

The Research Data Alliance and how it relates to Force11's activities

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Researchers from many disciplines realised the increasing potential and relevance of data and started unnumbered activities resulting in a huge space of suggestions and solutions for data management and access. Those who started integrating data, information and knowledge from different sources recognised the necessity of reducing the heterogeneity by working on common principles, models and components. The FAIR principles pushed ahead by FORCE 11 are a milestone on this path, since they summarised discussions that were ongoing within a few initiatives and communities including the Research Data Alliance in an excellent way and form now a common global language most experts agree on despite remaining disputes about fine semantics. These principles give directions but may not be misinterpreted as blueprints for building an interoperable eco-system of data infrastructures. The ongoing discussions about reference models and architectures, common components, interoperability frameworks etc. indicate the gigantic task still ahead of us across all disciplines and even societal sectors. A close collaboration of various initiatives such as FORCE11, RDA, CODATA and others also addressing differences in views will be required to make essential steps towards improved interoperability.

This talk will introduce some RDA activities, relate it with FAIR principles and present some aspects of the ongoing discussions about architectures and components.