



Australian Research Data Commons

Research Vocabularies Australia (RVA) Review

Development Roadmap

Prepared by: Joel Benn, Rowan Brownlee, Cel Pilapil

Reviewed by: Adrian Burton

Approved by: ARDC Executive Management Team (EMT)

11 December 2019

Introduction	1
RVA 1 Year Development Roadmap	2
Q4 2019	2
RVA Portal search functionality improvement	2
User support improvement	3
Q1 2020	3
Vocabulary selection/endorsement	3
Vocabulary maintenance/clean up	3
Q2 2020	3
Vocabulary governance & content	3
Q3 2020	3
Vocabulary governance & content	3
Tools and Technology	3
Vocabulary selection / endorsement	3
Q4 2020	4
Tools and Technology	4
Consistent visual interface across all RVA services	4
2 to 5 Year Roadmap	4
Resources	4
References:	5

Introduction

The Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC), sought the assistance of CSIRO as an independent consultant for its expert advice on the future directions of Research Vocabularies Australia (RVA).

The consultation, led by Dr. Simon Cox and Dr. Jonathan Yu, was initiated in June 2019 and concluded in September 2019 when the [final RVA review report](#) was presented to ARDC. The report was publicly shared via the ARDC's November 2019 newsletter. The RVA review provided the ARDC with valuable insights into the experiences and needs of RVA users.

Based on the recommendations provided in the review report as well as the organisation's strategic plans, the ARDC has formulated both short and long term roadmaps for RVA which are described in this document. Both roadmaps will be reviewed and published on an annual basis.

This three year plan consolidates the aspects of RVA which the review valued: reliable services, consultancy, and support for publishing and re-use of scientific terminology. Equally the three year roadmap allocates development resources to aspects of the service where the review highlighted unmet needs: findability of relevant concepts; knowing which vocabularies are appropriate to particular domains; and further support, training, and guidance material for the development, use, and governance of vocabularies.

RVA 1 Year Development Roadmap

Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Review and tune search ranking to improve search results ❑ Addition of new concept search functionality ❑ Enhance search facets to provide users with the count of results which would be added to their search if applied ❑ Conduct webinar after implementation of a highly visible change or a major RVA functionality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Engage with the earth sciences research community to publish a vocabulary pathfinder. Review approach and outputs for applicability to other research domains. ❑ Clean up the registers associated with RVA - esp. related-parties (organizations, publishers, creators), and rationalize duplicates so that the faceted search is better. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Enable richer connections and remove the potential for duplicates by simplifying the process of linking vocabularies to related entities in recognised controlled lists and services (e.g. ORCID & ROR). ❑ Extensions to the related-entity roles in the RVA CMS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Extend vocabulary metadata schema to support the capture and display of detailed vocabulary governance information ❑ Commence analysis to understand tool/service/plugin requirements within the community to support vocabulary adoption and reuse. ❑ Publish a finding aid for earth science community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Commence development of tool/services to support adoption and reuse of vocabularies. ❑ Provide consistent UI look and feel for RVA portal and RVA repository

Q4 2019
RVA Portal search functionality improvement
Review and tune search ranking to improve search results
Addition of new concept search functionality
Enhance search facets to provide users with the count of results which would be added to their search if applied
User support improvement
Conduct webinar after implementation of a highly visible change or a major RVA functionality
Release a detailed documentation of an important RVA functionality to assist RVA users
Q1 2020
Vocabulary selection/endorsement
Engage with the earth sciences research community to publish a vocabulary pathfinder. Review approach and outputs for applicability to other research domains.
Vocabulary maintenance/clean up
Clean up the registers associated with RVA - esp. related-parties (organizations, publishers, creators), and rationalize duplicates so that the faceted search is better.
Q2 2020
Vocabulary governance & content
Enable richer connections and remove the potential for duplicates by simplifying the process of linking vocabularies to related entities in recognised controlled lists and services (e.g. ORCID & ROR).
Extensions to the related-entity roles in the RVA CMS
Q3 2020
Vocabulary governance & content
Extensions to vocabulary metadata schema to support the capture and display of detailed vocabulary governance information.

Tools and Technology
Commence analysis to understand tool/service/plug-in requirements within the community to support vocabulary adoption and reuse.
Vocabulary selection / endorsement
Publish a finding aid for earth science vocabularies
Q4 2020
Tools and Technology
Initial phase of development of tool/services to support adoption and reuse of vocabularies.
Consistent visual interface across all RVA services
Provide a UI for vocabulary details with a look-and-feel more consistent with the RVA Portal

2 to 5 Year Roadmap

The 2-5 year roadmap outlines the longer term plan for RVA.



Resources

An estimate of the resources required over the next 3 years to accomplish the deliverables outlined in the roadmaps along with performing the standard engagement, maintenance and support activities for the RVA service.

Item	Year 1	Year 2-3
Service Infrastructure Delivery	2 EFT (<i>represents .3 of the entire Dev Ops team's capacity</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 EFT (<i>represents .3 of the entire Dev Ops team's capacity</i>) <i>Note that additional resource requirements will be dependent on the outcome of the technology refresh evaluation described in the 2-5yr roadmap above.</i>
Service Outreach/Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 EFT specialist vocab/ontology engagement .25 EFT domain specialists from general skills engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> upskilling project opportunities relationship with broader FAIR for domain profiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5 EFT specialist vocab/ontology engagement .33 EFT domain specialists from general skills engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> upskilling project opportunities relationship with broader FAIR for domain profiles

References:

- [RVA Review Report](#) (dated 09 Sep 2019)
- [RVA 12-Month Development Roadmap](#)