

DeiC Front Office support for participation in international events

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DeiC Front Office representatives' participation in international conferences and networking events to build-up knowledge about FAIR Data Management and EOSC internationally and to share and utilize the acquired knowledge nationally

Attendance of Susanne den Boer, Senior Executive Adviser in Research Data Management at the University of Copenhagen, at International Data Week in Brisbane (Australia), October 2025

1. Name, date and venue of chosen event

I attended International Data Week (IDW) 2025 in Brisbane Australia from 13-16 October 2025. The conference took place at the Brisbane conference center. IDW is a landmark event organised by the Committee on Data (CODATA), the World Data System (WDS) of the International Science Council (ISC), and the Research Data Alliance (RDA). The event was hosted by the Australian Research Data Commons. The event attracted approximately 700 attendants in person, as well as approximately 100 attendants online. Attendants came from all over the world.

The conference website is: <https://idw2025.org/>

The program can be found here: <https://idw2025.org/program-at-a-glance/>

2. Rationale for choosing the specific event

a) *What was the reason for prioritising the event and what were the expected outcomes?*

I chose to attend IDW because it is regarded as one of the leading international conferences in research data management and data science. This is partly due to the fact that it is organised by well established and renowned organisations (CODATA, RDA and WDS). My expectations were therefore that it would attract scientists, data managers/stewards, policy makers and other key stakeholders who were well versed in their field, and who would be part of international networks that we in Denmark could benefit from. Seeing that the conference was outside of Europe, it gave me the opportunity to discuss data management with others who we typically don't meet in our

European networks, and thus an opportunity to get insights into trends and developments in RDM globally.

- b) *Emphasise the specific relevance to current or planned activities at home institution and at national or international level*

In particular, I chose to attend the IDW, as it offered Birds of a Feather sessions through the RDA. In contrast to the more standard presentations (a one-way monologue followed by a few questions), the BoF sessions are designed to give delegates ample opportunity to present and brainstorm about brand new ideas with their colleagues in 90-minute sessions. I was lucky to be awarded a BoF session as session chair and therefore was able to showcase the work conducted in Denmark's national FAIR working group F on the value of research data, of which I am a member. This gave me valuable input that will greatly benefit our work (see below).

3. Event activities

- a) *Describe type of attendance e.g. programme talks, lectures, presentations, meetings, workshops, etc.*

Seeing that IDW is an event co-organised by various organisations, it offers multiple types of sessions. There were poster sessions, and plenary sessions by leaders in the field. There were also the more 'traditional' parallel conference sessions (presentation + questions). The RDA-organised parts of the conference mostly consisted of sessions where existing working groups or interest groups reported on the results of their international collaborations on a wide array of RDM related topics. And then there were Birds of a Feather sessions to brainstorm about new ideas / emerging trends and gauge whether this could lead to new international collaborations, as part of a to-be-established RDA group. All sessions were also visible to online attendees, but these attendees greatly missed out on being able to participate in the debate – and, for that reason, some of the RDA sessions may have been less useful.

- b) *Which other activities, if any, are worthy of mention. E.g. social networking events, informal contacts made, and team building accomplished.*

As at any conference, the networking component of the conference cannot be underestimated – this includes the reception and poster

presentation event, the long coffee breaks and the conference dinner. It was in particular during these networking activities that I had an opportunity to follow up with speakers, talk to some of the sponsors, and last but not least, with some of the attendees of my session. I managed to expand my network significantly due to the conference, something that will most definitely benefit my professional life. I had already contacted a data steward from the Netherlands (Pedro Hernandez-Serrano) to ask him to be my co-session chair. And it was in particular the in-depth sparring with Pedro and hearing about the situation in the Netherlands (with multiple national organisations such as SURF, DANS, eScience Center and 4TU) that led to additional insights. I also met a number of colleagues from Australia and the US who were working in relevant fields and who I for sure will follow up with.

4. Most significant outcomes

- a) *Considering the original rationale, what were the most important outcomes associated with in-person participation?*

The most important outcome was the ability to showcase the work of working group F and have a constructive dialogue about this with other experts in the field. This dialogue would not have been possible if I had presented online. Online presentations only lead to good dialogue, if everyone else is online too. It is much harder in hybrid meetings like this one, the dialogue got dominated by attendees present at the location. Seeing that we were only 2 chairs in this session (swapping between presenting and moderating), we did not have sufficient opportunity to keep an eye on online participation. Besides showcasing our work, I was able to collect valuable input, contact details for international key persons who have worked with data value before, as well as a list of resources that working group F will benefit from. This all will be captured in meeting notes that I will finalise soon.

- b) *What, if anything, might have been less favourable, not worth the time and effort, or could have been better?*

Some RDA groups had little to report and seemed to be there to live up to some formalities that RDA had imposed (reporting on activities of the past years). As an attendee who is fairly new to RDA, it is not possible to predict beforehand how much new you will get out of these sessions, and how much the session is directed towards a narrow audience. But I cannot see how this could be helped.

c) *Please focus outcomes (positive and negative) on the dual target group of:*

i. DeiC board and secretariat

- Besides myself, ‘Denmark’ was completely absent from this event. If we want to follow international developments in the field, it is important to stimulate Danish participation in international conferences of this caliber.
- My recommendation would be that DeiC prioritises handing out their travel stipends to Danish representatives who could showcase Danish RDM related activities at these conferences through talks, poster presentations, being session-chairs etc. over participants who only attend the conference. We need to have a stronger presence internationally, be a bit more strategic in showcasing our work, and be better at networking, to be able to benefit from international collaboration and funding opportunities and lift the status of RDM in DK.
- An organisation such as RDA provides excellent opportunities for international networking, collaborations and to follow trends. It is worth it, even considering participation is through in-kind contributions. RDA does occasionally have funding opportunities, e.g. to attend conferences if you are part of a working or interest group (e.g. the RDA Tiger program). My suggestion is that we try to promote a bigger Danish contribution to RDA.

ii. Colleagues and peers planning future participation in this or other events

- International Data Week provides an excellent opportunity to grow your professional network and learn something new from colleagues who you would not necessarily meet otherwise. I highly recommend IDW as a conference.
- We could benefit from the activities in RDA – there are so many different groups discussing so many different topics, that it is highly likely that there is a group out there that could be directly relevant for activities we carry out ourselves. I would recommend that colleagues review whether they could become active member.

5. Suggested follow-up actions

- a) *Have you planned any follow-up, at your home institution and/or at national level?*

I will produce a short report summarizing the discussions in the session I chaired. This report will be very useful for the work in working group F. Among others, I have collected the following information:

- Survey data collected via mentimeter from about 30 attendees that summarize opinions on what types of research data are valuable and what aspects of datasets give it their value.
- Feedback on the first version of our data value framework.
- A list of resources (articles, reports, blogposts, references to other activities) related to the value of research data that we can follow up on.
- A list of about 5-10 attendees who indicated to have worked one way or the other with the concept of data value, and who agree to be interviewed by working group F, if the working group wishes to do so. Among which, the director of UKs Digital Curation Center Kevin Ashley.

The report will not only be sent to working group F, but upon request also to the attendees of the session, where I will ask the attendees to supplement or comment on the material.

- b) There was a lot of interest in our topic on data value, and I believe this could easily be turned into an RDA interest group. However, this is way beyond the scope of FAIR working group F, so I will probably not be able to convince anyone in group F to join me in this effort and I probably can't lift it alone... Let's see.
- c) *Do you have suggestions to DeiC?*
- See 4C: Continue with the travel stipends, this is perfect! But try to prioritise (if you can, and this is 'politically correct') those people who will present a talk or contribute to the conference one way or the other. Or at least, communicate that this will be a criterium if multiple people apply for the same conference. We need to showcase our Danish activities more! And in my case, I actually collected 'data' that will be very useful for our activities in Denmark. We need to use these opportunities.

- I have said this for many years....we need to be more attractive to internationals if we want to collaborate more and be an international player! Stop holding conferences in Danish, where you exclude our international colleagues who don't speak Danish. See if we can expand on the opportunity to invite speakers from abroad.
- We need to vamp up our efforts to participate in RDA. What are DeiCs plans for this?