RDAP Happenings

Hi RDAP members,

Spring has arrived, and as trees reawaken and green shoots break up barren ground, the promise of renewal permeates the air. This energy is reflected in RDAP's spring activities. The Association welcomed new members, the annual Summit introduced new ideas and connections, and the Town Hall helped us redouble our efforts to support a critical area of data policy. Journal Club was introduced, and the enthusiastic engagement of members hints at its promising future.

This edition of the newsletter is also the first to include a feature article. We hope that it will be of interest to you and that you will consider submitting your own feature article in the future. The strength of RDAP is in the diversity of voices it represents, so we welcome continued participation in Association business by all members, old and new, from any background, at any institution (or none), working with data in a variety of capacities.

RDAP Association updates follow. We are happy to hear from you as well. Contact us at publications@rdapassociation.org with feedback concerning the newsletter or suggestions for what future editions might include.

Updates from the Board

This has been a year of change, growth and enforced flexibility for all of us, and RDAP is no exception. The Executive Board would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has participated in helping keep the RDAP community going through this time, whether by attending journal club, participating in the listserv, joining the organization for the first time (welcome!), attending the Summit, or any of the other various ways we've connected virtually over the past year.

As we wind down the year and prepare for transition to the incoming Board and Action Committee members, we want to point forward to our upcoming Annual Report (which will detail more of what we've accomplished over the past year), and also make space for a pause and collective breath as we acknowledge the amount of work that's gone into keeping things going. RDAP continues to grow and mature as an organization, and its success is due directly to everyone who engages and helps us continue to improve and build on what we've done so far. THANK YOU!

The RDAP Board,

- Jen Darragh (President)
- Jonathan Petters (President-elect)
- Rachel Woodbrook (Secretary)
- Chris Eaker (Treasurer)
- Tobin Magle (Past President)

RDAP Feature Article

Data Feminism

Book Review by Lora Lennertz

Data Feminism engages readers by studying the power of data in all its manifestations – commercial, political, and social. The authors, working in the realm of intersectional feminism, focus on the "who" of data, providing a thorough accounting of the people who gather, analyze, visualize, and publish data. Most importantly, they discuss those individuals and groups who are the objects of study; those whose data stories are told only by those in power, or not at all.

Data Feminism is a fascinating read, weaving contemporary and historical accounts of the journeys of feminism through the realm of data, as well as in general. The book provides food for thought for all readers, including those who are well-versed in the constructs of intersectionality and feminism and those who are not.

As a feminist playbook, *Data Feminism* outlines a course of action for ensuring that data is representative. D'Ignazio and Klein have developed seven principles as a foundation for data feminism: examine power, challenge power, elevate emotion and embodiment, rethink binaries and hierarchies, embrace pluralism, consider context, and make labor visible. Each chapter supports a particular principle, providing a multitude of verbal and visual examples to illustrate the concept. The authors follow their principles by surfacing projects focused on and created by diverse actors.

The authors also question current practices of data science. In one discussion, they take on Edward Tufte and the practice of contemporary visualization. Harkening back to historical visualizations, they argue for visualizations that are emotive and persuasive while debunking the theory that they can be devoid of perspective or bias.

This book reframes old arguments, creates new ones, and empowers its readers. It is open access, with the full text available through PubQ, but it also deserves your library's support. It is available in hardcover through various retailers for about $30 (USD).

D'Ignazio, C., & Klein, L. F. (2020). *Data Feminism*. The MIT Press.https://data-feminism.mitpress.mit.edu/.

Action Committee Updates

Education and Resources

In addition to the workshops at the Summit, the Education committee has been continuing to support and plan more opportunities! Journal Club met once again in March and April. Our last session will be on May 27th. If you're interested in seeing a fall Journal Club, please let us know!

We also hosted a Town Hall on the new NIH Data Management and Sharing Policy on March 15. Thank you again to our panelists Heather Coates, Peg Burnette, Lisa Federer, and Melissa Rethlefsen, for sharing their knowledge and the challenges they foresee as we plan to start implementing the policy; to Shannon Sheridan, for moderating and organizing; and to our nearly 90 synchronous attendees, for your questions and engagement! We're working on a blog post that will capture all the resources that came up in the chat.

We have three upcoming webinars on aspects of equitable hiring, research ethics, and sustainability in data management. Please keep an eye on the listservs and social media for dates and speaker announcements!

If you have any questions about RDAP Education please reach out to Co-Chairs Abigail Goben (agoben@uic.edu) and Jon Wheeler (jwheel01@unm.edu).

Conference Planning

The conference planning committee would like to share the Summit [OSF meeting site](). Visit to view the uploaded Summit presentation materials.

Marketing

The Marketing Committee would like to remind everyone to read the RDAP 2021 Summit scholarship winners' blog posts on the [News section]() of the website. New posts are being added throughout April. They are a great way to relive some of the Summit highlights and gain fresh insights into the content that was presented.

Membership

Join us! There are a few spaces opening up on the Membership Committee soon. This is a fun group that works on member events, determining membership rates and perks, and awards.

We had a great virtual New Members Event before the Summit with games, prizes, and opportunities to learn about RDAP and meet other new members. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped plan this fun event! We hope to develop more programming in the coming year.

If you have ideas about what you would like to see included in your RDAP membership, please get in touch at: membership@rdapassociation.org.

Publishing

The *Journal of eScience Librarianship* (*JeSLIB*) is planning a special issue featuring RDAP content! If you presented your work at RDAP, regardless of format, consider submitting and sharing your work more broadly.

The 2021 Special Issue will focus on RDAP's theme of Radical Change and Data: how data intersects with major forces for societal change, including public health, the environment, and movements for racial equality. In order to promote diversity and inclusion, we encourage submissions from presenters who focus on DEI-related topics or identify as a member of an underrepresented group. You can submit your work in a range of formats, from full-length papers to commentaries to video articles. All full-length and e-Science in Action papers are subject to double-blind peer review, while other article types will be read and reviewed by the guest editors and editor-in-chief.

Manuscript submissions are due May 31, 2021 for publication in the November 2021 special issue. Mentorship is available to support submissions. Please reach out to the guest editors (cjbakker@umn.edu) if you would like to be paired with a mentor, or if you have any questions.

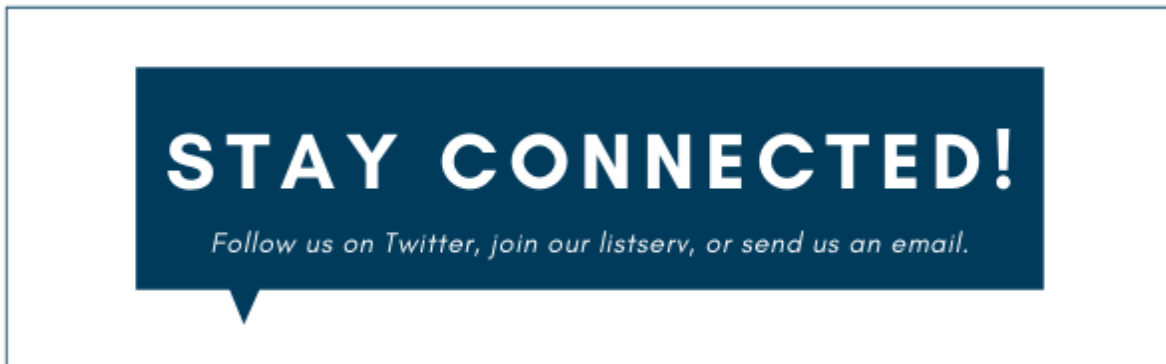Visit the Guidelines for *JeSLIB* authors for more information on manuscript preparation and submission.

Sponsorship

No updates.

Website

We spent last month configuring registration for the Summit on the website/member platform. This involved posting content on the web, coordinating and structuring registration forms, emailing information, facilitating workshop sign-up and communication, and assisting registrants with requests and questions about the registration process.

Next month, we will focus on documenting this workflow and other processes within the web platform. This information will be shared with the RDAP committees so that future Summits and other activities and events can run smoothly.

Visit us!

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