RDAP Happenings

Hi RDAP members,

Welcome to a "new year" for the RDAP community! July is the month when many RDAP committees are welcoming new members and crafting their annual goals. It's an exciting time to be working on our action committees as we decide how to grow our organization over the coming year. Many important changes are taking place, including the transition to a paid membership model. Advocacy is receiving a greater focus as RDAP establishes a procedure to respond to government requests for input on proposed data policies and other opportunities for public comment on data issues. Preparations are already underway for the 2022 RDAP Summit.

At present, all of our documentation and strategic plans can be found on our OSF site. We encourage you to take a look and get involved. Every voice has an impact, and that is especially true now—remember that any of the Action Committees would like to hear from you!

Updates from the Board

As RDAP wraps up another successful year we are ready to share with you the RDAP FY 2021 Annual Report to the Membership. It was certainly a challenging and unusual year. Past President Jen Darragh echoes our thoughts in the introduction: "Despite the hurdles and roadblocks...[we are] proud of how our RDAP community persevered in its mission and values." This report neatly describes both our perseverance and accomplishments, and we look forward to your feedback on it.

July and the end of this year brings changes to the RDAP Executive Board. We must thank Tobin Magle (Past President) and Chris Eaker (Treasurer) for their two years of service to RDAP and all of their time and effort towards making RDAP a sustainable organization, now and in the future. Thanks so much Tobin and Chris!

We also welcome Amy Koshoffer (President-Elect) and Patti Condon (Treasurer) onto the Executive Board. We look forward to their input and enthusiasm as the Executive Board, Action Committees, and the RDAP community as a whole continue to execute our 5-year RDAP Strategic Plan. Welcome Amy and Patti!

As always, the RDAP Executive Board welcomes your input and feedback. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at execboard@rdapassociation.org.

The RDAP Board,

- Jonathan Petters (President)
- Amy Koshoffer (President-elect)
- Rachel Woodbrook (Secretary)
- Patti Condon (Treasurer)
- Jen Darragh (Past President)

RDAP Feature Article

Recap of the Medical Library Association 2021 conference

Kimberly MacKenzie

The Medical Library Association (MLA) held MLA '21 virtually this past May, with a theme of "Transforming our Diversifying Communities". Presentations, panels, and posters spoke to the need to diversify not only the library workforce, but also our teaching methods and skill sets. Here is a sample of the fantastic work related to research and data literacy discussed at the conference.

Peace Ossom-Williams (University of Texas-Arlington), Laura Haygood (University of North Texas), and Hammad Khan (UT-Arlington) presented their work developing the Data Analytics Research Training (DART) Fellowship, targeted towards health librarians working with underrepresented groups in the South Central United States. This experiential learning course was designed to be a mix of in-person and virtual learning, but like so much else, it had to pivot due to COVID-19. The Fellowship was reworked as a self-paced online course, and the majority of the first 24 participants (75%) agreed or strongly agreed that the format worked well and that they improved their data literacy skills. Future work is needed to measure whether learning is as robust in the fully virtual setting.

Three presentations focused on research reproducibility and the role of the data librarian. Lisa Federer (National Library of Medicine) discussed the use of Common Data Elements at the NIH and NLM in order to make sure data is consistent and reusable across studies. Nina Exner (Virginia Commonwealth University) described a course on the importance of research reproducibility designed for MD/PhD students. The course covered a variety of topics, from experimental design to data reporting, all with an eye towards reproducibility. Finally, Peter Oxley and Terrie Wheeler (Weill Cornell Medical School) explained how their library promotes data retention and management through the use of a data catalog. This catalog covers research projects from initial funding to completion and allows for data to be linked to articles and grants, providing easier data governance.

Because the MLA encompasses a wide variety of libraries, from hospitals to research universities to the National Library of Medicine, the conference is a wonderful way to learn about various approaches to research and data management. I, for one, plan to "borrow" many of the new ideas presented for my own library!

References

Exner, N. (2021). Co-Instructing in a Course on Rigor, Reproducibility, and Transparency. Paper presented at the Medical Library Association 2021 Annual

Meeting.

Federer, L. (2021). Enhancing Biomedical Research Using Common Data Elements: Roles for Librarians. Paper presented at the Medical Library Association 2021 Annual Meeting.

Ossom Williamson, P., Khan, H., and Haygood, L.N. (2021). Facilitating Data Literacy: Evaluation of the Data Analytics Research Training (DART) Course. Paper presented at the Medical Library Association 2021 Annual Meeting.

Oxley, P.R. and Wheeler, T.R. (2021). Enhancing Research Reproducibility through Integrated Data Retention: Using the Library Data Catalog as the Hub for Data Management. Paper presented at the Medical Library Association 2021 Annual Meeting.

RDAP Summit Updates

Save the date for the Research Data Access and Preservation (RDAP) Summit, which will be held virtually the week of March 14, 2022.

The theme of the upcoming summit is Envisioning an Inclusive Data Future. We encourage attendees to consider ideas they have for new services, plans to build upon past successes, and strategies to reconstruct the old to create something new.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our workshop timing survey. 37% of respondents voted for workshops "spread out in the weeks before and after the conference with one workshop per day", 31% voted for workshops "the day before the conference", 29% voted for workshops "the day after the conference", and the remainder voted to have workshops both the day before and day after the conference.

Stay tuned for the call for proposals coming in October!

Action Committee Updates

Education and Resources

No updates at this time.

Marketing

The Marketing Committee is featuring RDAP members in our Member Highlights posts! Please consider sharing some information about yourself and your experience with RDAP, so that we can get to know you better (your image is optional). For more information, or to volunteer to be featured, please email marketing@rdapassociation.org.

Membership

The RDAP Membership Committee reminds you all to send in your response to the membership tier form if you haven't already. Keep your eyes open for your membership renewal notices which will be sent out beginning August 1st. Thank you for your continued membership! We appreciate your patience and understanding as we transition to a paid membership model to sustain RDAP into the future.

Publishing

Do you have an interesting project that you would like to share with the RDAP community? Is there a useful resource or service that others might benefit from knowing about? Have you participated in a training event and would like to share your experience? Then consider writing a Feature Article for the newsletter! The Publishing Committee accepts submissions on a rolling basis. See the Call for Submissions to learn more and access the link to the submission form.
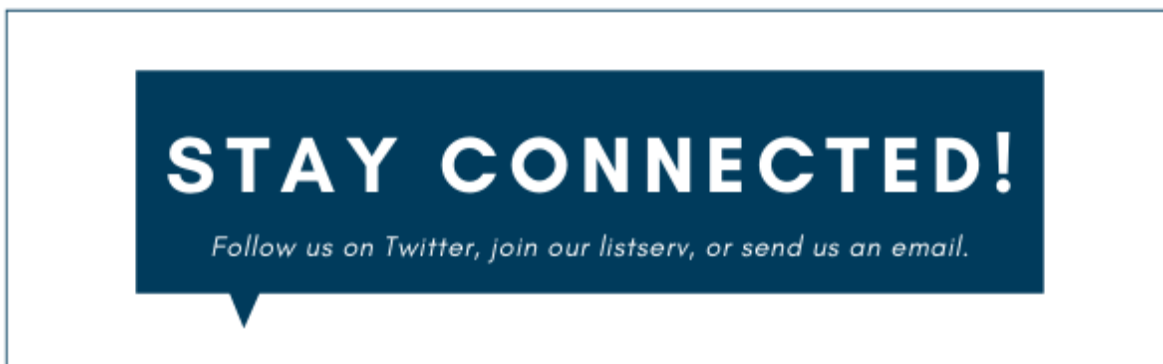
Sponsorship

No updates at this time.

Website

As new members and chairs are starting terms across all of the RDAP action

committees, the Web Committee is working to update administrative access to our web platform and member management system, and update all action committee information across the website. These updates are happening alongside the addition of more information to our site about RDAP action committees and task forces.

The 2021 Summit is behind us, and the new 2022 Summit landing page is now live.

Another new page on the website provides information on how to request Advocacy Responses from RDAP. It can also be found under "Contact" on the main RDAP Association page.

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