



Digital Objects: The Science Case

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Chair, **Biodiversity Information Standards - TDWG**

The Zettabyte Era

Source: Cisco VNI, 20

Year	Global Internet Traffic
1992	100 GB per day
1997	100 GB per hour
2002	100 GB per second
2007	2,000 GB per second
2016	26,600 GB per second
2021	105,800 GB per second



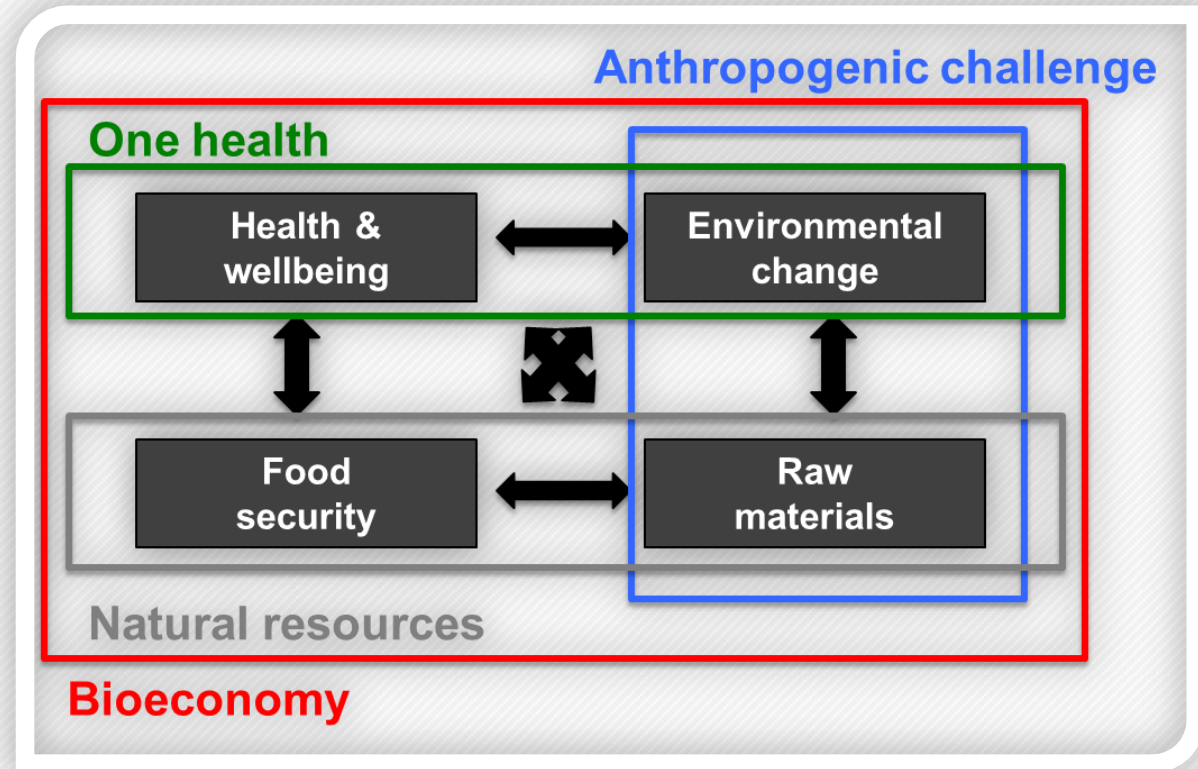
The Zettabyte Era

data, data, everywhere,
nor any drop to drink

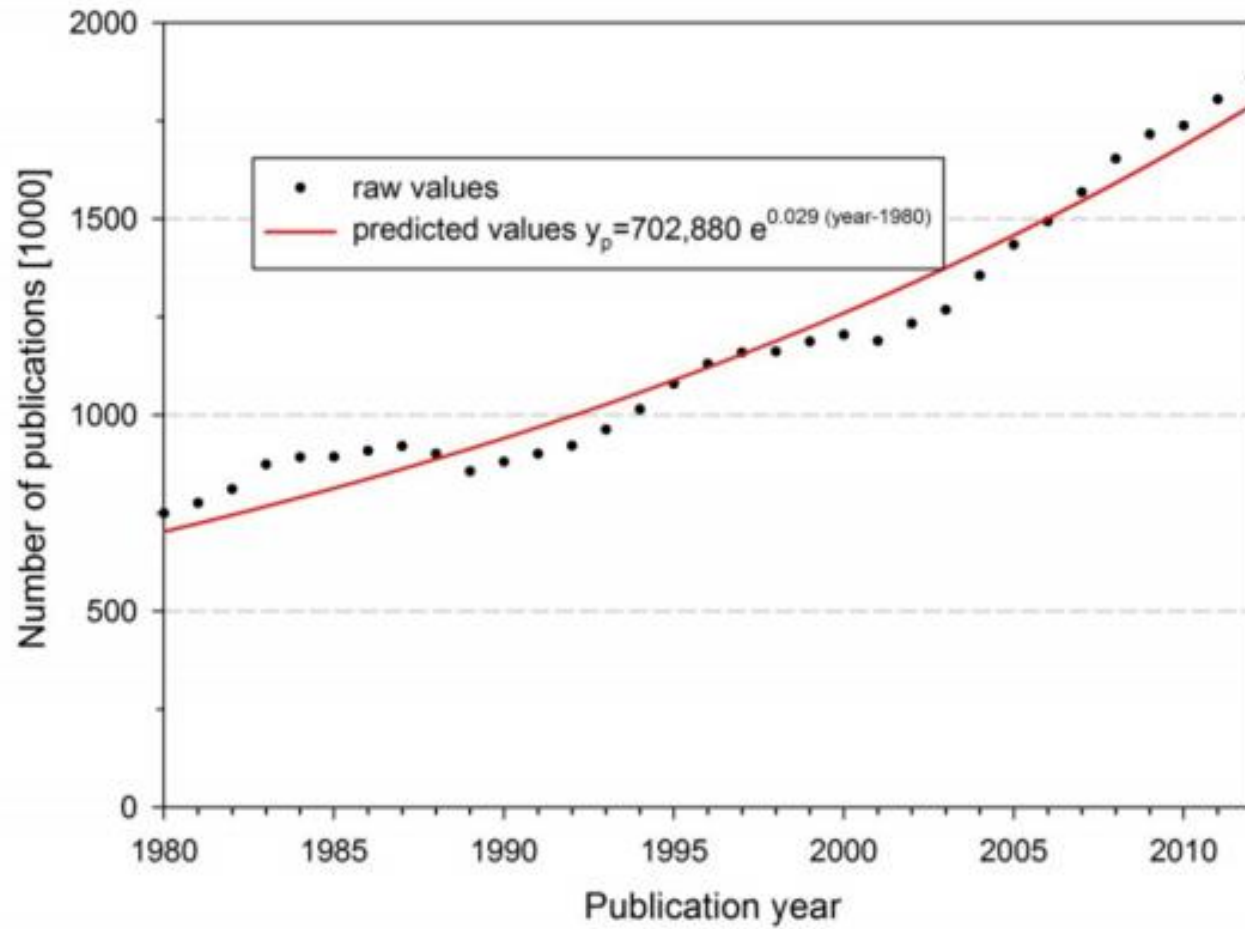
*Christiane Borgman,
paraphrasing Samuel Taylor Coleridge
@RDA, 2014 Amsterdam*



Our grand challenges require
Data-driven solutions



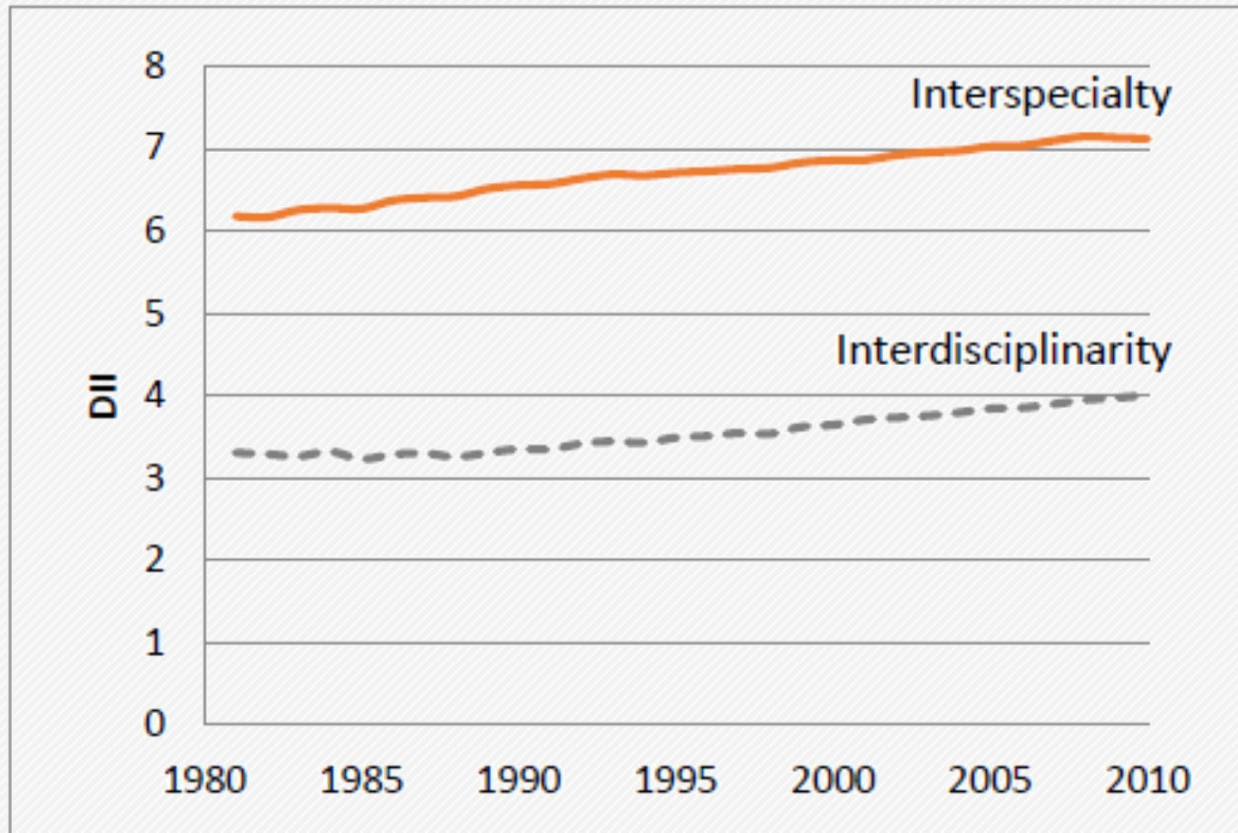
Need to deliver data at the
Scale, form and precision required



Ever-increasing rate of
global scientific products

Does data 'availability' affect scientific
output rate?

L. Bornmann & R. Mutz, 2014 [arXiv:1402.4578](https://arxiv.org/abs/1402.4578)



Impact of Interdisciplinary research publications

Impact Indicator of interdisciplinary research from 1981–2010

Chen, Shiji, et al. "Interdisciplinarity patterns of highly-cited papers: A cross-disciplinary analysis." *Proceedings of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* 51.1 (2014): 1-4.

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>



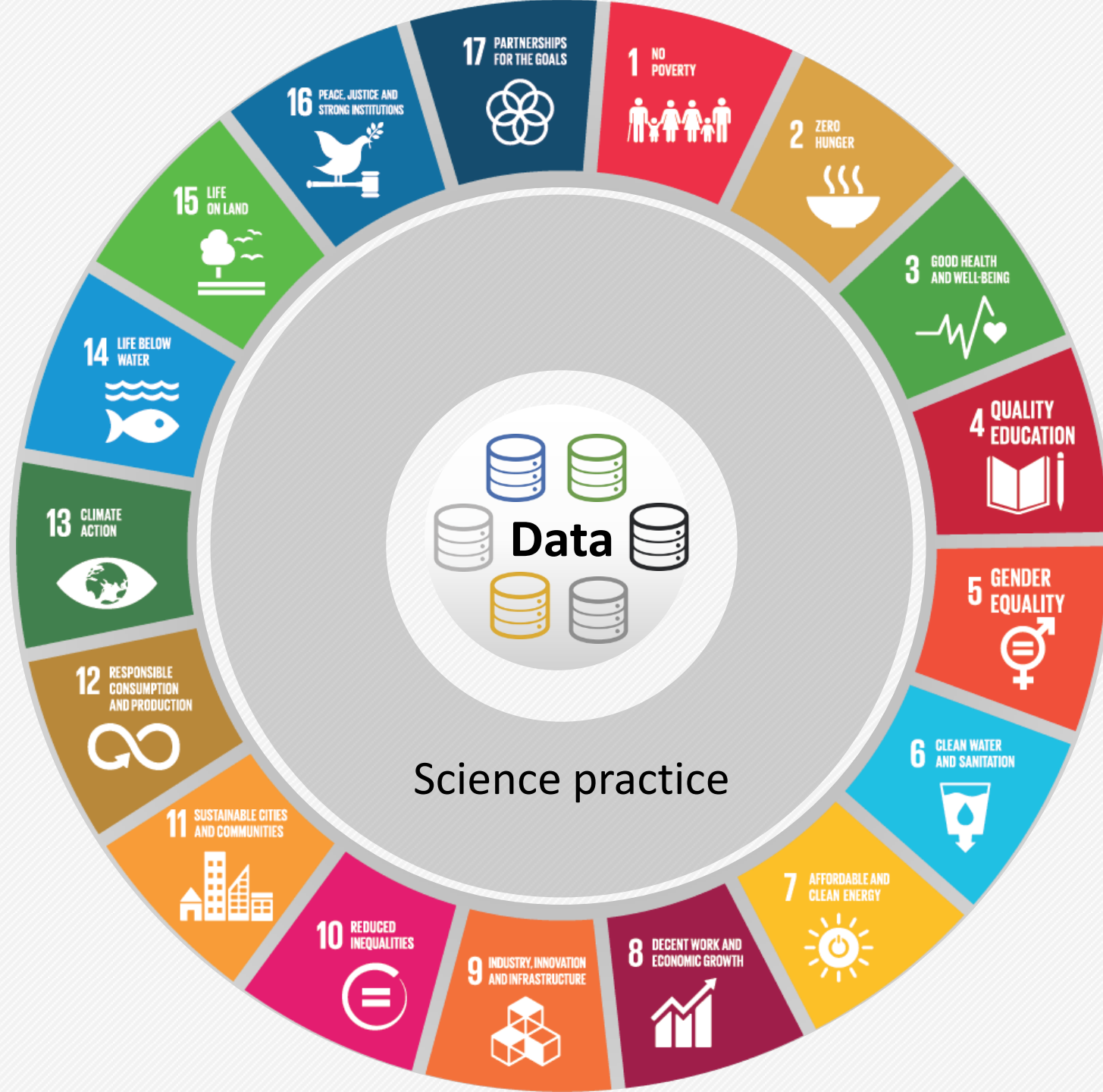
Challenges **global**

- It needs global standards
- Global workflows
- Cooperation of global players

BUT

Science carried out **“locally”**

- By local scientists
- Being part of local infrastructures
- Having local funders





Scientists develop and thrive
within their respective relatively
small communities of practice



TRUST

Practices
People
Data



Disconnecting data from the context in which they were produced is one of the problems with the way we handle big-data for science

In the Zettabyte era, data is not the new oil, is merely the oil-well

Meaningful & fit-for-purpose information builds trust and **reliable services**
can change the modus operandi of doing science

How can DO-based architecture help build TRUST?

Relevance

Provenance

Attribution

Completeness

Fitness-for-purpose

Agility

Branding (Datatyping)

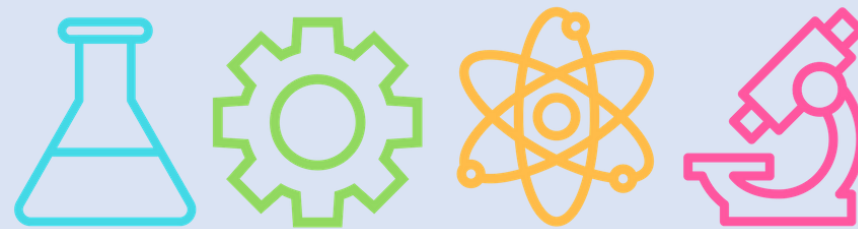
DOA Implementation could benefit from

Respect domain specific needs in terms of data

Operate within a trusted framework (a marketplace)

Deliver clear added value to existing practices

Develop in a future-proof way



FAIR

Strong science cases need to drive implementation
Research Infrastructures need to be at the forefront

Science is a 'light's better' endeavour in that research effort is **not directed at areas where the work is technically infeasible.**

Research is directed where real, interpretable results may be obtained.

We do, in fact, conduct research where the light's better.

But, when the light changes, so does science.

With better illumination, we look in new areas.

We find new things...



Scientific applications of DO architectures

Digital Objects as direct input into the CLARIN Language Resource Switchboard	Twan Gosen, Dieter van Uytvanck (CLARIN)
How a Digital Object Architecture could help ICOS streamline data service provisioning	Margareta Hellström (ICOS)
DiSSCo Digital Specimens- Widening access to natural science collections	Alex Hardisty (DISSCO)
The DO Case in Virtual Atomic and Molecular Data Centre	Carlo Maria Zwölf (VAMDC)
Digital Object Management for ENES: Challenges and opportunities	Tobias Weigel (ENES)



Researchers have been making data
FAIR throughout modern scientific
practice

Discovering
Interpreting
Linking
Sharing

Dark data more important mainly due to their volume¹

Investigator-focused 'small data'

Locally generated 'invisible data'

'incidental data'

80%
dark data

Published and
discoverable data

20%

Dark data lost within 20 years

Despite significant investment, data is not being managed effectively

\$1.5
TRILLION

is the current estimated total global spend on R&D, which could be at risk³



80% **lost**

In one study, the odds of sourcing datasets declined by 17% each year, with 80% of datasets over 20 years old not available⁴

¹Heidorn PB. *Library Trends* 57:280-299