

Introduction to the RDA Board

Overview of today

RDA Governance and RDA Board

Structure of the RDA Board

Meetings and Communication

Background

2026 Membership of the RDA Board

2026 Activities

RDA Governance

Infrastructure supporting RDA and its development:

RDA Board

RDA Steering Committee (RSC)

ALA Digital Reference

Governance Model

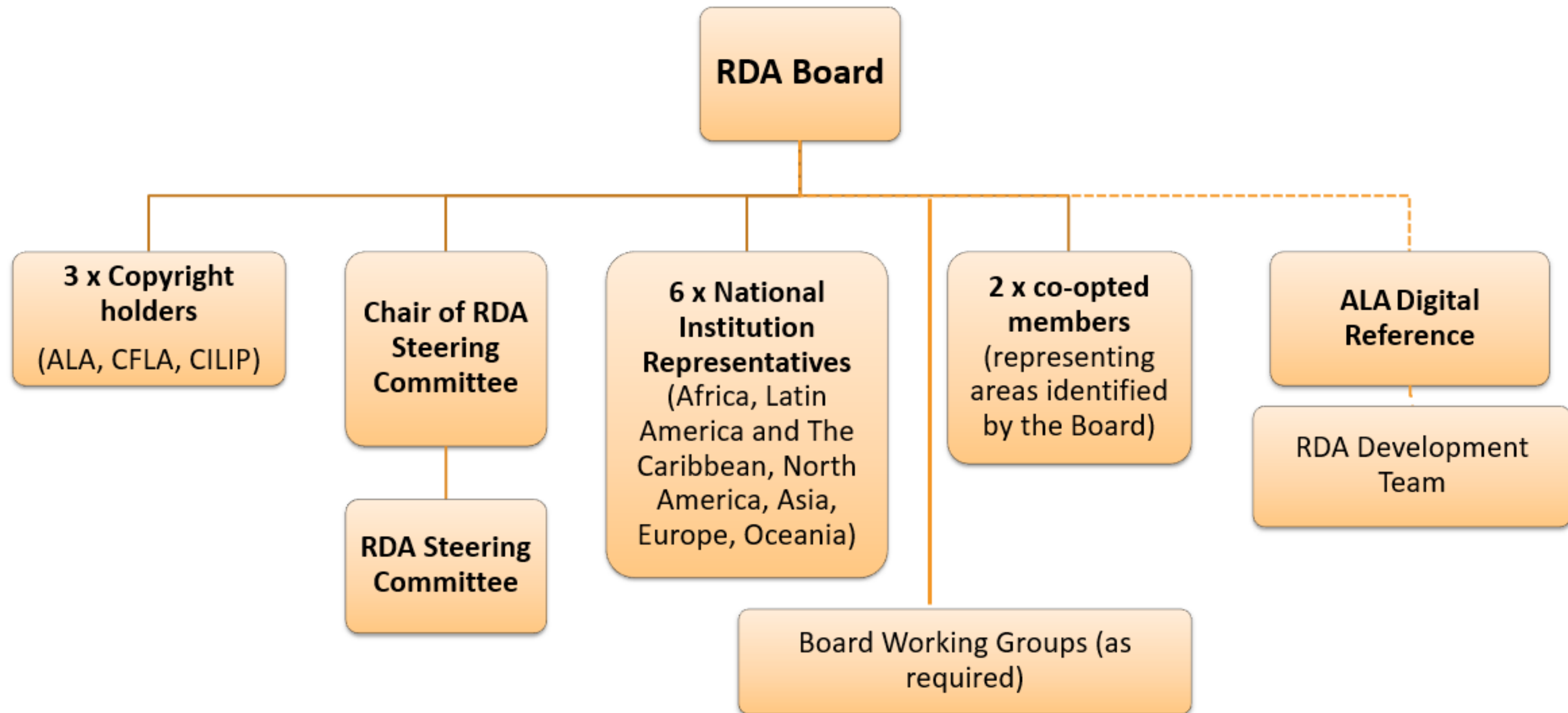
The Governance Model document is on the RDA Toolkit website:

<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rdaboard/rda-governance>

From the introduction of the Governance Model document:

“The RDA Board is a decision-making body responsible for the strategic direction for the development of RDA. A key part of its mandate is ensuring good governance for all the committees engaged with the development of RDA.”

Governance Model also determines the RDA Board's structure



RDA Board members

3 Copyright Holder representatives

ALA Digital Reference representative (called ALA Publishing representative in the Agreement) *ex officio*

6 National Institution representatives

RSC Chair *ex officio*

RDA Fund trustees *ex officio* (in practice, rarely attend Board meetings)
(up to 2 co-opted members)

National Institution (NI) Representatives

- one from each of the 6 regions
- each representative serves one 4-year term
- intention is to circulate among all eligible institutions in a region
- criteria for selection: eligibility of the institution and qualifications of the individual
 - institution: has implemented RDA or about to implement RDA within the calendar year
 - individual is familiar with RDA
- focus on “national institutions” because of their leadership role in their communities
- recruited and approved by the Board

Role of NI Representatives

- unique role of the NI reps is to bring forward regional intelligence and perspectives
 - represent the region; indicate issues and concerns
 - provide insight about the impact, challenges and opportunities
 - help raise the profile of RDA in their region
- NI representatives also share in the governance and strategy roles of the Board as a whole
 - contribute to the development and delivery of the RDA Board strategic plan
 - ensure that the overall governance of the standard continues to support internationalization

RDA Fund trustees

- one trustee representing each Copyright Holder association
- may be the same person as the Copyright Holder representative
- with the ALA Digital Reference representative as chair, they manage the RDA Fund
- RDA Fund may be spent on:
 - administrative support for RSC
 - development and research work
 - travel for in-person meetings
 - mitigate debt owed to ALA

Communication and meetings

- the RDA Board has historically not had a highly visible role: behind the scenes and supporting the RSC
- becomes visible when needed to lend weight to decisions such as the countdown clock and retirement of the original RDA Toolkit
- meets four times a year
- relies on Basecamp as the main means of communication among members
- asynchronous meetings over a week with one video call within that week

Background

up to 2016	Committee of Principals and Joint Steering Committee
2016	Addendum to the 2011 Addendum to the 1989 Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules Agreement CFLA becomes a Co-Publisher and member of the RDA Board (replacing CLA)
2016-2017	Transitioning to the new governance model and new names
2018	RDA Board operating fully under the new model with 6 NI representatives

2026 membership of the RDA Board

Copyright Holder reps

Colleen Barbus for ALA

Jenny Wright for CILIP

Chris Oliver for CFLA (chair, 2026-2027)

ALA Digital Reference

James Hennelly

NI representatives

Rania Osman for Africa (To serve 2022-2025+)

Hui Ling Ng for Asia (To serve 2026-2029)

Replaced Haliza Jailani, National Library Singapore

Hannes Lowagie for Europe (To serve 2025-2028)

Replaced Christian Aliverti, National Library of Switzerland

Ángela Quiroz Ubierna for Latin America & the Caribbean (To serve 2023-2026)

Thi Bao Tran Phan for North America

Replaced Judith Cannan, LOC

Laura Jamieson for Oceania

Replaced Julia Hickie, National Library of Australia

2026 membership of the RDA Board (2)

RSC Chair Renate Behrens

To support smooth transitions between incoming and outgoing members, there are intentional overlaps in membership at certain points close to transitions.

Incoming RSC Chair Robert Maxwell

2026 activities

2025 09 (online)

2025 12 (online)

2026 02 (online)

2026 05 (online)

→ No 'in person' meeting this year

→ Agenda of the meetings (apart from the usual 'updates' (RSC, NI, and so on))

2025 09

Report from copyright holders

Financial situation copyright holders

Declining subscriptions, AI and copyright, fees of
international transactions, ...

Advisory Council – proposal discussed

RDA Certification

2025 12

2026-2028 Strategic Plan – voting

<https://www.rdatoolkit.org/rdaboard/strategicplan> – updated!

- 1 Develop RDA as an international, flexible, and dynamic standard
- 2 Continue to increase the internationalisation of RDA
- 3 Ensure a Sustainable Business model
- 4 Provide Relevant Governance

Joint RDA Board and RSC Working Group on AI

+ vote on the extension of the AI WG's term and 'Should the Joint RSC/RDA Board Working Group on Artificial Intelligence transition from a task-and-finish working group to an advisory working group beginning in 2026?'

2026 02

Joint RSC/RDA Board Working Group on AI

TOR approved by RSC

Proceeding as an advisory working group (instead of "task and finish")

Membership to be updated to include Angela and Hui Ling

Business Models

Continue with slight shift in focus

- a) Shift to exploring pricing policies, "rational pricing".
- b) Recruit new members (Robert Maxwell, Laura Jamieson)

2026 02

Approval of NARDAC Terms of Reference

Bermuda, Canada, Greenland, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, United States of America.

Legacy data

RSC has been exploring how to deal with extent proposals, and determining what might move to legacy data. Discussion about copyright implications.

- CC Attribution

- Behind paywall

- Difference between Legacy data and community resources

2026 05

Countdown clock

Information page

Instruction archive → original RDA PDF in all languages

Site will be archived at university of Illinois (pages/files, not as website)
(waybackmachine-principle), but avoid that people keep using the archived site

Also for historical reasons: what was RDA back in 2025

2026 05

Review wording of internationalisation principles

Governance model

Copyright

With the creation of legacy space on Official RDA Toolkit, we will need a statement about permission to use the legacy material and under what conditions.

Strategic plan