



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between the

RESEARCH DATA ALLIANCE (RDA)

and

**LA REFERENCIA/COOPERACIÓN LATINOAMERICANA de REDES AVANZADAS
(RedCLARA)**

This Agreement is made on 1st January 2025 between the Research Data Alliance Foundation (RDA), with registered offices at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Harwell Oxford, Didcot, OX11 0QX, England; and Cooperación Latino Americana de Redes Avanzadas (RedCLARA), on behalf of LA Referencia [contractor], with registered offices at Rambla República de México 6125, Montevideo, 11400, Uruguay.

Considering that:

1. The RDA was launched as a community-driven initiative in 2013 with the goal of building the social and technical infrastructure to enable open sharing and re-use of data.
2. With more than 15.000 members from 152 countries (January 2025), RDA provides a neutral space where its members can come together through focused, global Working Groups (WGs) Interest Groups (IGs) and Communities of Practice (CoP) to develop and adopt infrastructure that promotes data-sharing and data-driven research, and accelerates the growth of a cohesive data community that integrates stakeholders across domain, research, national, geographical and generational boundaries.
3. RDA addresses the need for open and interoperable sharing of research data and builds the social, technical and cross-disciplinary links to enable such



sharing on a global scale. RDA Members come together through focused working groups and interest groups, formed by experts from all around the world – from academia, private sector and government. Individual membership of RDA is free of charge and open to anyone who agrees to its Guiding Principles¹ of openness, consensus, inclusivity and harmonisation, with a community-driven, non-profit and technology-neutral approach.

4. Red Latinoamericana para la Ciencia Abierta (LA Referencia)² is the Latin American Network for Open Science. LA Referencia was born from the Cooperation Agreement, signed in Buenos Aires in 2012, reflecting the political will to offer open access to the scientific production of Latin America as a regional public good with emphasis on results financed with public funds.
5. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Spain, Panama, Peru and Uruguay are active members of the LA Referencia network. Through its services it supports national Open Access strategies across Latin America and Spain through a platform with interoperability standards, sharing and giving visibility to the scientific production generated in higher education and scientific research institutions.
6. RedCLARA is the Latin American Research and Education Network, regional leader and promotor of collaboration and development in education, science and innovation, by means of its e-infrastructure and services tailored for its community needs. RedCLARA provides regional interconnections and connections to the world through its international links and promotes the development of tools, services and research projects to empower regional scientific and educational development and the collaboration among Latin American R&E institutions and of Latin America with the rest of the world, with

¹ <https://www.rd-alliance.org/how-the-rda-works/>

² <https://www.lareferencia.info/es/>



an important focus on less developed regions, and on promotion of open data sharing, especially for research and education purposes.

7. In the Cooperation and Administration Agreement between RedCLARA and LA Referencia (2018), the Project partners have requested the collaboration of RedCLARA for the management and supervision of the correct execution of the activities and operation of LA Referencia.

In recognition that to support research data needs in a local context, we need to collaborate regionally and globally, the Partners have reached the following understandings:

- I. This Memorandum of Understanding seeks to establish effective mechanisms for collaboration between RDA and LA Referencia to raise the awareness of Latin American excellence in Open Science, increased global knowledge of Latin American stakeholders in Open Science, showcasing community-driven work from the global Research Data Alliance to LA Referencia stakeholders to reduce the barriers to sharing and re-using research data.
- II. RDA provides the forum for the global community to connect and share knowledge providing the context in which the Latin American Open Science community may interact and operate. RDA, on behalf of the global RDA community, offers the following support:
 - Disseminating Latin American efforts to the global RDA community
 - Facilitating connections & shared interests among Regions to support activities and growth
 - Supporting Latin American leadership to build the RDA community and create impact
 - Rotating plenary locations, enabling international consensus to be built on issues of Latin American importance.



III. LA Referencia activities will include:

- i. Facilitating national and transnational engagements, including the creation of formal Working Groups to address data-related issues critical to the Latin American research community and the public at large
- ii. Organizing events and training to support the adoption of best practices in research data management across Latin America.
- iii. Serve as an information conduit and professional connector for regional activities.
- iv. Promoting regional adoption of RDA recommendations
- v. Connecting Latin American research data stakeholders.

IV. This Memorandum of Understanding does not represent any transfer of funding or intellectual property rights between the Partners. Personnel provided by each of the Partners for any joint activities should be understood as exclusively associated with the employing Partner, and that Partner should assume separate and exclusive responsibility for this concept. In no case should the other Partner be considered a de facto or substitute employer.

V. The present Memorandum of Understanding (a) is intended to become operative upon signature by the Partner, (b) may be revised or modified upon the written consent of the Partners, and (c) may be discontinued by written consent of the Partners or by either Partners upon at least 90 days prior written notice to the other of the intended date discontinuance.

VI. This Memorandum of Understanding is not binding and does not create any enforceable rights and duties for the Partners. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding constitutes a commitment or obligation of funds on the part of either Partner. All activities referenced in this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the availability of each parties own resources and capabilities.

VII. Use of RDA branding and web site section. As part of this MoU, **LA Referencia** is authorised to use the RDA logo. Use of the logo and RDA branding is



governed by the RDA Endorsement and Logo Usage Guidelines³. Upon termination of this MoU, the branding and web are no longer authorised and any eventual use must be justified and approved in writing by the RDA Secretary General.

VIII. As an official RDA regional contact, LA Referencia will be invited to attend the RDA Regional Assembly, a global forum representing the regional perspectives, as outlined in the RDA Governance document⁴. The Regional Advisory Board (RAB) is restricted to RDA regional partners who have signed a formal partnership agreement with the RDA Foundation, as outlined in the RDA Governance document. RDA national / regional groups should aspire to forming a regional partnership agreement, as outlined in the RDA Regional Processes Document⁵. Furthermore, representatives from **LA Referencia** network may participate in the RDA Funders Forum⁶, a group of funding organisations / representatives with an interest in research data and related data policies.

IX. Partners contacts;

- i. Research Data Alliance (RDA) designates Ms. Hilary Hanahoe, Secretary General, CEO – hilary.hanahoe@rda-foundation.org
- ii. Red Latinoamericana para la Ciencia Abierta (LA Referencia) designates Mr. Robinson Zapata Pino - rzapata@senacyt.gob.pa
- iii. Cooperación Latino Americana de Redes Avanzadas (RedCLARA) designates Mr. Luis Eliécer Cadenas, Executive Director - luis-eliecer.cadenas@redclara.net

³ <https://www.rd-alliance.org/rda-endorsement-and-logo-usage-guidelines/>

⁴ Citation and Download: Research Data Alliance (2020): RDA Governance Document, Version 2.8. DOI: 10.15497/RDA00001

⁵ Citation and Download: Research Data Alliance. (2021). RDA Regional Partnership Processes Document (2.2). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.15497/rda00059>

⁶ <https://www.rd-alliance.org/funders-forum>



In witness whereof we sign in the place and on the day indicated below:

Research Data Alliance (RDA)

Hilary Hanahoe

Secretary General | CEO RDA Foundation

Place and date: Didcot, 25th March 2025

A blue ink signature of Hilary Hanahoe. Below the signature, the text 'Hilary Hanahoe Secretary General Research Data Alliance' is printed in a small, sans-serif font.

Signature:

Cooperación Latino Americana de Redes Avanzadas (RedCLARA)

Luis Eliécer Cadenas

Executive Director

Place and date: Santiago

27/03/2025

Signature:

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A blue ink signature of Luis Cadenas.
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Red Latinoamericana para la Ciencia Abierta (LA Referencia)

Robinson Zapata Pino

President

Place and date:

01/04/2025

Signature:

DocuSigned by:
A blue ink signature of Robinson Zapata Pino.
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