

# Research Data Management Librarian Academy (RDMLA): New Units, Partnerships, and Growing Impact

Ashley Thomas<sup>1</sup>, Rong Tang<sup>2</sup>, and Zhan Hu<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>Countway Library of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; <sup>2</sup> School of Library and Information Science, Simmons University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

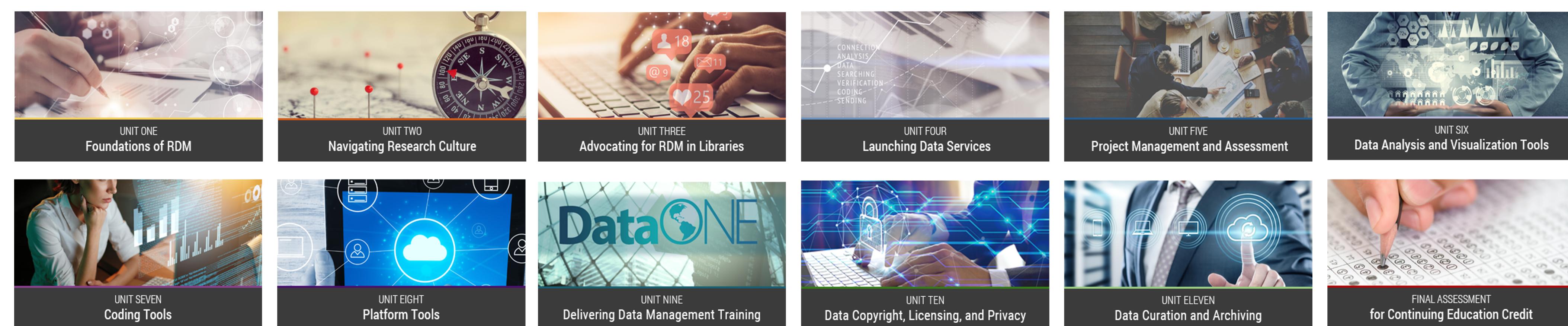
## BACKGROUND

Launched in October 2019, the Research Data Management Librarian Academy (RDMLA) meets librarians' RDM training needs. Collaboratively developed by librarians, LIS faculty, and industry professionals, RDMLA directly addresses the learning gaps in RDM training discovered in a 2018 needs assessment survey and environmental scan. Practicing librarians responded to questions regarding their RDM training needs, challenges offering RDM services, and essential RDM skills needed for professional success. The findings provided insights into RDM practices, the state of RDM training, and exposed missing areas, key among them, a holistic, accessible, self-paced and expandable curriculum.

The RDMLA curriculum framework consists of eleven units addressing expressed RDM needs while avoiding redundancy in current training offerings. The first eight units were released in October 2019 and an additional three units were made available in late-2020. The RDMLA continues to grow and provide new content through new partnerships.

RDMLA currently has more than 5,000 learners from 159 countries. The RDMLA team is committed to continuously providing comprehensive RDM training with new unit development and translation partnerships. Through the RDMLA, we seek to build a global community of practice of RDM and further advance RDM practice in libraries and beyond.

## CURRENT COURSE CURRICULUM

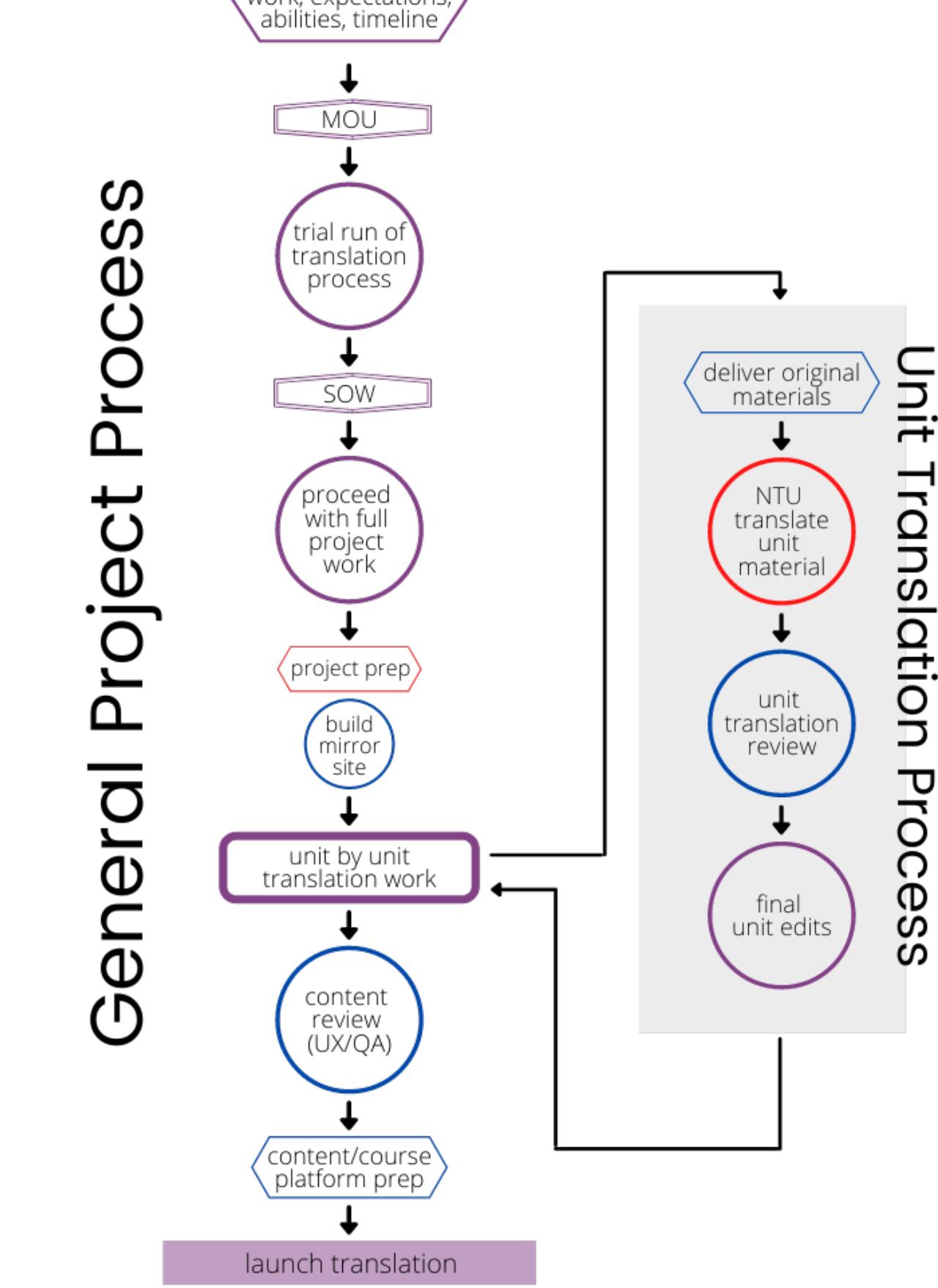


## MEET OUR PARTNERS

- + Harvard Medical School
- + Harvard University
- + Simmons University
- + Boston University
- + Tufts University
- + Northeastern University
- + MCPHS University
- + Brown University
- + Elsevier
- + National Taiwan University
- + DataONE
- + National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- + Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

## NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY TRANSLATION PARTNERSHIP

- + Traditional Chinese-language translation partnership established in June 2020
- + Shares the goal of providing equitable access to education materials to the larger Chinese-speaking population
- + A collaborative iterative review has been adopted to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the original content
- + Translation will finish in mid-summer 2021, followed by a UX/QA review, with launch planned for October 2021



## NEW AND UPCOMING UNITS/MINI-MODULES



### New Units Launched Fall/Winter 2020

- + The three new units were produced based on learner feedback for specific training areas
  - Units introduced two new instructors: Dr. Amber Budden (Unit Nine) and Dr. Adam Kriesberg (Unit Eleven)
  - Unit 10 featured RDMLA instructor Scott Lapinski
  - Unit Nine was developed through a new partnership with DataONE
- + The new units will have a continuing education (CE) offering available mid-2021
  - The upcoming test will allow interested learners to gain 1 CE credit

### Upcoming New Unit and Mini-Modules

- + Unit 12, instructed by RDMLA co-leader Dr. Rong Tang, will discuss data ethics
  - Production will begin mid-2021 with a late-2021/early-2022 launch
- + In response to the acceleration of emerging RDM topics, "mini-modules" will be introduced beginning July 2021
  - The first mini-module is being developed through new partnerships with NIH and IUPUI and will focus on the upcoming NIH Data Sharing Policy
  - Featured Instructors: Taunton Paine (NIH), Dr. Cindy Danielson (NIH), Dr. Lisa Federer (NLM/NIH), and Heather Coats (IUPUI)
- + Future topics under consideration: pre-prints, open access archives, and data and social justice



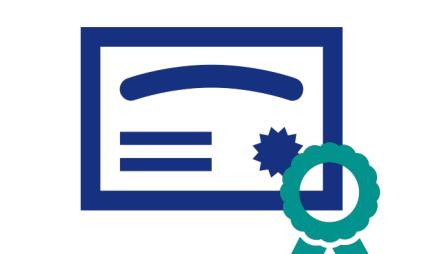
## GROWING IMPACT

### RDMLA has been used by instructors worldwide in:

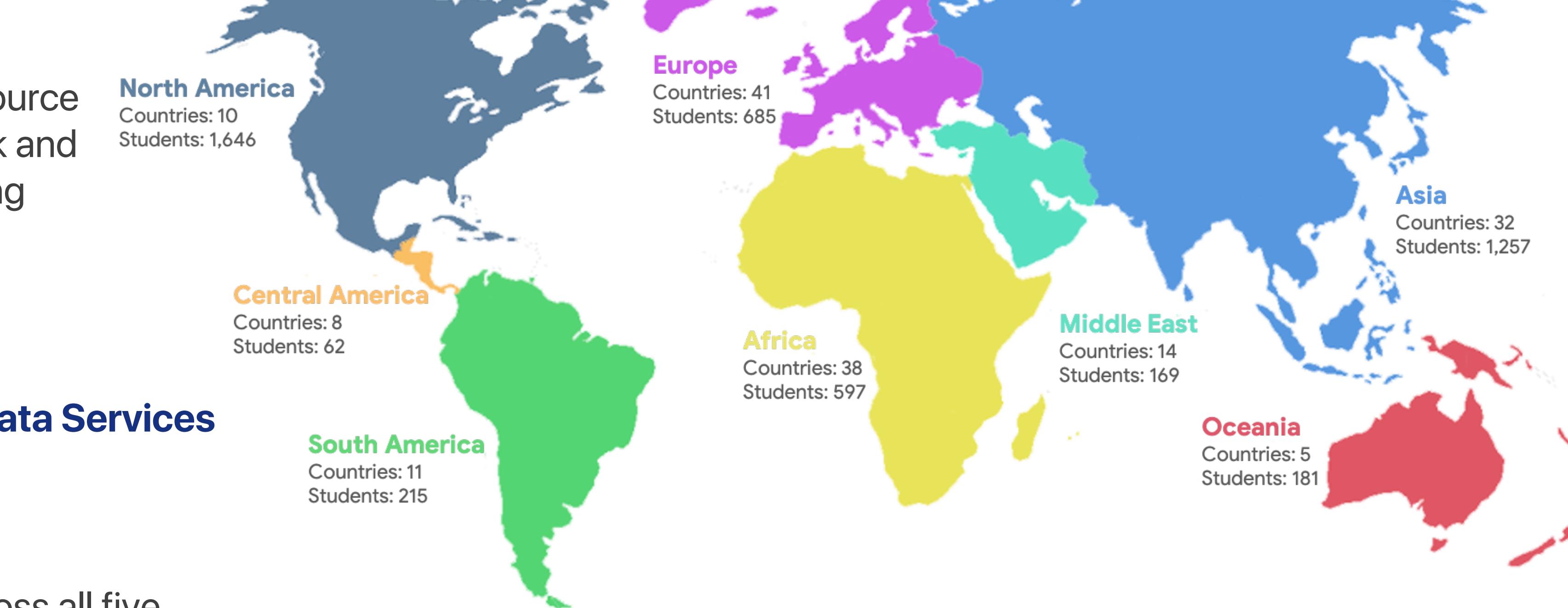
- + The United States
- + Turkey
- + Israel
- + Kenya
- + Thailand



- + 159 nations represented
- + 5,100+ learners enrolled



- + 7,308 completion badges awarded
- + 39 successful CE test takers



### RDMLA + MLA Professional Development

The RDMLA is an approved course for the basic level **Data Services Specialization (DSS)** offered by MLA!

Learners can:

- Take the **entire** RDMLA course for 16.5 credits across all five of the DSS skill areas  
**OR**
- Take **individual** RDMLA course units for 1.5 credits in one of the DSS skill areas

Receiving credit for your work is as simple as submitting your unit and/or course completion badge/s with your specialization competition application.

## CONTACT US:

- [rdmla.github.io](https://rdmla.github.io)
- [rdmla.help@gmail.com](mailto:rdmla.help@gmail.com)
- [@The\\_RDMLA](https://twitter.com/The_RDMLA)
- [@TheRDMLA](https://facebook.com/TheRDMLA)
- Presenter Contact Information:  
[ashley\\_thomas@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:ashley_thomas@hms.harvard.edu)

