



# The Research Data Alliance

**A Personal Perspective**

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# Background

- **INFRA-2012-3.2:** International cooperation with the USA on common eInfrastructure for scientific data.
- *The objective is to establish an EU/USA coordination platform aiming at full interoperability of scientific data infrastructures, and to demonstrate this coordination through several joint EU-USA prototypes that would ensure persistent availability and effective sharing of data across scientific domains, organisations and national boundaries.*
- Clearly, some work had gone on prior to this call – which funded iCORDI (now RDA Europe)
- Other countries also involved: AU, CA, (cn, jp, za ...)

# History

- Pre-kick-off meetings in Sep/Oct 2012
  - Garching, Washington
- Official launch “[plenary 1](#)” in March 2013 in GOT
- [2<sup>nd</sup> plenary](#): Sep 2013 in DC; 3<sup>rd</sup> in Mar 2014 in DUB, 4<sup>th</sup> foreseen for AMS in Sep(?) 2014
- Plenaries so far have had too much (IMHO) focus on “the why” and too little on “the what”
- [3<sup>rd</sup> plenary](#) looks like a step forward with most of the time devoted to WGs and IGs

# Governance

- RDA Council
- RDA Technical Advisory Board
- RDA Organisational Members and OAB
  
- IMHO this is somewhat top-heavy for a “light-weight” organisation
- But the TAB candidates (for example) seem to have the right technical profiles and motivation
- Given time it should converge (2014?)

# Personal Involvement

- Main involvement has been around **Long-Term Data Preservation (exa-scale, decades)**
- **Contacts** made through RDA meetings have been invaluable and may (will?) lead to H2020 projects
- **Preservation Interest Group** still nascent: up to us as a group to make it useful
- Positioning wrt other non-RDA groups, such as the Alliance for Permanent Access?
- **Interaction** with other (WG and IG)s and with funders
- **Other CERN people, e.g. “digital library”, find it useful / essential for their work**

# Recommendation

- It is understood that future projects and organisations large and small must embrace the output of the RDA
- And be active in defining it
- **Both the EU and NSF seem very keen on it!**
- There are still (many) questions but we can ensure better answers by participating
- **Actively participate, at least during 2014, and review**
- **Be consistent across H2020 work-programme**