Report from RDA 23rd Plenary Meeting

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Research Data Alliance

Research Data Alliance (RDA)

RDA builds the social and technical bridges that enable open sharing and re-use of data across technologies, disciplines, and countries to address the grand challenges of society.

- RDA is organized bottom up, based on self-organized working groups (WG) and interest groups (IG).
- The RDA plenaries are the place for the WGs and IGs to meet, to present their results, to coordinate, and to plan future work.
- Three kinds of sessions at plenaries:
    - Group sessions, organized by one WG or IG,
    - Joint sessions, commonly organized by more than one group, to discuss common topics of interest,
    - Birds of a feather sessions: one time events for people to gather under a topic, mostly with the aim to form a new WG or IG and to define its scope.

PaNSIG Session

Session by Research data needs of the Photon and Neutron Science community IG (PaNSIG):
"Converging PaN FAIR data activities around the world"

Background

German NFDI consortium DAPHNE4NFDI currently at mid term.
RDA plenary considered a good oportunity for outreach, present activities and incite international cooperation.

- Two major blocks on the agenda:
  1. FAIR data in national Data Infrastructure projects, with contibutions from PSDI (UK), DAPHNE4NFDI (Germany) and NIST (US).
  2. Federating XAS Databases with contributions on MDR XAFS DB (Japan) and RefXAS (Germany).

BoF on Sample Classification

Birds of a Feather:
"Sample Classification – Do we need an interdisciplinary classification vocabulary?"

Background

We see the need for a standardized vocabulary (e.g. taxonomy or ontology) for the classification of sample types.

- A better description of the sample being measured is needed to provide FAIR data data from PaN experiments.
- A huge variety of different sample types, one single metadata schema to describe them all seems not realistic.
- Instead: aim for a standardized classification of sample types and apply specific metadata schemas to the individual classes.
- BoF session as a starting point to form a RDA working group for the task to define such a vocabulary.

BoF on Cross Domain Collaboration

Birds of a Feather Session together with the NFDI Association, Base4NFDI and NFDI-MatWerk:
"A Dat(a) with Destiny: RDM-Enabling Cross-domain collaborations in the NFDI, and beyond"

Background

The Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur (NFDI) in Germany is considered a successful example of a cross domain collaboration. Can we raise that to the next (e.g. international) level?

- In NFDI, 26 domain-specific consortia are developing a research data infrastructure.
- Can NFDI and RDA align and leverage their outputs?
- Consider forming a RDA IG.

Session on PIDs for Facilities

Session by Working with PIDs in Tools IG:
"PIDs in the Gray Areas: Tackling the Challenges of Identifying Instruments, Facilities, and the Research Tools Continuum"

- The session was mostly discussing: what PIDs should be used for facilities?
- Options that were suggested: Research Organisation Registry (ROR) Ids and Instrument PIDs (PIDINST).
- There was no consensus.
- My personal conclusion: we need to work on the semantics: what do we mean by a "facility"?
- There is likely to be a follow up activity, e.g. a session at the next virtual RDA plenary VP24 in April 2025.