The FAIR for Research Software (FAIR4RS) Working Group

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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The FAIR for Research Software (FAIR4RS) Working Group (WG) has created community-endorsed FAIR principles for research software and encourages their adoption. FAIR4RS WG was jointly convened by the Research Software Alliance (ReSA), FORCE11 (the Future of Research Communication and eScholarship), and the Research Data Alliance (RDA) in March 2020, and uses online and open collaboration platforms to meet, exchange ideas, and produce outputs. The FAIR4RS WG steering committee, which is responsible for leadership, management, and coordination, aims to cultivate this community in a sustainable way, including securing funding for future activities. Currently funding is by in-kind collaborators and thanks to grants from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Wellcome Trust.

- Website: www.rd-alliance.org/groups/fair-4-research-software-fair4rs-wg

KEYWORDS

Disciplines / skills

- INTERDISCIPLINARY
- DATA SCIENCE
- SOFTWARE AND CODE

Programming and goals

- KNOWLEDGE GENERATION
- STANDARD SETTING
- OPEN SCIENCE
- OUTREACH AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS
- DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
- SOFTWARE SUSTAINABILITY

Stakeholder relationships

- MULTI-STAKEHOLDER
- INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA
- ACADEMIA-POLICY

COMMUNITY BASICS

200 members
10 000-person broader reach through the RDA, ReSA and FORCE11 communities

Mostly online with some in-person events*

*all activities were online during the COVID-19 pandemic

International

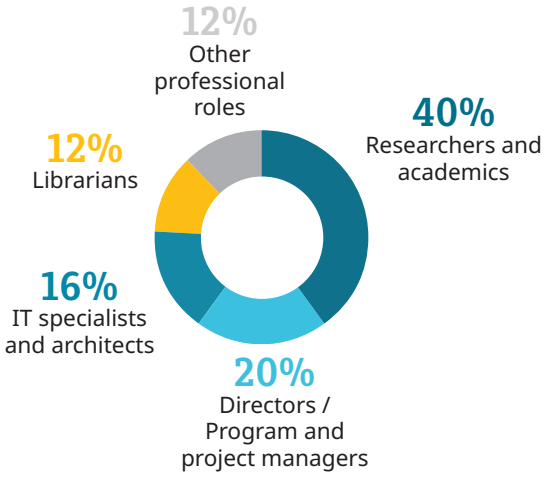
Open
anyone can join

COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

Community Management

Community management is directed by the 9-person **steering committee**, one of them being the .6 FTE **Community Manager**.

Members



Community Configuration

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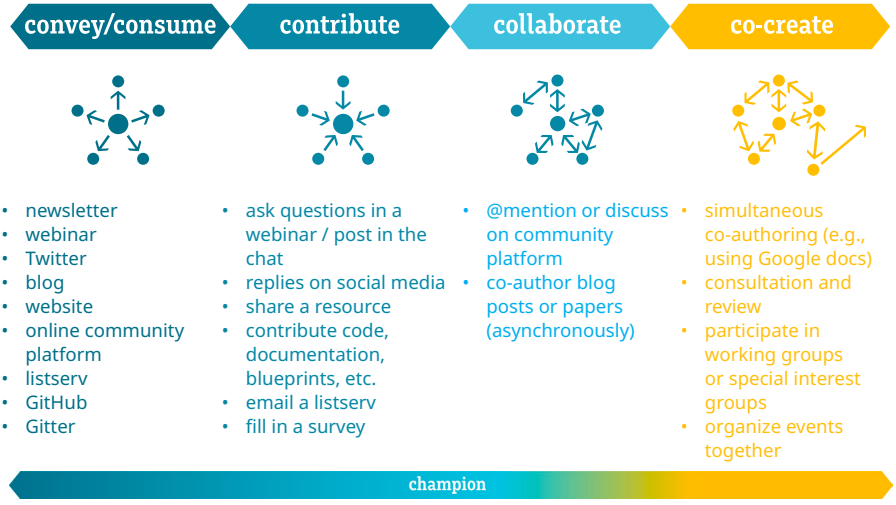
PROGRAMMING

Programming includes monthly steering committee meetings as well as regular communication via the mailing list, which includes invitations to collaborate. Occasional topical subgroups form around short-term deliverables, and are supported by the steering committee. The FAIR4RS community meets twice a year at the RDA plenary. Community members provide feedback on papers created by topical subgroups and by the working group. The community is active in presenting at various events (two to three times a month), with community members increasingly representing the group with support from the steering committee when needed.



COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

This community does not have a formal champions program. Members may informally act as champions in the following ways:

MAINTAIN

- N/A

GROW

- represent the community at external events

EVOLVE

- serve on a steering committee or other advisory role
- participate in a focus group or other means of in-depth feedback

CHAMPIONS take on additional activities to support or advance the community. They are sometimes described as emergent leaders.

THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION MODEL

The CSCCE Community Participation Model describes four modes of member engagement that can occur within a community – CONVEY/CONSUME, CONTRIBUTE, COLLABORATE, and CO-CREATE – and one that can occur both inside and outside of it: CHAMPION. All modes may be present at once, with some members interacting in multiple modes – or a community may have member engagement that falls into only some of the modes described. The model enables the mapping of community member behaviors to programming and other infrastructural support that the community manager, convening organization, or funder may provide to the community.

For more information, see the CSCCE community participation model.

Online In-person

COMMUNITY TOOLBOX

Communications

Email GitHub
Twitter Gitter
Zoom

Productivity

Google Drive GitHub
Google Analytics

Community platform

GitHub Gitter

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OUTPUTS & EVALUATION

Success looks like facilitated discussion of the impact and application of the FAIR principles for research softwares, an engaged community where members feel comfortable in sharing and developing new knowledge, enthusiasm to participate and lead future activities, and growth in a sustainable way which includes securing funding for future activities.

Successes over the last year

The FAIR4RS WG is enabling coordination and leverage of existing community-led discussions on how to define and effectively apply FAIR principles for research software. Over the last twelve months, co-creation and co-developing of outcomes has increased and led to external recognition of community impact.

- **Growth** - added new members
- **Engagement** - increased activity of members
- **Growth** - added additional sub-communities
- **Activities** - creating community outputs together
- **Activities** - an in-person or virtual event
- **Funding** - added a new revenue stream
- **Value** - external recognition of the community's impact
- **Value -** members expressing recognition of the community's value

Evaluation and Reporting

- Community member surveys
- Community member interviews
- Reports for leadership
- Reports for community

Opportunities

Creation of documents summarizing the definition of the FAIR principles for research software, implementation guidelines and adoption examples.

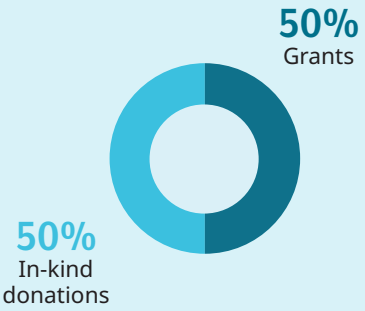
- **Growth** - launch new program or project
- **Growth** - add new members
- **Engagement** - increase member activity
- **Engagement** - more members acting as champions
- **Activities** - create community outputs together
- **Activities** - host conference(s) / workshops
- **Funding** - secure new funding streams
- **Value** - external recognition
- **Value** - more members expressing recognition of the community's value

Challenges

Time-limited funding will affect the ability to support staff to coordinate engagement activities. Diversity, equity and inclusion goals need to be strengthened.

- Financial sustainability
- Increasing diversity

FUNDING



Funding Streams

- 50% funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Wellcome Trust
- 50% in-kind donations of time from members

FAIR4RS does not currently offer funding opportunities to members.

ABOUT THIS PROFILE

This profile is part of a research project conducted by the Center for Scientific Collaboration and Community Engagement (CSCCE). You can find out more about the project, and view more community profiles, on our website.

Information for this profile was submitted by Paula Andrea Martinez, Community Manager.

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