[at\]rd-alliance.org](mailto:enquiries[at]rd-alliance.org) if you have any questions.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

Past co-chairs, members of the various Task Groups and the Interest Group community of over 270 members!

Past Co-Chairs of the PDS IG



[Mijke Jetten](#), Dutch Techcentre for the Life Sciences (DTL), Data Stewardship Community Manager, mijke.jetten@dtls.nl



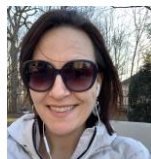
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Present Co-Chairs of the PDS IG



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[Graham Parton](#), Centre for Environmental Data Analysis (CEDA), Senior Environmental Data Scientist, graham.parton@stfc.ac.uk



[Romain David](#), European Research Infrastructure on Highly Pathogenic Agents, Research fellow, data manager, romain.david@erinha.eu



[Yan Wang](#), Delft University of Technology, Data Stewardship Coordinator, y.wang-16@tudelft.nl



[Niklas Zimmer](#), University of Cape Town, Manager Digital Library Services, niklas.zimmer@uct.ac.za

Appendix 1

Task group challenges, steps,
expected outcomes & RDA input
requests

Group 1: Business case

Challenges

- Organisations rely on using data for research and analysis, but are often not aware that they need somebody with data stewardship expertise

Steps

- Case studies to highlight the benefits of data stewardship to stakeholders
- Risk assessment: what might go wrong if data stewardship expertise is lacking

Expected outcomes

- Short report with case studies and stakeholder mapping exercise, to be used as a business case for data stewardship

Contact person: debora.drucker@embrapa.br

Task group 2: Terminology

Challenges

- Combining terminologies in data stewardship to bring different organisations together
- Highlighting polysemic issues and various uses of terms across domains

Steps

- Re-using existing work from RDA and other fora, and enrich existing tools
- Interactions with other TG to find and propose the definitions they need
- Formalising a community approval process to choose the better definitions and vocabularies

Expected outcomes

- A data stewardship terminology tool to share and validate terms
- A first version of a minimal set of common terms definitions

Input from the RDA community at the upcoming plenary session

- Feedback and suggestions: are we taking the correct approach?
- Is there any work or vocabularies that we should also consider?

Contact person: romain.david@erinha.eu

Task group 3: Models

Challenges

- Ill-defined models for data stewardship service provision, which may lead to duplication of efforts and the implementation of inappropriate strategies

Steps

- An environmental scan of data stewardship and governance staffing models, using the open business model canvas methodology, to develop a representative collection of real-world, reusable models

Expected outcomes

- Open available collection of models, to serve in establishing and sustaining data stewardship services at different organisations

Input from the RDA community at the upcoming plenary session

- Advice on existing materials and definitions created by other IGs to reduce duplication of efforts

Contact person: niklas.zimmer@uct.ac.za

Task group 4: Job profiles

Challenges

- Understanding the data steward role in different working environments and contexts

Steps

- Collecting job profiles of data stewards and of other roles explicitly mentioning data stewardship in the role profile and responsibilities
- Reviewing existing and previous work on this topic

Expected outcomes

- A library of example job profiles
- A matrix of commonalities and differences in job profiles

Input from the RDA community at the upcoming plenary session

- Job descriptions of RDA members in data steward and data-related positions
- References to previous work or projects of relevance

Contact person: varsha.khodiya@nature.com

Task group 5: Training

Challenges

- Limited coherent approach, making the global demand for data stewards challenging

Steps

- Contact and collaboration with initiatives having similar aims
- Survey existing literature, tools and lists using RDA terminology and models

Expected outcomes

- Gap analysis to identify the gaps in data stewards' skills, researchers' skills, and in existing training materials
- By identifying gaps and relevant training materials we will advise the creation of training pathways (e.g. in [Competency Hub \(ebi.ac.uk\)](https://www.ebi.ac.uk/comp/hub/))

Input from the RDA community at the upcoming plenary session

- Sources (academic publications) where we can find answers to the questions in the slide 18?
- Please come and join us

Contact person: Jaana Pinnick jpak@bgs.ac.uk

Task group 6: Career tracks

Challenges

- Limited visibility of data stewardship as a career path: what do new recruits need on entering the profession and how might they progress in their roles?

Steps

- Interviewing data stewards about how they got into the profession and their career development
- Collating existing published profiles and articles about data stewards

Expected outcomes

- Case studies and composite personas of data stewards at different stages in their careers in different sectors

Input from the RDA community at the upcoming plenary session

- Feedback on whether this outcome will be useful
- Feedback on which sectors should be targeted (eg. academic, commercial, community)
- Volunteers to be interviewed or suggestions on how to recruit interviewees

Task group 7: Networking

Challenges

- Explore the need for a global data stewards network, for sharing of knowledge and practices

Steps

- Collection of case studies and interviews with data stewards and related communities of practice
- Investigate models of community formation and practice exchange

Expected outcomes

- Synthesise information gathered through case studies and interviews
- As a first step, initiate quarterly informal online gatherings

Input from the RDA community at the upcoming plenary session

- We need more task group members
- Watch for opportunities to contribute or take part in networking events

Contact person: peter.neish@unimelb.edu.au

Task group 8: Certification

Challenges

- Explore the use of and need for certification of training programmes and their data stewards

Steps

- Collaborate with existing (industry/research) accreditation frameworks and badging systems
- Investigate lightweight certification, such as gamified badging
- Investigate how to recognise skills and expertise of data stewards

Expected outcomes

- Self assessment checklist for data stewards, including levels (beginner, intermediate, advanced)
- Recommendations for certification and badging systems for training and data stewards

Input from the RDA community at the upcoming plenary session

- Invite people with certification expertise from research and industry to join the task group

Contact person: mijke.jetten@dtls.nl

Task group 9: Webinars - on Hold since VP16



Challenges

- Identify the audience, value, and need for webinars among research data stewards
- Assess if webinars are already provided elsewhere (e.g. via training and networking TG)

Steps

- Coordinating with other IG task groups and members

Expected outcomes

- Recommendations for webinar series topics and presenting organisations/experts

Input from the RDA community at the upcoming plenary session

- Ideation around where data stewards currently get webinar information and what's missing
- Challenge: lacking volunteer webinar leaders / webinar logistics and administration
- Question: is this task really a sub-task related to training and networking?
- Question: where can we have the most impact without duplication of effort?

Contact person: christina@educopia.org