2019 REFEDS Workplan

These are the proposed top level areas for the 2019 workplan, drawn from proposals crowdsourced in 2019.

- REF19-1: REFEDS Coordination and Management
- REF19-2: Specialist Working Groups
- REF19-3: Promotion and Communication
- REF19-4: Standards and Specifications
- REF19-5: REFEDS Services

## REF19-1: REFEDS Coordination and Management

**Lead:** Nicole Harris

**Aims:**

- To progress REFEDS position as an important player within the access and identity management space internationally.
- To build on established relationships with GEANT project, ISOC and Kantara.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORKITEMS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
<th>ASSIGNED TO</th>
<th>START DATE</th>
<th>END DATE</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REF19-1A</td>
<td>REFEDS BOFs at appropriate meetings throughout the year (maximum of 2).</td>
<td>Suggestions for where to target BOFs in 2019 welcomed. Proposal for an &quot;unconference&quot; style REFEDS meeting has been circulated to the community for discussion.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/19</td>
<td>12/19</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>REF19-1B</td>
<td>Maintain and develop the REFEDS blog, wiki and website.</td>
<td>As normal.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/19</td>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>COMPLETE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF19-1C</td>
<td>REFEDS annual meetings.</td>
<td>TNC and Internet2 Technology Exchange Meeting.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/19</td>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>COMPLETE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF19-1D</td>
<td>Implement 2019 REFEDS Survey.</td>
<td>Annual REFEDS Survey to go out in September 2019.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>09/19</td>
<td>12/19</td>
<td>COMPLETE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF19-1E</td>
<td>Manage REFEDS contracts with third parties.</td>
<td>These are contracts with external parties that support REFEDS such as Spherical Cow Consulting and RETI.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/19</td>
<td>07/19</td>
<td>COMPLETE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF19-1F</td>
<td>Manage REFEDS Sponsorships.</td>
<td>Current sponsor list.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td>01/20</td>
<td>COMPLETE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF19-1G</td>
<td>REFEDS Distinguished Engineer Programme.</td>
<td>Programme to bring 2 engineers from developing federations to TNC.</td>
<td>Heather Flanagan</td>
<td>02/19</td>
<td>08/18</td>
<td>COMPLETE</td>
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## REF19-2: Specialist Working Groups

**Lead:** Heather Flanagan

**Aim:**

- To provide infrastructure and support for evolving ideas and areas in the REFEDS community.

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<tr>
<td>REF19-2A</td>
<td>FOG: Federation Operators Group</td>
<td>Peter Schober with support from Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/2019</td>
<td>12/2019</td>
<td>Continuing as usual. There are 128 subscribers as of 14 January 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF19-2B</td>
<td>OIDC(re): OpenID Connect for Research and Education</td>
<td>Niels van Dijk with support from Heather Flanagan</td>
<td>01/2019</td>
<td>12/2019</td>
<td>This group was closed and work shifted to the OIDF Research &amp; Education working group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REF19-2C  SIRTFI  Tom Barton with support from Nicole Harris  01/2019  12/2019  See the group wiki page for an update on the status of work items for this group.

REF19-2D  IdPs of Last Resort  Pete Birkenshaw with support from Heather Flanagan  01/2019  12/2019  Work is largely dormant in this group.

REF19-2E  Assurance  Mikael Linden with support from Heather Flanagan  01/2019  12/2019  The REFEDS Assurance suite was approved in October 2018. 2019 has focused on encouraging adoption of the profiles.

REF19-2F  Entity Category Support  Nicole Harris  01/2019  12/2019  Conduct a post-mortem for entity categories in general.

EXCHANGING ENTITY ATTRIBUTES OUTSIDE OF THOSE WITH GLOBAL DEFINITIONS (E.G. R&S, Sirtfi etc) CREATES A POTENTIAL FOR MOUNTING CONFLICT; PART OF HANDLING THIS IS ORCHESTRATION AND HANDLING. THERE MAY ALSO BE TAGS THAT ARE DEFINED WITHIN A FEDERATION, BUT NOT CROSS FEDERATION. THIS CREATES A VOCABULARY CONTROL CHALLENGE. WHO HANDLES THE RESPONSIBILITIES AMONG THE FED OPS TO CONSIDER THIS AND DOES THIS NEED MANAGING? THIS WORK AREA WILL INITIALLY FOCUS ON DISCUSSION HERE (BEST PRACTICE), CLARIFYING USE CASES AND CREATE A MATRIX TO INFORM THE DISCUSSION. RECOMMENDATIONS ON FUTURE STEPS TO SUPPORT THIS (INCLUDING POTENTIAL REGISTRIES, RULES FOR STRIPPING USING MDQ ETC.) WILL BE MADE.

THE existing identifier complexity is maddening, and changes to recommendations in SAML2INT may significantly impact the attributes supported within R&S. Possibly push for adoption of the Subject-ID spec everywhere an identifier is needed, to reduce complexity for all involved going forward. Replaces eduPersonTargetedID, SAML 2.0 persistent NameID, eduPersonUniqueID and (partially) eduPersonPrincipalName. Might help align with private/public identifiers in OIDC.

REF19-2G  Federation Trust 2.0  Tom Barton and Judith Bush with support from Heather Flanagan  01/2019  12/2019  The working group kicked off a process of scenario planning; work will continue in 2020 to develop a final report as a result of that effort.

REF19-3: Promotion and Communication  
Lead: Nicole Harris

Aims:
• To provide materials and support mechanisms to help federations promote effective approaches to IdPs and SPs.
• To provide feedback on documents produced by other groups to support clarity of messages.
• To reach out to target groups where specific messaging could be beneficial.

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<tr>
<td>REF19-3A</td>
<td>Promotional material and support for entity categories</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>04/2019</td>
<td>09/2019</td>
<td>R&amp;S pages updated. Still an outstanding need for a benefits doc to be hosted at: <a href="https://refeds.org/research-and-scholarship">https://refeds.org/research-and-scholarship</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF19-3B</td>
<td>REFEDS Discovery Guide, Mark 2</td>
<td>Heather Flanagan</td>
<td>01/2019</td>
<td>08/2019</td>
<td>Work postponed until RA21 pilots are completed.</td>
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It is proposed that concerted effort continue in 2019 to engage publisher groups and tackle some of the wider problems in the publisher space. This will be in coordination with the "RA21" group. Work will expand in 2019 to include development of a scholarly resource entity category.

SP Engagement Plan
Develop/enhance an engagement plan for service providers. The goal is threefold: 1) to gain deeper insights about the needs of SPs within the community, 2) to better integrate SPs in general community engagement (conferences, working groups, discussions, etc), and 3) to develop a resource for gaining SP support, feedback, and contributions. (Follow up from the Technology Exchange ACAMP session, SPs Unite! http://bit.ly/ACAMP-SPsUnite)

Aims:
- To provide support for the development of standards and specifications under the REFEDS banner.
- To pilot specification work to support implementation requirements.
- To put in place structures to ensure specification and schema sustainability.

There is little overlap and a lot of contradictions in requirements for logos in metadata among federations. We could improve the UI experience throughout eduGAIN if we standardized requirements internationally. Starting point from 2018 ACAMP: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KoTywEkPwmx6C3oFlrRn868ByMTbOW9pxBQNbgDk/edit?heading=h.eesjm1b7du95

Aims:
- To continue using MET and enhance where possible.
- To support the basic REFEDS infrastructure needs (website, wiki and mailing lists).

REF19-4: Standards and Specifications
Lead: Heather Flanagan

Aims:
- To provide support for the development of standards and specifications under the REFEDS banner.
- To pilot specification work to support implementation requirements.
- To put in place structures to ensure specification and schema sustainability.

REF19-5: REFEDS Services
Lead: Nicole Harris

Aims:
- To continue using MET and enhance where possible.
- To support the basic REFEDS infrastructure needs (website, wiki and mailing lists).