RDAP Future Vision Task Force Report

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History

RDAP has grown and developed since its first conference in 2010. As RDAP matures, questions have arisen regarding the optimum structure to support this community of research data professionals. This has required assessment and articulation of our organizational identity and strategic directions. After extensive discussion among the RDAP 2017 Planning Committee, the RDAP Future Vision Task Force was convened in December 2016 to examine RDAP's mission, the role the organization serves in the community, and to conduct a preliminary scan of similar organizations. This work was undertaken with the purpose of having a clear definition of the community to determine potential future growth. The Task Force administered a survey of member needs and presented those results, along with an updated and community vetted mission statement, at the RDAP 2017 conference.[1]

The RDAP Future Vision Task Force was reconvened in the fall of 2017 to extend this initial work by reviewing organizational alignments suggested by the community, researching possible independent models, and composing a list of recommendations for the future direction of RDAP. This report is the result of the Task Force's efforts.

Recommendations

The RDAP Future Vision Task Force makes two recommendations for the RDAP community:
   1. **RDAP should separate from the Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T)**
   2. **RDAP should become an independent professional association[2] with a solid governance structure**

The decision to separate from ASIS&T was motivated by several factors. First, RDAP has grown into a focused community that no longer aligns with ASIS&T's focus. Second, RDAP needs its own governance structure to provide greater autonomy, reduce burden on conference chairs, and better meet the needs of the RDAP community. Third, transitions within ASIS&T have amplified existing challenges of operating within the larger ASIS&T structure.

By becoming an independent professional association, RDAP can continue serving its community while expanding its scope. A professional association can offer publishing venues, service opportunities, educational programs, and training, potentially in partnership with library schools. It can also engage in

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[1] Johns, E. M., Van Tuyl, S., Johnson, A., Bakker, C., O'Donnell, M. N., Shorish, Y., … Briney, K. (2017, April 19). RDAP: Where do we belong? Retrieved from osf.io/27j9x

[2] "Professionals have formal, structured organizations made up of practicing members of the profession.... Professional associations have mission statement,s bylaws, officers, committees, meetings, and publications, and they sponsor a variety of programs that support the profession."

McKnight, M. (2010). Librarianship as a profession. In *The agile librarian's guide to thriving in any institution* (pp.5-11). Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited.

advocacy, issue white papers, and establish working groups with the aim of improving data practices and policies. Additionally, RDAP could act as an umbrella for existing ad hoc efforts in order to unify the research data community.

Task Force Decision Process

In determining its recommendations, the Future Vision Task Force considered many paths for RDAP's future, including a "new and improved" partnership with ASIS&T. Midway through the process, it became clear to the Task Force members that RDAP needed to reconsider the option of a continued relationship with ASIS&T going forward. The evaluation of this relationship was based on conversations with past conference chairs, examination of conference budgets, the development of a potential MOU, ASIS&T's relationship with its other conferences, and a review of the benefits for both ASIS&T and RDAP in continuing their relationship. **The Task Force members unanimously agreed that separating is in the best interest of the RDAP community**.

In separating from ASIS&T, the Future Vision Task Force saw two possible options for the future of the RDAP community: 1. aligning with an existing professional organization; or 2. becoming an independent professional association. To facilitate this decision-making process, the Task Force conducted research on organizations to potentially align with or independent organizations to model ourselves after. This research is available in Appendix B, with groups split between potential "Alignment" organizations and "Model" organizations. The "Alignment" organizations were considered as potential partners, while the "Model" organizations were those whose structure and governance may provide guidance in RDAP's independent development.

The members of the Future Vision Task Force seriously considered aligning with existing professional organizations. Two major concerns arose: 1) RDAP's identity would be subsumed within the larger organization, and 2) that the other organization would not have the resources to support RDAP in addition to its existing activities. The most likely organization for alignment was the International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology (IASSIST), which is a group historically rooted in international support for social science data. RDAP, on the other hand, represents discipline-agnostic, North American data practitioners. The two groups' memberships and missions often overlap and early conversations between RDAP 2017 Summit Chairs and IASSIST Executive Committee members indicated a desire to complement one another and coordinate future work. However, the Task Force decided that it is critical to keep supporting RDAP's unique and interdisciplinary community and to offer annual, non-international conferences, which would be more accessible to its members.

RDAP's ability to operate effectively is limited by its lack of a formal governance structure. Becoming an independent professional association enables the organization to become both a stronger community and a resource for research data professionals. This transition represents a huge leap for the RDAP community, but also creates an abundance of opportunities. As research data support matures, data practitioners need a professional association to set standards, advocate for advancements, and help deliver the most up-to-date research and best practices to its members. Our community needs a strong

professional association and RDAP has outgrown its existing structure; both of these problems can be solved by **RDAP becoming an independent professional association with a solid governance structure.**

Suggested Next Steps

If the community agrees with the Task Force's recommendations, actions need to be taken to transform RDAP into an independent professional association. The Task Force has conducted preliminary research on a number of activities that may be undertaken by RDAP's first governance board. Some of these are included in the appendices.

The Task Force envisions RDAP having an elected governing board. This Board will do the following: codify the organizational structure; determine the association's legal status, likely a 501(c)(3)[3]; and set the trajectory of the new association. To allow for greater focus on transitioning to an independent association, the Task Force recommends a university-hosted conference in 2019 and contracting conference planning support to a management company, both in 2019 and moving forward.

The Task Force calls for its recommendations to be put to a vote, with a voting period of March 22-30, 2018 . In addition, Executive Board elections will be held, following the ACRL nomination process as a model, and coordinated by Yasmeen Shorish and Andrew Johnson. The structure and membership of the Executive Board will be formed upon the acceptance of the recommendations. Past conference chairs and the current chair of the Task Force should be considered for roles within this structure. The Executive Board will coordinate solicitation of volunteers for various Action Committees. More detail on this structure is included in Appendices D and E.

Appendices

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[3] A charitable or non-profit organization given tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the United States International Revenue Code

Appendix A: [4]

RDAP Mission

RDAP (Research Data Access & Preservation) supports an engaged community of information professionals committed to creating, maintaining, advancing, and teaching best practices for research data, access, and preservation.

RDAP Community

The RDAP community brings together a variety of individuals, including data managers and curators, librarians, archivists, researchers, educators, students, technologists, and data scientists from academic institutions, data centers, funding agencies, and industry who represent a wide range of STEM disciplines, social sciences, and humanities.

Annual RDAP Summit

The Summit provides a venue for reaching across disciplines, institutions, and organizations to learn about common solutions to issues surrounding research data management. Attendees of the summit have multiple opportunities to expand professional networks and acquire practical knowledge and skills that can be applied to their own work and projects.

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[4] Mission/Community/Summit updated statements based on feedback from RDAP community (survey 1)

Appendix B: RDAP Future Vision Task Force Alignment Research

[Alignment] Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)

Organization	CODATA
Type	Alignment
Mission	The CODATA Strategic Plan 2015 and Prospectus of Strategy and Achievement 2016 identify three priority areas: 1. Promoting principles, policies and practices for Open Data and Open Science. 2. Advancing the frontiers of data science. 3. Building capacity for Open Science by improving data skills and the functions of national science systems needed to support open data.
[Alignment] What RDAP brings to the organization	Integration with the US librarian community.
[Alignment] What the organization brings to RDAP	A broader audience and more exposure to international issues and standards work
[Alignment] Possible role within the organization	Possibly a working group, such as the 'School of Research Data Science' group.
Governance structure	CODATA governance includes: an elected officers and executive committee; a general assembly is held every two years with members represented by a delegate; and work is achieved via standing committees, task groups, and working groups.
Membership model	Subscription dues from organizations (separated into national, regional, union, affiliate, and co-opted).
Conference administration	[unclear]
Activities supported	CODATA supports the Data Science Journal and collaborates on major data conferences like SciDataCon and International Data Week. Additionally, they support webinars, grants, and fundraising.
Benefit	CODATA has a broad international reach.
Risk	CODATA is very science focused and possibly too broad for a primarily US audience; RDAP could get lost in the mix.

[Alignment] Digital Library Federation (DLF)

Organization	**DLF**
Type	**Alignment**
Mission	The Digital Library Federation is a robust, diverse, and inclusive community of practitioners who advance research, learning, social justice, and the public good through the creative design and wise application of digital library technologies.
[Alignment] What RDAP brings to the organization	More concrete attention to research data management.
[Alignment] What the organization brings to RDAP	A holistic treatment of digital libraries.
[Alignment] Possible role within the organization	DLF would serve as a fiscal host.
Governance structure	DLF is overseen by CLIR and an advisory board. RDAP would be a sub-organization with its own leadership.
Membership model	Institutional membership.
Conference administration	DLF administers several conferences (Taiga, NDSA, IIIF) that are collocated and could add RDAP to this list. Alternatively, RDAP could take advantage of DLF's conference planning service for an independently held conference. Either way, RDAP would pay a fee for accounting and would need to buy event insurance.
Activities supported	DLF would act more as a fiscal host than running particular activities.
Benefit	There are existing models with Taiga, NDSA, and IIIF. For IIIF, DLF takes care of accounting, staffing, but most of the logistic work falls on IIIF.
Risk	DLF may already be over-extended with their sub-organizations, meaning there would be limited bandwidth to manage RDAP concerns. There are concerns about DLF capacity and the ability to break even.

[Alignment] International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology (IASSIST)

Organization	IASSIST
Type	**Alignment**
Mission	IASSIST (International Association for Social Science Information Services and Technology) is an international organization of professionals working with information technology and data services to support research and teaching in the social sciences.
[Alignment] What RDAP brings to the organization	RDAP would add more North American data-support librarians, who represent the largest membership subgroup within IASSIST. RDAP would also bring expertise in supporting data use in education and in research, which are topics consistently covered at IASSIST conferences.
[Alignment] What the organization brings to RDAP	IASSIST would bring members from other areas such as government agencies, non-librarian data-support professionals in academia, data archivists, and data programmers.
[Alignment] Possible role within the organization	It's unclear whether RDAP itself would be totally absorbed or if it would be an interest group that would focus on librarians doing data support. Interest groups are easy to create and sustain.
Governance structure	The Administrative Committee is the executive body of IASSIST. It implements policies, develops future directions, and coordinates activities for the organization. Representation is managed via elections for regional secretary roles. The Administrative Committee meets at least quarterly. IASSIST also has action groups for specific tasks and interest groups for specific subjects.
Membership model	Individuals pay $50 per year.
Conference administration	The conference is run by sub-committees, with the business aspects sometimes outsourced.
Activities supported	It's easy to create an action or interest group. The membership committee & web committee are working to support IASSIST-member delivered webinars. There are also annual conferences in the US every other year & in Canada or Europe every 4th year.
Benefit	The organizational focus aligns well with RDAP. IASSIST has a strong governance model with avenues for representation. The current leadership is open to expansion and further development; this is likely to be true for at least the next 5 years.
Risk	The historical dominance of social science data may be distracting from other data-support areas. It has been increasingly difficult to find willing conference hosts.

[Alignment] Research Data Alliance (RDA)

Organization	Research Data Alliance
Type	Alignment
Mission	International (129 countries represented) community-driven organization with the goal of building the social and technical infrastructure to enable open sharing of data.
[Alignment] What RDAP brings to the organization	RDAP would bring an important librarian perspective to RDA.
[Alignment] What the organization brings to RDAP	International outreach to promote conference and webinars.
[Alignment] Possible role within the organization	A few scenarios exist: • Become an interest group within RDA, though many SIG exist that cover the scope of RDAP. • Be a member organization, i.e. MIT libraries. • Be an affiliated organization with no voting power, i.e WDS. • Be a promoted event, though who the host organization is remains a question.
Governance structure	RDA is made up a Council and many special interest groups (SIG) and working groups (WG).
Membership model	People can join as individual members or as part of an organization.
Conference administration	RDA holds a plenary meeting and conference once a year in the Fall. The venues are international cycling through NA, Europe and "other" on a three-year timeframe. The conference size is 500 (a subset of 6000 active members worldwide). The conference has WG and SIG meeting which have virtual components, as well as the individual group meetings on more regular basis (monthly/quarterly).
Activities supported	Data-related organizational activities are promoted through RDA. RDA also has archived training webinars.
Benefit	RDAP could gain long term sustainability and help stimulate in-depth thinking about global solutions for local issues. RDA as an organization is go-to space for publishers and domain repositories to discuss policies about data and persistent identifiers. RDA has a need for the librarian perspective at its meetings.
Risk	The RDAP identity might would be lost within the larger group. RDA also has a more international focus, with conference venues outside of North America.

[Model] Code4Lib

Organization	**Code4Lib**
Type	**Model**
Mission	Code4Lib a volunteer-driven collective of hackers, designers, architects, curators, catalogers, artists and instigators from around the world, who largely work for and with libraries, archives and museums on technology "stuff."
[Model] How model might apply to RDAP	Applying this model would result in an independent RDAP acting more as a community than a SIG, association, or other organization. As a community, we would be focused on communication channels for the community, annual conference, and support for regional conferences.
Governance structure	Code4Lib has a loose governance structure focused on organizing conference(s). Responsibilities for things like the website and communication channels are haphazardly assigned to responsible parties.
Membership model	No membership. Activities are either sponsored by institutions (e.g. website) or driven by registration and sponsors (e.g. conference).
Conference administration	Conferences are organized by an institution or set of institutions representing the conference location. On occasion, conference organization has been entirely or partially contracted out to other bodies (e.g. DLF) for the detail work of conference setup. Conference locations are defined a year prior to the event by a bid process, with bids voted on by the community.
Activities supported	Code4Lib offers a website, job board, slack channels, and journal.
Benefit	This model represents total independence.
Risk	This model represents a huge increase in the amount of work required to make RDAP Summit happen every year. Also, the current C4L governance model may be less than ideal, so RDAP would be advised to explore other governance structures.

[Model] Ecological Society of America (ESA)

Organization	Ecological Society of America (ESA)
Type	**Model**
Mission	ESA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of scientists founded in 1915 to promote ecological science by improving communication among ecologists; raise the public's level of awareness of the importance of ecological science; increase the resources available for the conduct of ecological science; and ensure the appropriate use of ecological science in environmental decision making by enhancing communication between the ecological community and policy-makers.
[Model] How model might apply to RDAP	ESA represents a professional society model. They have over 10,000 members, publications (from peer-reviewed journals to newsletters, fact sheets and teaching resources), and they host annual conferences.
Governance structure	Governing Board-Council structure. The Governing Board consists of the President, the President-elect, the Past President, four Vice Presidents, the Secretary and three members-at-large. The Council consists of the members of the Governing Board plus the Chairs of the Sections and Chapters, Chairs of standing committees and the Chair of the Board of Professional Certification. Sections are organized to promote the various special interests of the Membership. Chapters are organized on a regional basis.
Membership model	The membership of this Society consists of persons and institutions. There are five classes of members including Regular members, Student members, Life members, Emeritus members, and Institutional members.
Conference administration	ESA staff/officers are responsible for exhibits, ads, sponsorships, the session proposal/abstracts/presentations online management system, housing, section/chapter business meetings, social events, session room logistics, membership and website. The Program Committee is responsible for the content of the conference; Program Committee members are professors and/or scientists from different universities.
Activities supported	ESA has many publications, such as journals and teaching resources. They also have pathways for vendor support, such as exhibiting, sponsorships, and advertising.
Benefit	Independent organization with wide scope.
Risk	This model may be too much work on our own. It may isolate librarians and lose RDAP's broad audience (e.g. data scientists, IT people, researchers who care about data management).

[Model] FORCE11

Organization	Force 11
Type	**Model**
Mission	The mission of FORCE11 is to improve research practices by supporting innovations in the ways knowledge is created and shared across research disciplines, communities, sectors and timeframes. It sees itself as a space for stakeholders of all kinds to discuss and solve common issues pertaining to scholarly communication and sharing knowledge more generally.
[Model] How model might apply to RDAP	Force11 is a standalone, volunteer based organization and is run on a membership model.
Governance structure	Force11 is governed by a Board of Directors, which includes a President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary, 7 Directors and 13 member advisory board. It's unclear if they have staff but it doesn't appear to.
Membership model	Membership is tiered and consists of 4 levels: ● Sustaining Member ($208 per year) ● Supporting Member ($104 per year) ● Contributing Member ($52 per year) ● Member (time and effort contribution) Members and sponsors of Force11 include commercial and non-profit publishers, libraries, scholarly societies, universities, other private and public sector organizations, and individual researchers, librarians, publishing professionals, and corporate and public sector managers.
Conference administration	Conference committee driven by an Organizing Committee and four subcommittees.
Activities supported	Force11 has been very active and produced a great number of publications, events and resources through its working groups and membership, too many to list here.
Benefit	Force11 is a very lean organization with low administrative overhead. It has a core group of dedicated people invested in the mission of the group and a fairly dependable and known budget.
Risk	The data librarian community is not a large or a wealthy one and so it's unclear how much membership money could be obtained and it's not clear if it would be sufficient to support RDAP. This model would require a lot of dedicated volunteers to pull off.

[Model] Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP)

Organization	The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing
Type	**Model**
Mission	SHARP is an international, non-profit organization "serving as a global network for the promotion and teaching of book history," which they define as "the interdisciplinary study of the composition, mediation, reception, survival, and transformation of written communication in material forms, from the ancient world to the present day."
[Model] How model might apply to RDAP	SHARP hosts one large annual conference and through a regional liaison model also sponsors smaller conferences throughout the year. They maintain an active listserv and publish both a quarterly newsletter and an annual journal. Although originally started as a conference, which still seems to be a major focus, they've done an admirable job of broadening that role into being a community.
Governance structure	Governed by a Board of Directors (12-15 members) and an Executive Council (10 members, plus one ex-officio) that appoint committees and task forces as necessary. The Board advises and oversees the work of the Executive Council that oversees the operations of the Society. Every current SHARP member is eligible to run for election.
Membership model	Individual membership at $62/year, although there are discounts for non-OECD country membership, students, and retirees. The overall range is between $22 and $125 (for a sustaining member). In 2015-2016, they had slightly less than 1000 members, about 80% of whom were full members. Total income is approximately 50K per year. Membership dues are collected by Johns Hopkins UP, who deduct a service fee and costs for publishing.
Conference administration	Through multiple committees. The Executive Council will appoint a Conference Chair, who will assemble the Local Arrangement Committee (subject to general oversight from the Executive). This group will select the venue and the host organization. The Local Arrangements Committee and host organization are responsible for profits or losses from the conference. The Executive Council will also appoint a Program Committee, which will choose its own chair.
Activities supported	Opportunities for elected office/committee work. SHARP also publishes books.
Benefit	SHARP has existences since the early 1990s and appears to be largely self-contained. Between 2006 and 2010, it underwent significant change, including adopting a new constitution to reflect the growth of the organization.
Risk	Need to acquire non-profit status (501(c)). The Local Arrangements Committee/Host Organization is responsible for losses.

[Model] USAIN

Organization	USAIN
Type	Model
Mission	The mission of USAIN is to provide a forum for discussion of food and agricultural issues; to take a leadership role in the formation of a national information policy as related to food and agriculture; to support the National Agricultural Library (NAL) on food and agricultural information matters; to promote cooperation and communication among its members, and with other organizations and individuals.
[Model] How model might apply to RDAP	USAIN is a professional organization. It's primarily a conference is the primary thing but is trying to do more with professional development. USAIN also has interest groups who have some activity during interim period and a variety of other committees.
Governance structure	The Executive Council consists of 12 Councilors, eleven elected and one ex officio. Positions include the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the most recent Past President, and six nominated and elected Directors. The ex-officio Councilor is a representative of the National Agricultural Library and is a non-voting member of the Council. The Council meets at least once annually. USAIN is a 501 c3 registered entity (not-for-profit).
Membership model	USAIN has institutional members, which includes two individual memberships. Individuals can pay a personal membership fee of around $35.
Conference administration	For the conference, the hosting institution is given an amount of money to work with up front. The institution handles the registration every year and must use their own conference services.
Activities supported	USAIN has recognized committee work and working groups for documentation.
Benefit	This model would let RDAP establish independence and grow into who we want to be.
Risk	Going solo and the risks associated with acquiring and maintaining the 501c.

[Model] Visual Resources Association (VRA)

Organization	**Visual Resources Association**
Type	**Model**
Mission	The Visual Resources Association (VRA) is a multi-disciplinary organization dedicated to furthering research and education in the field of image and media management within the educational, cultural heritage, and commercial environments.
[Model] How model might apply to RDAP	In following this model we would be an independent "multi-disciplinary" organization with a diverse membership body including technologists, librarians, archivists, format (data type?) specialists, and other professionals including publishers, vendors, and practitioners. VRA also has formal relationship with affiliated and related organizations with appointed representation within those groups and seeks reciprocal benefits with affiliated organizations whenever possible.
Governance structure	Operates under Constitution and Bylaws with: ● An Executive Board ● Regional Chapters ● Committees ● Foundation with its own separate governance and mission ● Appointees
Membership model	VRA is a multi-disciplinary organization. It has an annual membership/subscription year with two main category types: Full and Subscription. Full Membership (individual, new member, unemployed, student, retired, and institutional) entitles all benefits of the Association, including VRA Bulletin and VRA-L listserv subscriptions. Subscription-only membership entitles receipt of specific publication or service purchased and does not include any other membership benefits.
Conference administration	Conference administration involves two vice presidents (Arrangements and Program). The Vice President for Conference Arrangements negotiates all on-site, coordinates all local arrangements, and works with the Local Arrangements Committee. The Vice President for Conference Program coordinates the entire program of sessions, seminars, and workshops.
Activities supported	Committees and bulletin.
Benefit	The VRA model has distributed roles, accountability, professional focus, and clarity of mission.
Risk	This model has greater bureaucracy and management structure, will be difficult to jump into from our current structure and purpose, and has more direct costs.

Appendix C: Suggested Timeline

March 21-23, 2018: RDAP Conference

March 22-30, 2018: GOOGLE FORM

- Voting for future of RDAP (we need at least 25% participation from community (based off conference registration)
- Nomination of Executive Board
- Volunteer for Action Committees

Early April 2018: Governing Board Established

Early April 2018: Move forward towards independence or continue relationship with ASIS&T

Appendix D: Draft Governance Structure

Create a governance structure to enable efficient operations. We have only had a conference planning committee each year, which has several subcommittees, but hands off leadership annually. This creates a inconsistency from year to year (which we like in terms of conference planning, but is difficult in terms of passing along institutional knowledge), and places unnecessary burdens on the previous conference planning chairs and the new chairs. The goal would be to have a governance board that can provide more continuity by filling longer service positions (with succession planning) to aid in the transitions of conference planning and subsequent committees. In addition, the governance board would address the larger goals of RDAP and close the gaps of communication with the larger community. We also want to provide professional development opportunities for our community in the form of national participation and leadership opportunities.

Suggested Governance structure
- Executive Board:elected terms for all members except chairs of action committees (these are volunteer positions)
- Committee Activities
  - Strategic planning
  - Policy development/implementation
  - Advocacy: Liaise with funders and journals on DMP requirements and data sharing policies
  - Coordinate mentorship and scholarship program: students and new librarians
  - Unite interested, defacto communities such as Datacure, Slack, small defacto communities that are bootstrapping (ex: MDLS), OSF conference proceedings. Entities may maintain independent identity, but could come under RDAP umbrella for online presence and community outreach. Build relations with other data organizations like RDA and IASSIST, cross-pollinate
  - Committee members:
    - President
    - Vice-President
    - Treasurer
      - Manage non-profit status (coordinate audits every 3 years)
      - Communicate with conference/membership vendor on budgets and annual membership fee (if we go in this direction)
    - Secretary
      - Coordinate meetings + meeting minutes
    - Past President
    - Chairs of Action Committees
      - Sponsorship
      - Conference Planning
      - Publishing
    - Marketing

- Education
- Assessment

- Action Committees
  - Conference Planning
    - Select venue/city
    - Programming
    - Best poster award
    - OSF meeting
    - Liaison with conference vendor
  - Sponsorship
    - Keep conference at $190 early bird
    - Scholarships
    - Grants for Research
    - Formal relationship with affiliated organizations (like OSF, sponsorship you can count on?)
  - Publishing
    - Coordination of curated conference proceedings for JeSLIB
    - Quarterly newsletter: regina suggests eScholarship@UMMS
      - Interface with Regional Chapters: could report out in newsletters. Ex: data rescue, grants, conferences (form of outreach
    - Books? Could provide us royalties- could be done by university press who collects service fee and costs for publishing: amy suggests https://www.google.com/url?q=http://ucincinnatipress.uc.edu/&sa=D&ust=151 6726534186000&usg=AFQjCNEk0zDvr4p4-7Zjh12e10CHcZsEiA
  - Marketing
    - Twitter
    - Website
      - Archived webinars
      - Link to OSF
      - Grants and funding for R&D
      - squarespace, build new website; we can pay the annual hosting fee from conference funding. Use our site to host webinars, semi-annual meet ups, redirect to datacure google group, connection to our OSF (can we use this for our OER?)
  - Education & Resources
    - Resources
      - Bring datacure under RDAP
      - Job board
    - Best practices: purdue
    - Training
  - Working groups (18 month turnaround = professional development, deliverable (reports, surveys, recommendations)

Appendix E: Executive Board Roles

RDAP President (2 years, inclusive of PP)
1. Serves as an officer of the section and assists in advancing the goals and objectives of the organization

2. Chairs all business meetings at annual summit.

3. Establishes or dissolves action committees with the approval of the Executive Board.

4. Schedules all of the section's committee meetings.

5. Signs off on reports that will be submitted to the Community.

6. Responds to inquiries from members and non-members regarding interests and activities.

7. Fills committee vacancies during term in office.

8. Conducts all meetings in accordance with Code of Conduct

RDAP Vice-President/President-Elect (3 years; inclusive of VP, President, PP)
1. Serves as an officer of the section and assists in advancing the goals and objectives of the organization.

2. As a voting member of the Executive Board, attends the business meetings at the Summit.

3. Appoints a Nominating Committee that is responsible for producing a slate of candidates for section office. The Past-President will serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee, and recommends members to the President to appoint to the Committee. The Vice-President may not be a member of the Nominating Committee.

4. If a program is planned, a Conference Program Planning Committee and chair should be appointed that is responsible for planning the program. May serve as a member of the committee.

5. Responds to inquiries from members and non-members regarding RDAP interests and activities.

RDAP Past-President (PP, 1 year)
1. Serves as an officer of the section and assists in advancing the goals and objectives of the organization.

2. Serves as a voting member of the Executive Board; attends meetings of the Committee as available.

3. Chairs the Nominating Committee beginning in the year of their term as past-chair.

4. Other tasks as assigned by the Executive Board.

RDAP Secretary (1 year)

1. Serves as an officer of the section and assists in advancing the goals and objectives of the organization.

3. As a voting member of the Executive Board, attends and takes minutes at Executive Board meetings year round, including those during Summit.

4. Reminds action committee chairs to send copies of any reports for inclusion in the Executive Board meeting minutes.

5. Takes the minutes for each meeting.

6. Distributes Executive Board meeting minutes to RDAP email list and any other interested persons requesting them.

RDAP Treasurer (2 years)

1. Serves as an officer of the section and assists in advancing the goals and objectives of the organization.

2. As a voting member of the Executive Board, attends meetings of

3. Manage non-profit status (coordinate audits every 3 years)

4. Communicate with conference/membership vendor on budgets and annual membership fee of $25 (would give us $5000 if we had 200 members)

5. Meets deadlines for requests for payment and reimbursement, according to the budget submitted.

Appendice F: Publishing with JeSLIB *March 9, 2018*

Proposed Partnership: *Journal of eScience Librarianship* (JeSLIB) and Research Data Access and Preservation (RDAP)

<u>Background and RDAP Summit 2018 Special Issue</u>
In October 2016, the editor of JeSLIB approached the chairs of RDAP Summit 2017 proposing that RDAP and JeSLIB collaborate in the publishing of content generated from the conference. While this collaboration did not happen in 2017, it will move forward with RDAP Summit 2018. For the 2018 Summit, the JeSLIB editors, working with members of the RDAP conference committee, will review the presentations, lightning talks, and posters and invite selected participants to submit to JeSLIB for an RDAP Special Issue. JeSLIB will also invite first time and early career professionals attending the Summit to submit Commentaries about their experiences. JeSLIB will link to the RDAP Summit Open Science Framework (OSF) page.

<u>JeSLIB and RDAP Partnership: Moving Forward</u>
JeSLIB's Editor has been involved with the RDAP Future Vision initiative and task force and has proposed the following partnership: JeSLIB as RDAP Summit's Proceedings Home.
- JeSLIB provides an archive for the RDAP Summit Annual Proceedings
- JeSLIB could ingest all or selected digital content, such as presentations, posters, lightning talks, invited papers, session summaries, etc.
- RDAP existing content would continue to live in OSF, but JeSLIB could ingest into https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/jeslib (JeSLIB's platform)
- JeSLIB's Distribution Editor would look for assistance from RDAP to make the necessary metadata available from OSF for batch ingest into JeSLIB's platform
- JeSLIB's platform could possibly be used as a proposal submission platform for future Summits
- The proceedings would be a separate issue, similar to a special issue; RDAP's conference committee and/or governance could provide introductory articles/editorials for future annual Summits and proceedings
- One member from the RDAP governance would sit on JeSLIB Editorial Board
- One of JeSLIB's editors would sit on the RDAP governance group and Summit committee
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be developed and signed by JeSLIB and RDAP governance

Appendix G: RDAP Mission and Direction (first community survey by FVTF)

Q1 Are you satisfied with the RDAP mission, community, and annual summit statements as written below?

Mission
RDAP (Research Data Access & Preservation) is an open and engaged community committed to supporting and advancing best practices for research data.

Community
The RDAP community brings together a variety of individuals, including data managers and curators, librarians, researchers, educators, students, technologists, and data scientists from academic institutions, data centers, funding agencies, and industry who represent a wide range of disciplines from the life sciences, physical sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

Annual RDAP Summit
The Summit provides a venue for reaching across disciplines and institutions to work on common solutions to issues surrounding research data management. Attendees of the summit have multiple opportunities to expand professional networks and acquire practical knowledge and skills that can be applied to their own work and projects.

Are you satisfied with the RDAP mission, community, and annual summit statements?

61%
Yes, I'm satisfied. It's perfect, right on.

■ Yes, I'm satisfied. It's perfect, right on. (61%)   ■ No, it's too narrow. (8%)

■ No, it's too broad. (6%)   ■ No, it's inaccurate. (3%)

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes, I'm satisfied. It's perfect, right on.	60.94%	39
2	No, it's too narrow.	7.81%	5
3	No, it's too broad.	6.25%	4
4	No, it's inaccurate.	3.13%	2
5	Other	21.88%	14
	Total	100%	64

Q2 - Explain how.

Explain your satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the statements. - **No, it's too narrow.**

Explain how.

Last few RDAPs have been heavily focused on Data Management and liaisons.

usually academic libraries only

Would be useful if representation both in attendees and presentations would also include those outside the library.

The mission statement is slightly narrow. RDAP is the place to share experience on data management and opens up to opportunities for collaboration on solving research data managment issues.

more digital humanities!

Explain your satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the statements. - **No, it's too broad.**

Explain how.

In the mission statement, it says "supporting and advancing best practices for research data". It seems a bit too broad. How about "research data management, access, and preservation"?

There are many organizations that help support and advance "best practices for research data." This group is associated with data management, curation and preservation and really should state that in the mission.

It seems to me that the last phrase "best practices for research data" is too broad...it is the management of the data that is the RDAP focus (e.g., not so much the actual data collection motivation and technique).

The mission is problematic for me. What does open community look like? There are membership dues, yes? That to me is not open. Engaged makes sense in describing the community but should the words "information professional" be somewhere in the title. I am purposefully not suggesting the addition of the word librarians as that is too narrow and would probably scare away many potential members who are not in our profession. Here is a possible updated statement. RDAP is an engaged community of information professionals committed to support, creating, advancing, and instructing on best practices for research data.

Explain your satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the statements. - **No, it's inaccurate.**

Explain how.

I think these are fine aside from the annual summit statement. The annual summit statement reads as if the summit is spent actively *working* on RDM issues (like a hackathon for example) rather than *learning* about potential solutions that could then be put into practice.

I like the breadth of the missing and community statement, but I don't think we succeed at reaching beyond our library profession. And maybe that's ok.

Explain your satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the statements. - **Other**

Explain how.

It's fine but it's unclear how it's different from other groups that work in this area (e.g. RDA, IDCC)

I like it all. Related to the Community Statement, I'm wondering if the inclusion of folks like students, people from funding agencies, industry, etc. is aspirational. If so, that's great. I just wonder if there is a plan to achieve achieve that goal.

I like the mission, community and annual summit statements, but they just need a little tweaking. For example under 'Community' I'd like to see us use STEM. so it could read something like: "...and industry who represent a wide range of STEM disciplines, social sciences, and humanities." Also is the phrase "research data management" too focused, should it be just "research data".

If RDAP have any geographic focus (e.g., Unites States, North America, international), it'd be helpful to mention it in the above statements.

Yes, I'm satisfied. It's pretty darn close.

The community has become mostly librarians, though I know other data enthusiasts are welcome. The mission seems broad, while the summit description seems narrow.

Really should include the Arts.

Mission statement about what we DO, not who we ARE, so I suggest a small wording change to: "RDAP (Research Data Access & Preservation) provides an open and engaged community of data practitioners and is committed to supporting and advancing best practices for research data."

I will be attending my first summit this year so I cannot say whether I am satisfied or not yet.

I'm satisfied. I don't know if I'd say 'perfect', as I don't know what the full range of possibilities are.

I think it's perfect except would also like to see arts listed in the disciplines, as well.

Community does not mention archivists. This group has been tackling issues of data access and preservation since the 1970s.

Perfect for me, but for one part - under the Summit description I'd say 'across disciplines and institutions/organizations' to be inclusive of non-academic entities. Otherwise awesome :)

Please add "archivists" to the list of community members. Otherwise, it's great!
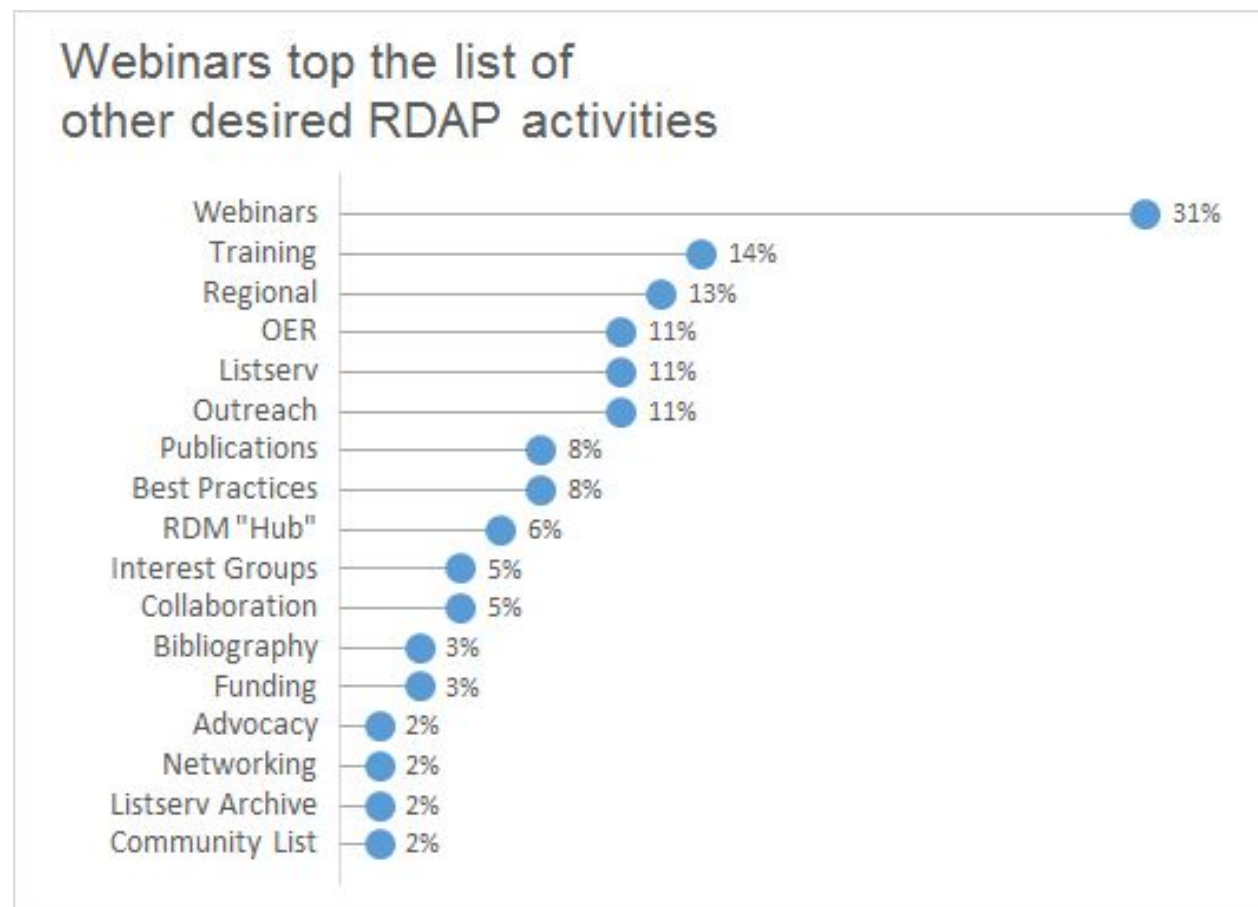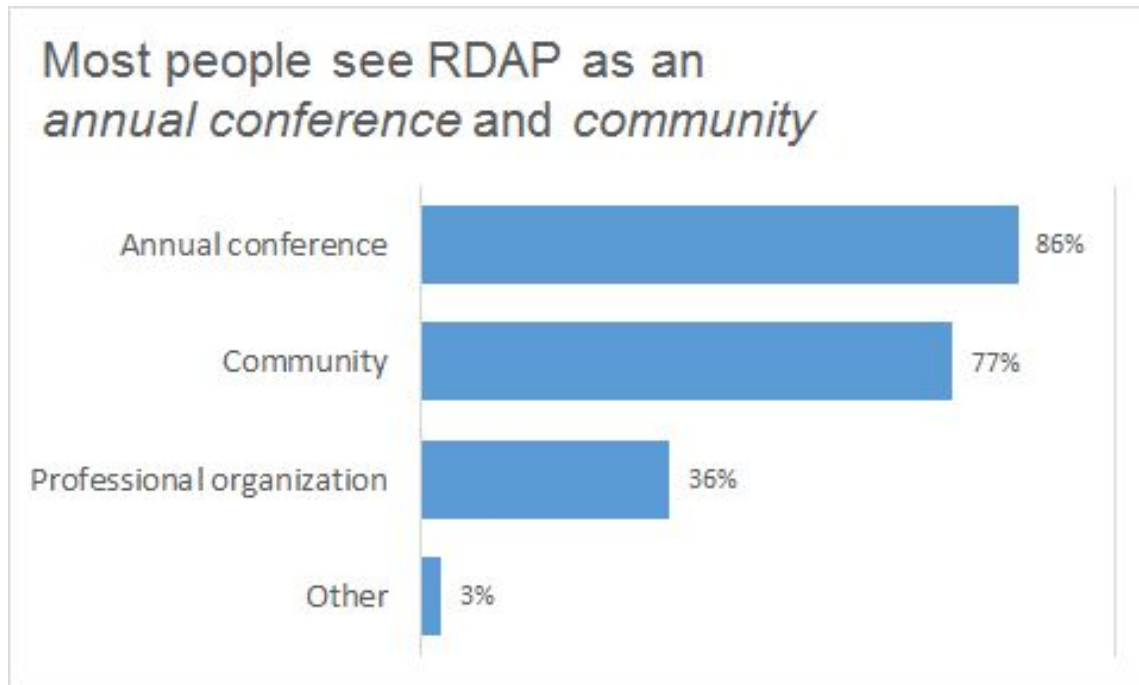
Q3 What does RDAP mean to you?
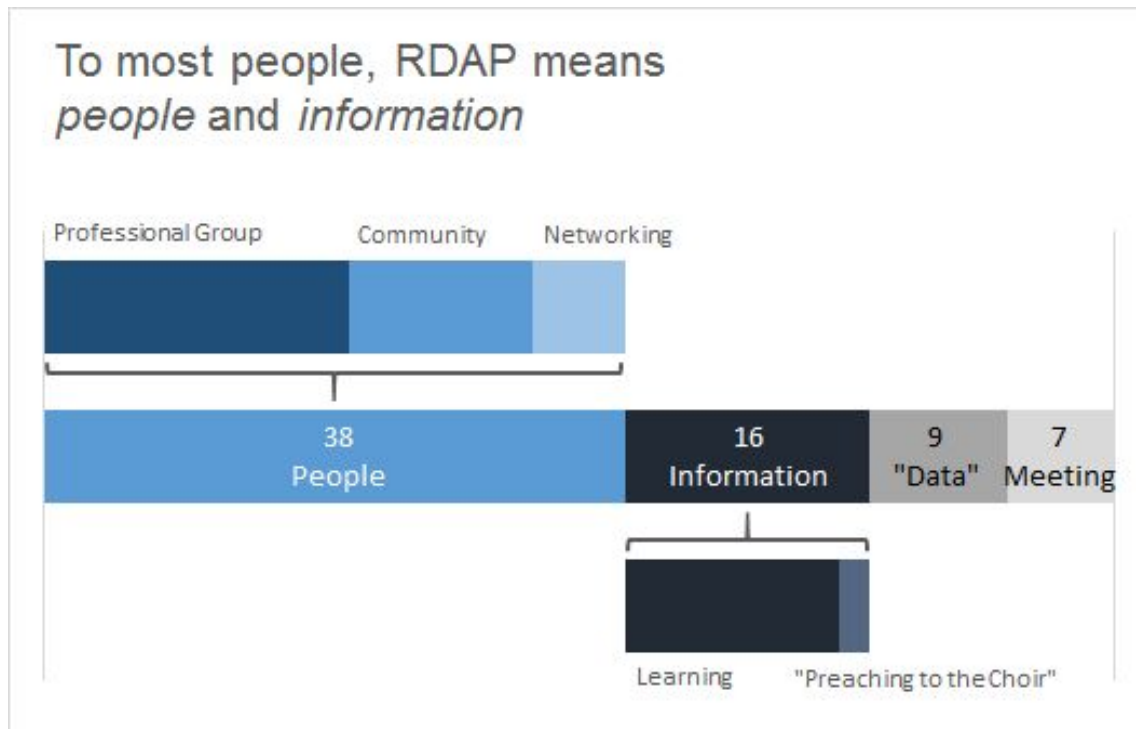
Answer	%	Count
Community	18.75%	12
Professional Group	31.25%	20
Networking	9.38%	6
Data	14.06%	9

Meeting	10.94%	7
Learning	21.88%	14
Preaching to the Choir	3.13%	2
Total	100%	64

Q4 - What other activities or opportunities could RDAP provide?

Webinars top the list of other desired RDAP activities

Activity	Percentage
Webinars	31%
Training	14%
Regional	13%
OER	11%
Listserv	11%
Outreach	11%
Publications	8%
Best Practices	8%
RDM "Hub"	6%
Interest Groups	5%
Collaboration	5%
Bibliography	3%
Funding	3%
Advocacy	2%
Networking	2%
Listserv Archive	2%
Community List	2%

Q5 - Do you see RDAP as : (Check all that apply)

Most people see RDAP as an *annual conference* and *community*

Annual conference	86%
Community	77%
Professional organization	36%
Other	3%

#	Answer	%	Count
1	An annual conference	85.94%	55
2	A community	76.56%	49
3	A professional organization	35.94%	23
4	Other	3.13%	2
	Total	100%	64

Appendix H: RDAP Where Do We Belong (second community survey by FVTF)

Q1 - Do you have a preferred option from the choices presented?
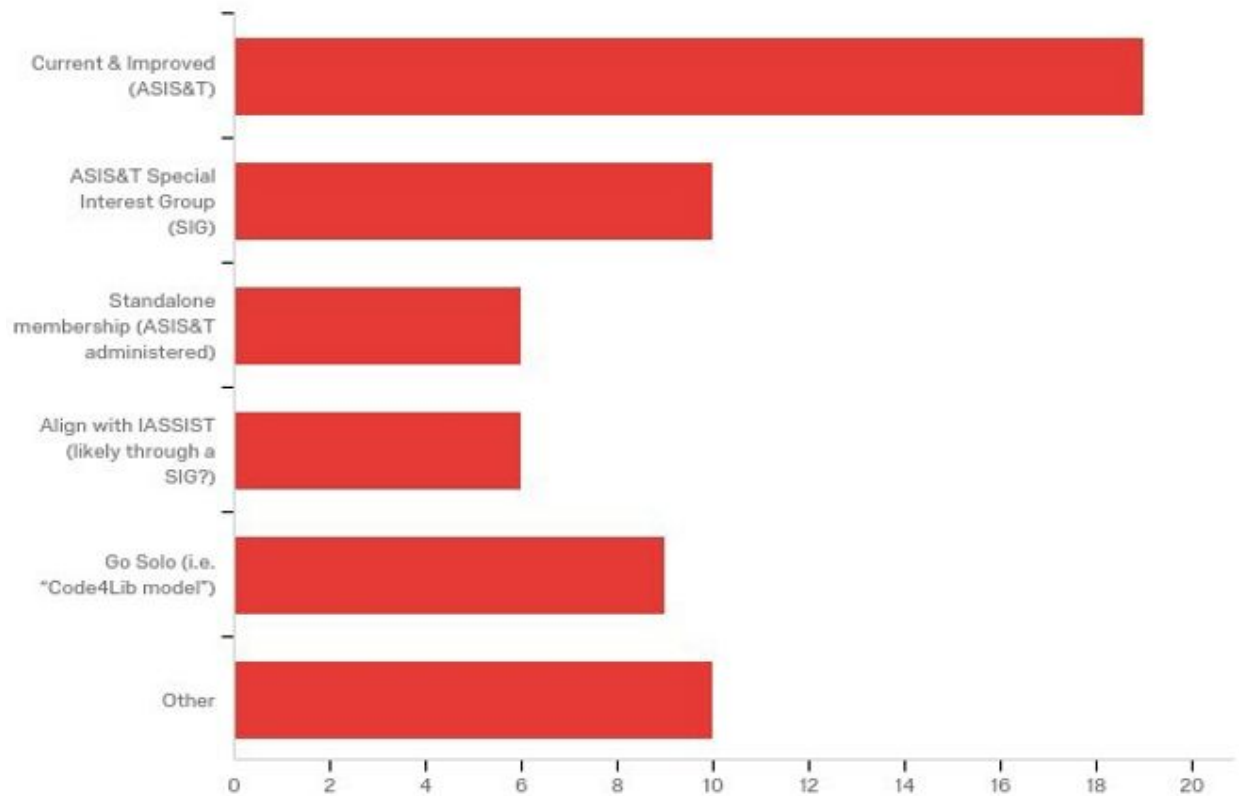
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Current & Improved (ASIS&T)	31.67%	19
2	ASIS&T Special Interest Group (SIG)	16.67%	10
3	Standalone membership (ASIS&T administered)	10.00%	6

4	Align with IASSIST (likely through a SIG?)	10.00%	6
5	Go Solo (i.e. "Code4Lib model")	15.00%	9
6	Other	16.67%	10
	Total	**100%**	**60**

Q1_6_TEXT - Other

Other
Research Data Alliance
Might be useful to consider an affiliation with RDA, though the RDAP conference could still be held in the US and whenever we want, independent of the RDA meetings.
Join forces with the Research Data Alliance
standalone or solo
Join the Digital Library Federation
I can't make a decsion without more information, such as membership costs to realign with IASSIST or as a standalone membership with ASIST (still not even sure what this is), and what the implications would be of going solo. How would this increase the amount of planning time and expenses for the conference? My inclination at this time without this information is to go solo.
This was my first meeting and so I don't have anything to judge by.

Q2 - Do you have concerns that you want to express regarding the future of RDAP? (a separate survey soliciting feedback on the 2017 Summit will be available, this survey is only about the future direction of RDAP)

Current & Improved (ASIS&T)

Do you have concerns that you want to express regarding the future of RDAP...
It's not clear what time frame the committee is thinking of because my answers would be different. Are you asking what we want for the next year? The next five years?   For the moment I am satisfied with RDAP existing as it is with improvements. With the difficulty in getting participation in the annual conference because of costs, too many of the other options have cost as a barrier, especially in the short term.   However, if we are looking at a 3-5 year plan, aligning with IASSIST is intriguing as is the ASIS&T SIG (now that there is a new ED and our relationship with them could change). Something that would be recognized at a national, professional committee/org would be of value to me as junior, tenure-track faculty.
As an active member of ASIS&T let me say that the organization skews heavily toward the academic/theoretical and seems a bad cultural fit for RDAP -- but I don't really see a need for a separate membership for the conference community (unless there's a financial need). We're all overcommitted as it is. If the current arrangement can be spruced up I highly recommend continuing on that path.
I think one of the greatest strengths of RDAP is the annual meeting, which is small, focused, and maintains a strong identity. If we became a SIG, we would be just a part of ASIS&T, and people wouldn't be all together, for two days, networking, sharing ideas - which is why I find it so valuable. I have more concerns with IASSIST, simply because it isn't discipline neutral. I'm not sure we are strong enough (yet) to go solo. I feel we need a place where we can encourage one another, swap stories and ideas, be informal and supportive - you just don't get that in the big conference settings. I think our direction should be to keep a focused and tight knit community of data librarians meeting and supporting one another.

ASIS&T is a pretty good umbrella org for RDAP - move toward a sig is not a bad idea, need a way to keep it affordable and ensure no double dipping for current ASIS&T members for another annual membership to RDAP unless 2x benefits are offered - ASIS&T members probably need/want RDAP as much as they want ASIS&T itself. Especially if the RDAP energy can be channeled into ASIS&T/RDAP joint webinar opportunities.

I actually prefer the Go Solo choice, but I think that it would take too much effort to create the same level of quality in the conference, so that's why I chose Current & Improved instead. If the Go Solo model could facilitate these great RDAP conferences and be sustainable (given limited volunteer resources, I expect), then I would switch my vote. But I know how hard it is to put on these conferences, and suspect that it would fall on the same people over and over if we have to do it all ourselves. But I'm keen to stay as detached from ASIS&T as possible, so that we still have a high level of autonomy (such as hosting our conferences where we want, rather than where IA is).

It's good to make a decision for now, but it might also be nice to consider what we would like to build towards (5 or 10 year plan). For instance, going solo might be the ideal end-goal, but it would take time to build that capacity. Other options could include aligning with an organization other than IASSIST, which would not present its disciplinary strictures.

I love the way it's working now (as a participant). Can't comment on the burdens of the administration or organizers.

While the "current and improved" relationship with ASIS&T seems to have resulted in increased attendance, more affordability, and a great conference,I hear the concerns from tenure-track and tenured attendees about having trouble getting their service and research work recognized outside of a formal, national level, membership

organization. Perhaps some more data gathering to determine how many RDAP constituents this affects? Honestly, it's not RDAP's problem; it's the problem of rigid institutions that don't recognize the ways library scholarly and service activity is changing. But if it affects RDAP constituents enough to steer participation, service, and scholarship away from this community, it becomes RDAP's problem too. Maybe this is a consideration for a five- year planning direction?

ASIS&T Special Interest Group (SIG)

Do you have concerns that you want to express regarding the future of RDAP...

Data Governance would be good to touch on. Topics on incentivizing data management would be helpful, as well.

Keep the costs for involvement low but want more formal recognition. Yes, has a price but would be formalized...My biggest issues with staying with ASIST is that it is more for academics who study LIS, not practitioners. I attended ASIST 2015 in St. Louis and did not find it to be a particularly welcoming/interesting conference for librarians.

I think we should continue working with ASIS&T because ASIS&T's impact and reputation may make us more likely to get external sponsors/funding. I'm object to going solo because we may lose benifits and support from a big organization.

Don't go to big and try to cover too many bases. Data, focus on data and what's around it!

I would consider not being a part of RDAP anymore if they went the IASSIST route. That's a social science focused community and it isn't a proper home in my opinion.

As a member of the planning committee this year o think we could use more structure and support. ASIS&T has been good for us, I have no problem continuing or strengthing our association with them.

Standalone membership (ASIS&T administered)

Do you have concerns that you want to express regarding the future of RDAP...

I think that the standalone membership allows for the most opportunity for growth but I think this option would require some time to plan. While I ultimately think this is the direction we should go, maybe for the next few years we can head towards the current and improved option with a plan to eventually pursue standalone membership.

Th RDAP community has increased over time. The demographics of the community have changed as well, from a mixture of technical and outreach/education focused individuals, to a more homogeneous group of outreach/education focused data librarians. I would like to see programming that would interest both types of data helpers.

> I have strong concerns about the ASIST SIG structure right now, so I don't think that would be the best way forward for RDAP. I would also wonder if we would have to be part of the ASIS&T Annual if that was the relationship, moving the conference to fall from spring and possibly international. I think that stand-alone membership would give us the admin support of ASIST without the added headaches of SIG Council.

> Let's make sure that RDAP has a future!

Align with IASSIST (likely through a SIG?)

Do you have concerns that you want to express regarding the future of RDAP...

> I would like RDAP to somewhat align with IASSIST. I see both groups having LOTS in common and most years I cannot attend both conferences. If RDAP was aligned with IASSIST (maybe an extra day add-on plus more focused Data Management track in the regular IASSIST conference), I would be able to participate more.
>
> Only down side is that IASSIST is international and thus not every year is in the states. Could we still align with IASSIST but always have the RDAP part in the US (jointly with IASSIST when in the US, just state-side when IASSIST is non-US?)?

> I'm concerned that RDAP has become too inward focused on academic libraries and research data management services. This is helpful for that direct audience, but is missing the voices from other stakeholders in this realm-- the data producers and users, "traditional" data services librarians, professionals from data archives and other agencies.

Go Solo (i.e. "Code4Lib model")

Do you have concerns that you want to express regarding the future of RDAP...

> Keeping costs affordable will be the hardest part. If introducing a membership model (either as a SIG or standalone) will allow us to continue to function with lower registration then this would be a great option. Otherwise, having institutions "host" RDAP each year would be exciting and bring in new audiences (beyond just data libs) as we move around the country. We could more effectively engage with local researchers and archives that may be outside the library land.

> Going solo is scarier, but ultimately gives you more autonomy to respond to the needs of the community.

> I do not want RDAP to get folded into a domain-specific association.

Other

Do you have concerns that you want to express regarding the future of RDAP...
I am concerned that we may end up in a discipline-specific organization or going on our own we break down.
Given the multi-disciplinary character of data and software access, preservation and discoverability, the RDAP Summit should be attractive and visible to a wide audience. The future direction of the RDAP Summit should be aligned with this.
I'm concerned about the lack of diversity (most notably racial diversity) among conference speakers and attendees. Of all the non-ethnic professional library/archival/information science organizations out there, the Digital Library Federation is the best at providing and encouraging diversity, inclusion, equity, and speaking truth to power. Data is not neutral and neither are the individual who steward it. If RDAP isn't moved to DLF (which I'm pretty sure isn't even an existing conversation) I highly recommend that RDAP looks to DLF for making social justice an active part of the mission.   I do not believe that aligning with ASIS&T will promote racial or social justice within RDAP in any meaningful way.
RDAP is a community, and I would hate to see that lost if we were to become a SIG or align with IASSIST. Also, if we were to align with IASSIST, I wonder if it's possible to have a US based RDAP conference when IASSIST is overseas.

Appendix I: RDAP Future Vision_Direction Feedback (3rd survey by FVTF)

Q1 - We would like your feedback on the possibility of RDAP becoming an independent professional organization. This would entail the following:

RDAP becomes a professional organization
- Governance structure is formed (includes governance board, conference planning committee, marketing, sponsorship, education, etc.)
  - Governance board = elected members
  - Other committees = volunteer members
- RDAP works towards becoming a non-profit by 2020
- RDAP seeks a higher education institution host for the 2019 Summit to lower conference costs (that year only)
- Unite floating communities: Datacure forum + slack, regional data librarian conferences, Data Information Literacy Resources
- Align with Journal of eScience Librarianship (JeSLIB) for Annual Summit curated conference proceedings (maintain OSF conference repository)
- Website/CMS with archived webinars, trainings

I don't know why this text box is here, but I'll use it to indicate that I'm saying "yes" with reservations
- Why not seek higher education institution to host for every year?
I wholeheartedly support this direction and would gladly volunteer for various committees as appropriate. I think the community is DEFINITELY up for the challenge and has grown to the point of really needing it.
Add: conference organizer/accountant agency.

Q2 - Are you supportive of this possible general direction?
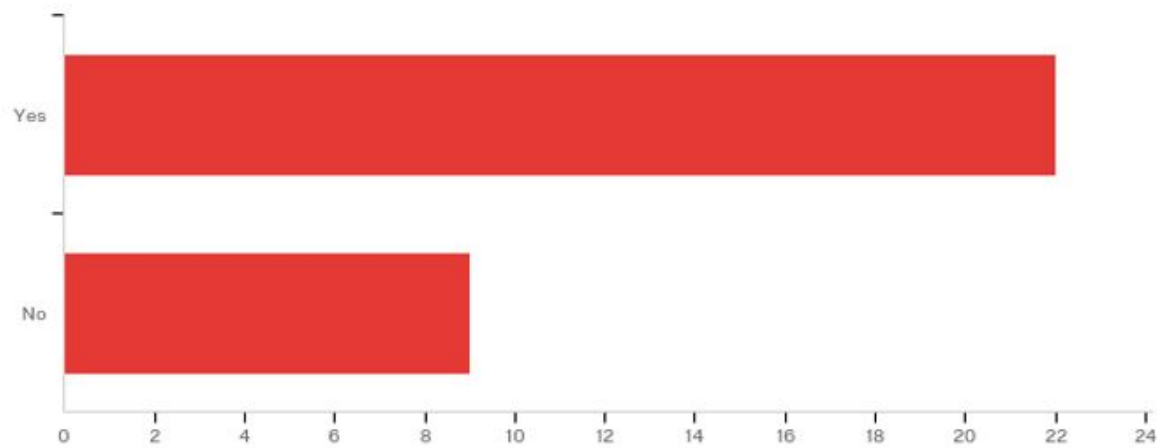
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	70.97%	22
2	No	29.03%	9
	Total	100%	31

Q3 - If no, why?

This seems a bit redundant. IASSIST is already doing this and RDA also has groups focused on it. Why create another professional organization when existing organizations are doing the same thing.

There are already too many associations and disparate lists/groups. I agree with the goals outlined, but would rather see it aligned with another existing association and collocated with another conference to minimize travel expenses.

I see very similar interests already in IASSIST & in other ACRL, ARL groups. These ACRL - ARL groups could have sections and meetings during these national meetings. Maybe negotiate cost reductions for those people who only want to go to "RDAP" focused sessions and not the whole ACRL/ALA meeting.

I think it makes no sense at all to essentially compete with IASSIST. I understand the need to have a conference and activities that are more accessible to those in the US, but I think that could be done without shutting out discourse with the rest of the world (which includes many many places that have extensive experience with RDM). I'm disappointed that this is what came out of the first survey, but if this is the direction RDAP is going, I'd like to see more indication in the founding documents that the org will work with others and we should definitely not say things like "become *the* data librarian association of North America."

As someone who's worked with ASIS&T o make RDAP happen I can tell you that there is a lot more that would need to happen than what's on the provided list. Mainly, we'd need to hire an agency to run the non-profit (book keeping and accounting, vendor communications, sponsorship billing, etc.).

I honestly don't think we're ready, or that it may be the best move, to break from ASIS&T. They have been providing us with a lot of behind the scenes support and replacing that would be difficult. As someone organizing a regional data conference I have mixed feelings about potentially wrapping that conference in with RDAP as it has been successful, and funded on it's own.

As a Canadian and definitely situated firmly in North America, I am concerned this is going to be another US- centric organization which would be very disappointing.

It's another organization. Can't this be accomplished by becoming a partner of IASSIST? They have expanded their focus from social sciences. Has this option been fully explored