



RDAP Happenings

Hi RDAP members,

Welcome to the new year's inaugural RDAP newsletter. What a wild weather start for many of us! (I commuted in freezing fog yesterday; how about you?) This weather reminded me (again) of the importance of the work we do. The recovery of historical data, its reuse/reanalysis, and the stewardship/preservation of more recent data can inform weather models, perhaps leading to more accurate short- and long-term predictions.

Important updates and announcements abound in this issue. Please take a moment to read more detail about the following:

- Registration is open for the upcoming [RDAP 2024 Summit!](#)
- At the Summit, we'll have the opportunity to hear about the DEIA Committee's racial equity workshops.
- The Education and Resources Committee reports that two informative webinars are scheduled for January and February.
- The membership directory is live, and the Membership Committee provides information about how to access and use it, as well as how to update your profile.
- Nominations are open for the 2024 Member Awards.
- The [RDAP 2023 Special Issue of the Journal of eScience Librarianship](#) is available. A shout-out to Heather Coates, Abigail Goben, and Kristin Briney whose JeSLIB commentary "What if It Didn't Happen: Data Management and Avoiding Research Misconduct" was featured by the blog [Retraction Watch](#) earlier in January.
- Please help the Web Committee revise the RDAP website. All members are asked to complete a card-sorting exercise (linked below).
- The feature article summarizes the findings from a study of Iowa State University researchers, "Sharing Research Data: Faculty Behavior and Attitudes" by Joshua Rosenbloom and Megan O'Donnell.

Updates from the Board

While the weather has been cold and dark, we are looking forward to a season of more light, wrapping up some ongoing projects while opening up new possibilities. What has the Board been up to, you ask? We have signed on as an organization to endorse the joint [STM/DataCite/Crossref statement on Research Data](#). The Board is also looking at several other opportunities for feedback and organizational collaboration. Secretary Lindsay Gypin has completed the migration of all organizational content to a Google Shared Drive, which will help ease permissions issues moving forward. President-elect Tess Grynoch is leading an effort to codify the Code of Conduct Officer position for more consistency throughout the year. In particular, we want to recognize the work of the Hybrid Summit Task Force, which has just completed its tenure and shared its report draft (which we hope to distribute to membership soon)! Many thanks to the members of the Task Force and authors of the report: Allie Tatarian, Anthony Dellureficio, Ashley Thomas, Irmari Fraticelli-Rodriguez, Jen Darragh, Matthew Harp, Shannon Sheridan, and Reid Boehm. We look forward to seeing many of you in March at the 2024 virtual Summit!

The RDAP Board,

- Rachel Woodbrook (President)
- Tess Grynoch (President-elect)
- Lindsay Gypin (Secretary)
- Reid Boehm (Treasurer)
- Amy Koshoffer (Past President)

RDAP Feature Article

Even in times of change, change is slow

The preprint “Sharing Research Data: Faculty Behavior and Attitudes”, by Joshua Rosenbloom, reports survey results of researcher attitudes and behavior toward data sharing at Iowa State University in 2018 and 2021. The findings are of interest to the RDAP community due to the detailed data analysis and accompanying data set which reveal how things changed during a time when 1) Iowa State increased local support for formal research data sharing, and 2) the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a world-wide health crisis requiring rapid, and often open, sharing of research data.

Changes made to local support for formal data sharing between the two surveys include:

- Establishing an institutional data repository and workflow to vet research contracts and data
- Disclosing data sets to campus stakeholders before making them publicly available (see [O’Donnell and Brundy 2022](#) for details)
- Increasing staffing for RDS at the university library
- Implementing a [research data policy](#) for the university
- Completing participation in [APLU/AAU Accelerating Public Access to Research Data](#) workshops

Select findings of interest:

- Almost all respondents have shared some data publicly
- Increased local support did not increase the amount of data being shared and reused
- Usage of institutional repositories rose significantly in 2021

More details and insightful analysis can be found in the working paper’s [preprint available on SSRN](#) and in the [associated data on DataShare](#).

Short Biographies:

Joshua Rosenbloom is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics at Iowa State University and a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He authored the working paper.

Megan O'Donnell leads Iowa State University Library's Research Data Services unit. She reviewed an early draft of the working paper and led the curation of the associated data set.

RDAP Summit Updates

Happy New Year! The RDAP Summit 2024 is just around the corner this March 12-14 with workshops on the 11th! This year's theme is "Bridging Boundaries: Interoperability in the Data Community" and has a great lineup of presentations, including our keynote speaker Iratxe Puebla, Director of the Make Data Count initiative at DataCite.

[Registration is open](#) with rates at \$25 for members/ students/ financial hardship and \$35 for non-members. Login to your RDAP account when registering to see membership rates. The deadline for registration is March 1, 2024.

[Workshop descriptions and general schedule](#) for the Summit are available on the website. Some workshops have registration caps, so if you are interested register early to make sure you get a seat!

We're bringing back the Summit Buddy Program again this year, so if you're new to RDAP and would like to be paired with someone who has attended RDAP before (or if you would like to mentor a new RDAP attendee), please let us know in the registration form.

If you have any questions about the Summit, please email rdapsummit@rdapassociation.org.

Action Committee Updates

DEIA

The RDAP DEIA training is scheduled and participants are meeting with their Unlearning and Accountability Partners ahead of the first workshop meeting. Additionally, we are planning to host a panel at the summit on the training. The working title and brief description are as follows:

DEIA and Data Professionals: Panel of Spring Workshop Participants

Description: In January-March 2024, the RDAP DEIA Committee had the opportunity to host a racial equity-focused series of workshops led by Sofia Leung and facilitated by Deborah Caldwell. The series of workshops focused on building a sustainable practice of anti-racist principles, as well as building an understanding of inequitable practices that lead to unequal and unjust treatment for staff and library users of color. The goal of providing this professional development opportunity is to build a common, foundational understanding of DEIA concepts that apply to the work of data professionals. Our intent is that this groundwork will support DEIA goals for the RDAP community, such as the development of DEIA core competencies for data professionals. This panel will provide an opportunity for participants in the workshops to share what they have learned and discuss next steps toward these goals for RDAP.

Education and Resources

On January 25, the Education and Resources Committee offered “Assessing Data Services for Methodological inclusiveness”. In this workshop, participants interrogated language around how research data services are promoted to see if the language is intentionally inclusive of a variety of research methodologies and approaches to scholarship at their institutions. This session was facilitated by Jessica Hagman from the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign and Hilary Bussel at Ohio State University Library. If you missed this fantastic opportunity, [the recording](#) can be viewed on our YouTube channel!

A second opportunity is coming soon on February 14, 2024 at 12:00 PM ET (Zoom). In the webinar *Universities@DataCite - Revisited*, Ted Habermann from Metadata Game Changers will be describing DataCite use by Universities, exploring how universities are currently using the Global Research Infrastructure and focusing on connectivity for universities and

university researchers, including results from the DataCite Commons. He will also describe repository re-curation processes and how they might be used to improve this connectivity. Find more information on this free event and [register here](#).

Marketing

Announcements about Summit registration are being sent out! See the RDAP Summit update above for more information about how to register for this year's Summit.

Membership

The Membership Action Committee has several exciting updates for this newsletter. The first is that the RDAP Member Directory is now live! You will see the directory listed under "Get Involved" on the website when you are logged in to your RDAP Association account. [This Guide](#) instructs on how to access and use the Membership Directory, and here is additional information on [how to update your RDAP profile](#).

The second announcement is that nominations are open for [2024 RDAP Member Awards](#). Follow the link to find out more about the two awards ("Volunteer of the Year" and "Work of the Year"), access the nomination forms and review the selection process and timeline.

Lastly, the Membership Committee has two events coming up at the Summit in March. The first will be a New Member/New to RDAP event (4:15-5:15 PM ET on March 12). The second is they are facilitating the Summit Buddy program again this year (see details above in the RDAP Summit update), so don't forget to sign up to participate when you register for the conference!

Publishing

The [RDAP 2023 JeSLIB Special Issue](#) was published in December featuring articles from last year's RDAP Summit. This is the sixth edition of the RDAP JeSLIB special issue! Many thanks to members of the Publishing Committee for acting as guest editors: Alicia Cappello, Jamaica Jones, Marla Hertz, and Tina Griffin. Thanks as well to Sally Gore for acting as our JeSLIB liaison and leading the guest editors in putting together a most excellent publication. A particular highlight was seeing one of the papers (co-authored by Publishing

particular highlight was seeing one of the papers (co-authored by Publishing Committee co-chair Abigail Goben no less) included in the January 6th edition of [Retraction Watch's Weekend Reads!](#)

Sponsorship

No updates at this time.

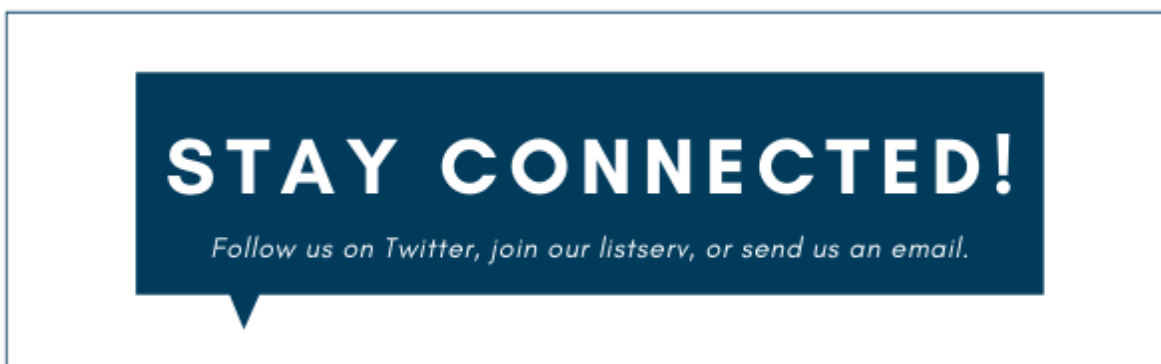
Website

The RDAP Web Committee has started work on redesigning the RDAP website to make it more accessible, intuitive, and useful to members. In late 2023, we launched a tweaked color palette to improve contrast and updated page structures to make them more accessible to screen readers.

The Web Committee is also asking RDAP members for help with a [short card sorting exercise](#) that will inform the site's information architecture, helping make its navigation more intuitive and its content more findable. This short exercise involves organizing virtual "cards," each representing different pages of the RDAP website, into logical categories that represent the website's menu (e.g., About, Membership, etc.).

Please complete this [five-minute](#) Web Usability Study to help improve the RDAP website. Your feedback is invaluable!

Please contact webmaster@rdapassociation.org if you have any questions.



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