

# 2023 Vocabulary Symposium Report

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Following the success of a [2022 Vocabulary Symposium](#)<sup>1</sup>, the ARDC led, with event partners, a [2023 Symposium](#) on November 14 and 15<sup>2</sup>. A hybrid event, online via Zoom Webinar and onsite at the [RSSS](#) (Australian National University). The event brought together people from domains across disciplines spanning research, government and industry, including those from the [ARDC Thematic Research Data Commons](#). Its aim was to communicate and promote approaches to using, developing, publishing and maintaining vocabularies. With the theme of “FAIR Vocabularies For All” the event included presentations on Australian and international initiatives that demonstrated the impact and value of FAIR vocabularies for maximising the reuse value of data within and across domains.

## Event partners

The Symposium was led by ARDC in partnership with [ADA](#), [AHRA](#), [AIHW](#), [APPF](#), [AURIN](#), [AuScope](#), [AusTraits](#), [CODATA](#), [IMOS](#), [LDaCA](#), and [TERN](#).

## Organising Committee

- Rowan Brownlee - ARDC
- Lesley Wyborn - ARDC

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<sup>1</sup> 2022 Symposium report at <https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.8057903>

<sup>2</sup> Program at <https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.10052531>

- Megan Wong - Federation University Centre of eResearch and Digital Innovation (CeRDI)
- Natalia Atkins - Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS)
- Keila da Silva - IRISS, ANZLEAD, Australian Data Archive (ADA)
- Steve McEachern - ADA, Data Documentation Initiative (DDI)
- Kheeran Dharmawardena - Cytrax

## Event MCs

- Natalia Atkins - Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS)
- Megan Wong - Federation University Centre of eResearch and Digital Innovation (CeRDI)

## Group brainstorm<sup>3</sup> facilitators

- Lesley Wyborn, ARDC
- Dougie Boyle, Research Information Technology Unit, University of Melbourne

## Welcome To Country

- Paul House ([ANU First Nations Portfolio](#))

## How did people attend the Symposium?

The event had 62 in-person registrations, and 293 online registrations<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Notes available at <https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.10138706>

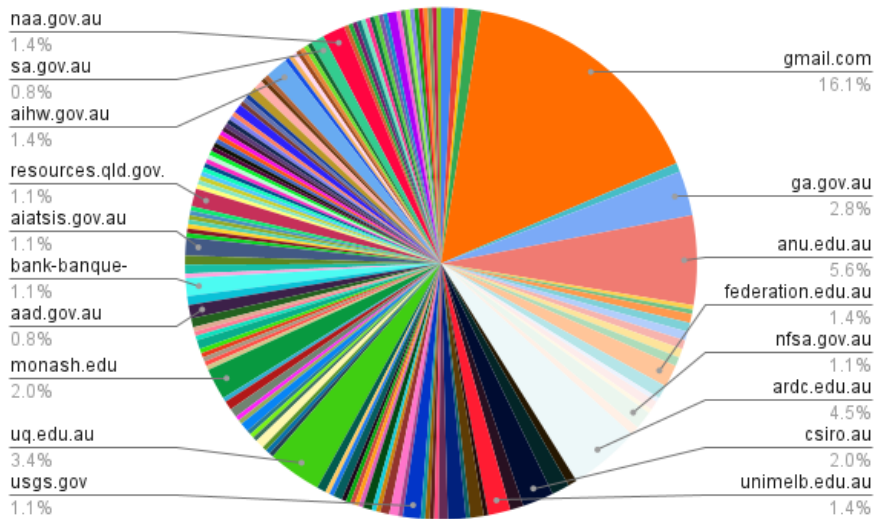
<sup>4</sup> Some may have registered for both in-person and online

## Who attended the Symposium?

There were a mix of participants from universities and other research organisations, cultural heritage institutions, [NCRIS](#) facilities, state and federal government.

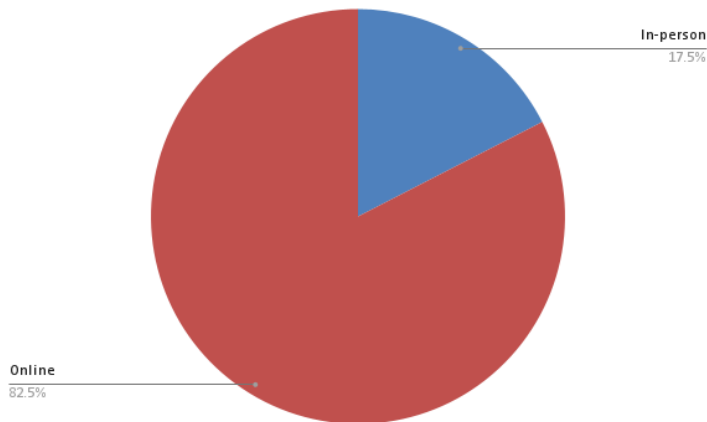
### Registered participant by email domain

Based on email domains from EventBrite<sup>5</sup>.



### Registered participant by in-person or online

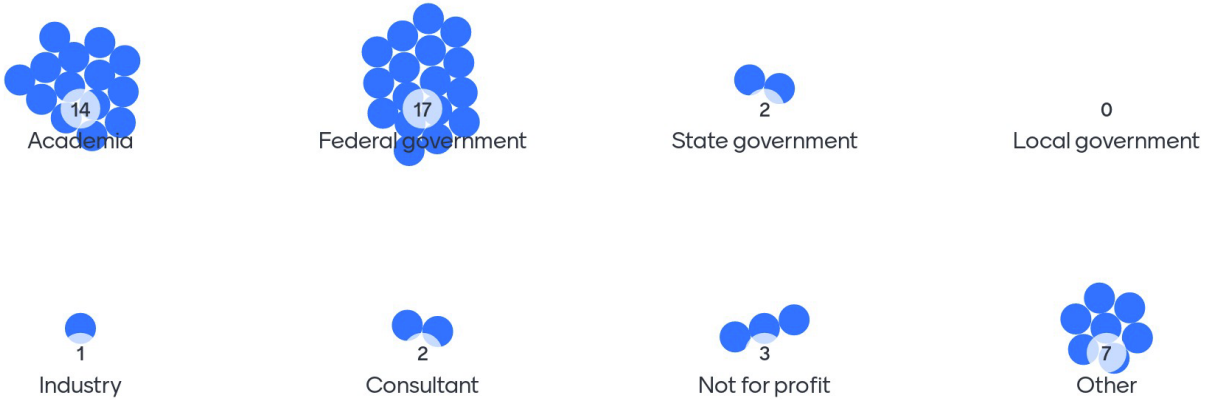
Based on participant choice to register for online and/or onsite participation. From EventBrite.



<sup>5</sup> Registrations from generic email accounts (such as gmail or hotmail) may mask the registrant domain.

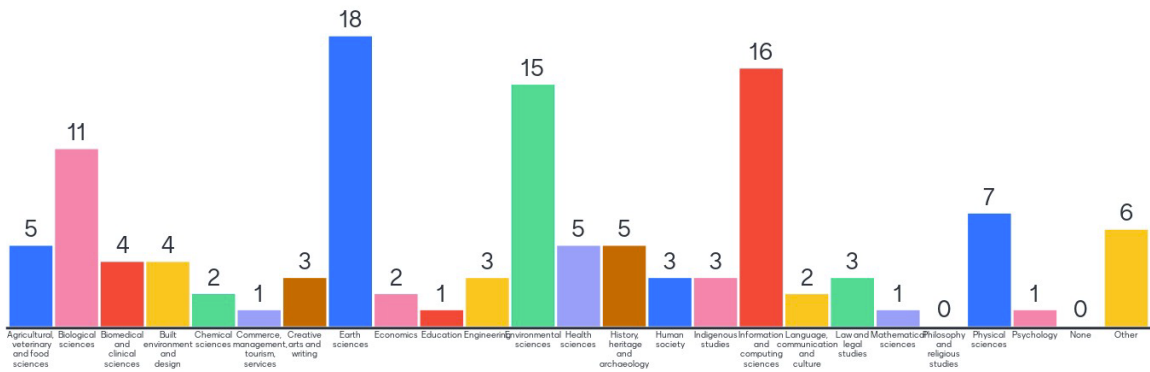
## Attendee sector

Based on a MentiMeter survey.<sup>6</sup>



## Attendee domain

Based on a MentiMeter survey<sup>7</sup>.



<sup>6</sup> Respondents may have been online or in-person. Survey results available at <https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.10138599>

<sup>7</sup> Respondents may have been online or in-person. Survey results available at <https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.10138599>

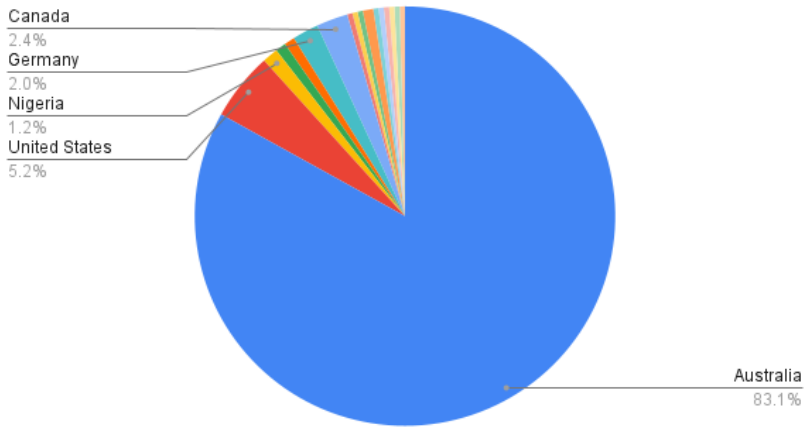
## Webinar attendees by location

Based upon Zoom Webinar connection data

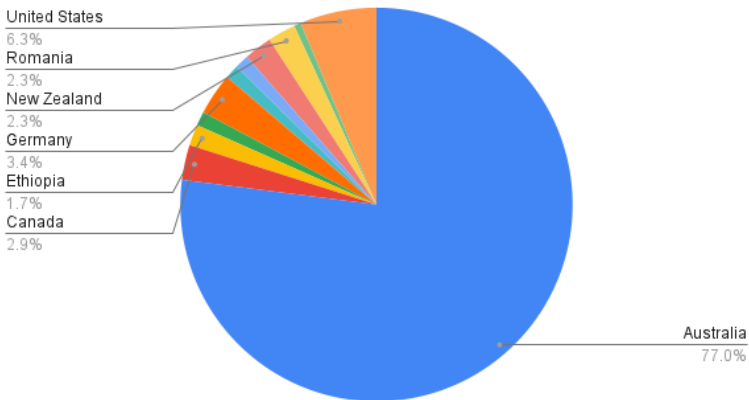
Day one included participants from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, United States, and Zimbabwe

Day two included participants from Australia, Canada, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Italy, India, New Zealand, Romania, Spain, and the United States.

### Day one



### Day two



## What topics were covered by the Symposium presentations?

Presentation slides and recordings are linked from the [program](#), featuring two keynote presentations (one online, one onsite) and 29 session presentations ( 20 online, 11 onsite).

Arofan Gregory (CODATA) and Jen Drysdale (National Film and Sound Archive of Australia) delivered the keynote presentations. Arofan discussed “[Controlled Vocabularies in a Changing Metadata Landscape](#)”, and Jen addressed “[The role of vocabularies in cultural heritage and the impact of new strategic drivers](#)”.

Day 1 was domain focused and included three sessions of presentations grouped as

- Health and Biosecurity
- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Indigenous

The day concluded with a group brainstorm: *FAIR Vocabularies For Cross Domain Data Integration - what is key?*<sup>8</sup>, facilitated by Lesley Wyborn.

Day 2 reflected a range of subject areas applicable to many domains. Grouped as

- APIs, concept mapping and automated indexing
- Tools, ethics, the knowledge-based economy and glossaries
- Roadmaps, community engagement, large language models, tools and vocabulary profiling.

The day concluded with a group brainstorm: *Moving FAIR Vocabularies Forward For All: what are our priorities?*, facilitated by Dougie Boyle<sup>9</sup>.

## Feedback from Symposium participants (via MentiMeter)

The Symposium included four surveys. [Survey results are available online](#). Survey questions are reproduced below

- Participant background
  - In which sectors do you work?
  - In what domains do you work with vocabularies?
  - What types of vocabularies do you work with?
  - What are your main roles relating to vocabularies?
- How participants search for, select and use vocabularies
  - How do you use vocabularies?
  - How do you search for vocabularies?
  - If you search and find, how do you select from more than one option?
- Event evaluation

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<sup>8</sup> Notes from day 1 brainstorm session available at <https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.10138706>

<sup>9</sup> Notes from day 2 brainstorm session available at <https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.10138706>

- Comment on the range of subject domains that were represented
  - Comment on how much of the information presented was of interest
  - Comment on applicability to your work
- Future events
  - Likelihood of attending a future event
  - Interest in receiving training on various vocabulary-related topics
  - Free-text comments and suggestions concerning future vocabulary events