University of Basel

BIOZENTRUM
The Center for Molecular Life Sciences

Metadata and controlled vocabularies – a treasure map to your data

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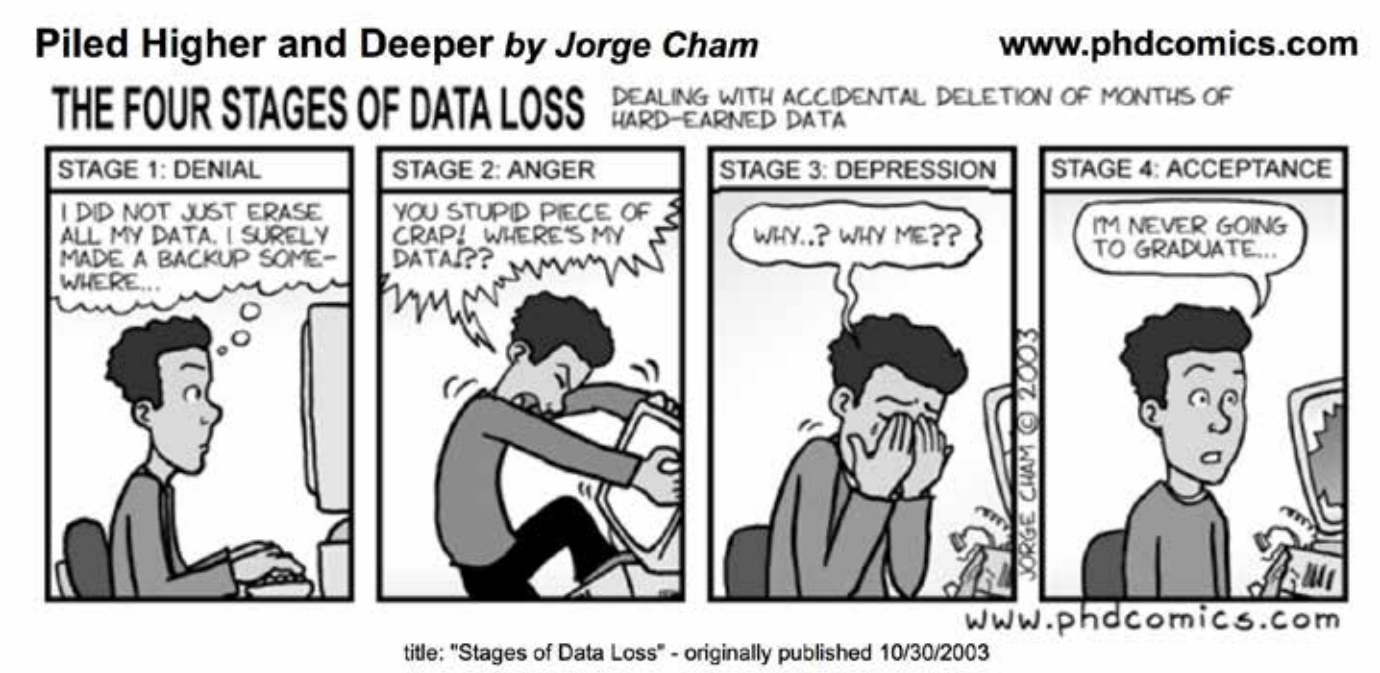
Why to manage and share your data

- You act **according to funding agencies requests**

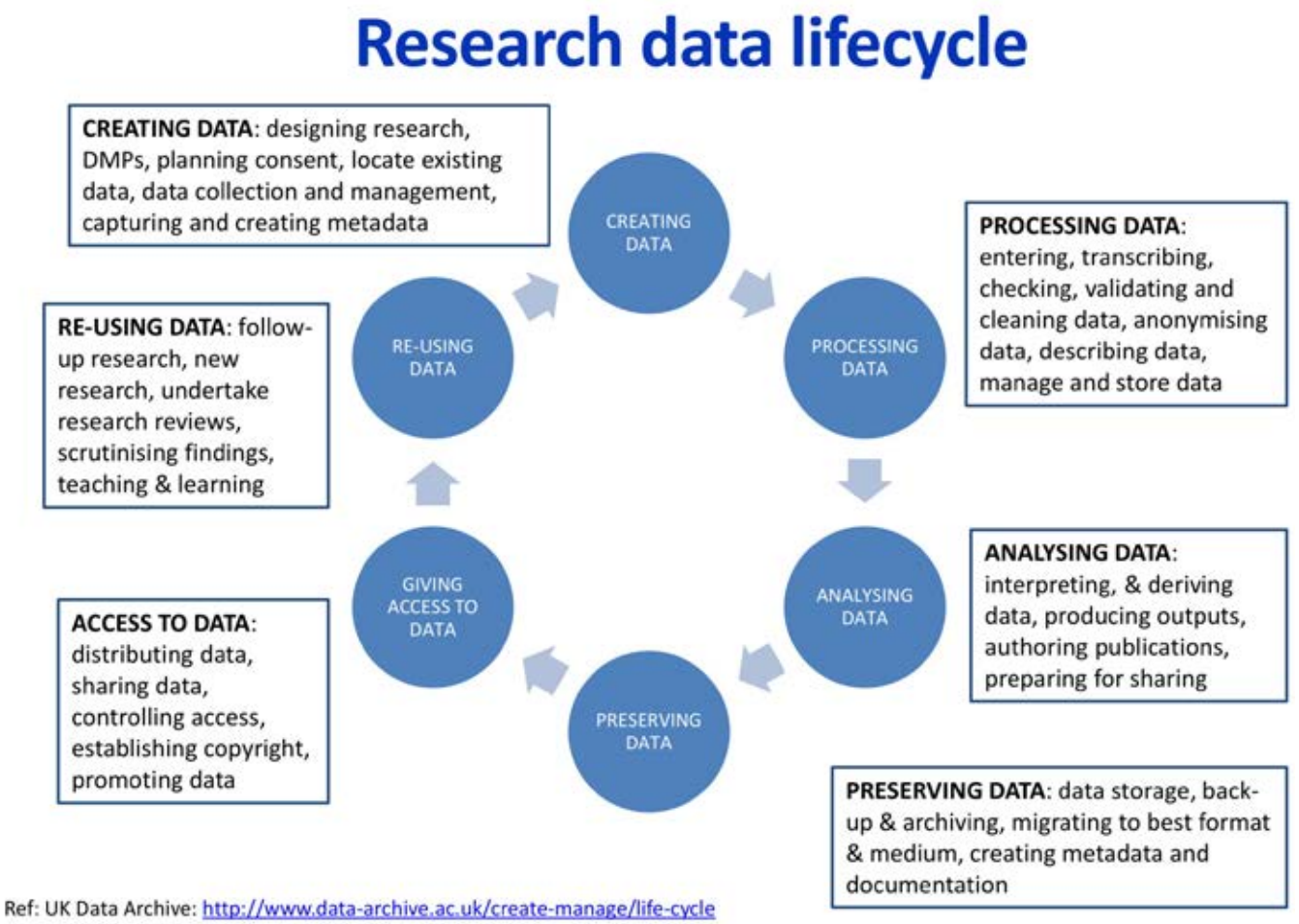


Why to manage and share your data

- You act **according to funding agencies requests (SNF, ERC)**
  =>that's where the actual momentum comes from!
- **Find and understand your data when you need to use it**
- **Continuity if project staff leave or new researchers join**
- **Avoid unnecessary duplication** *(e.g. re-collecting or re-working data on different storage shares)*
- **Data underlying publications are maintained**, allowing for validation of results
- Enables **more collaboration and advances research**

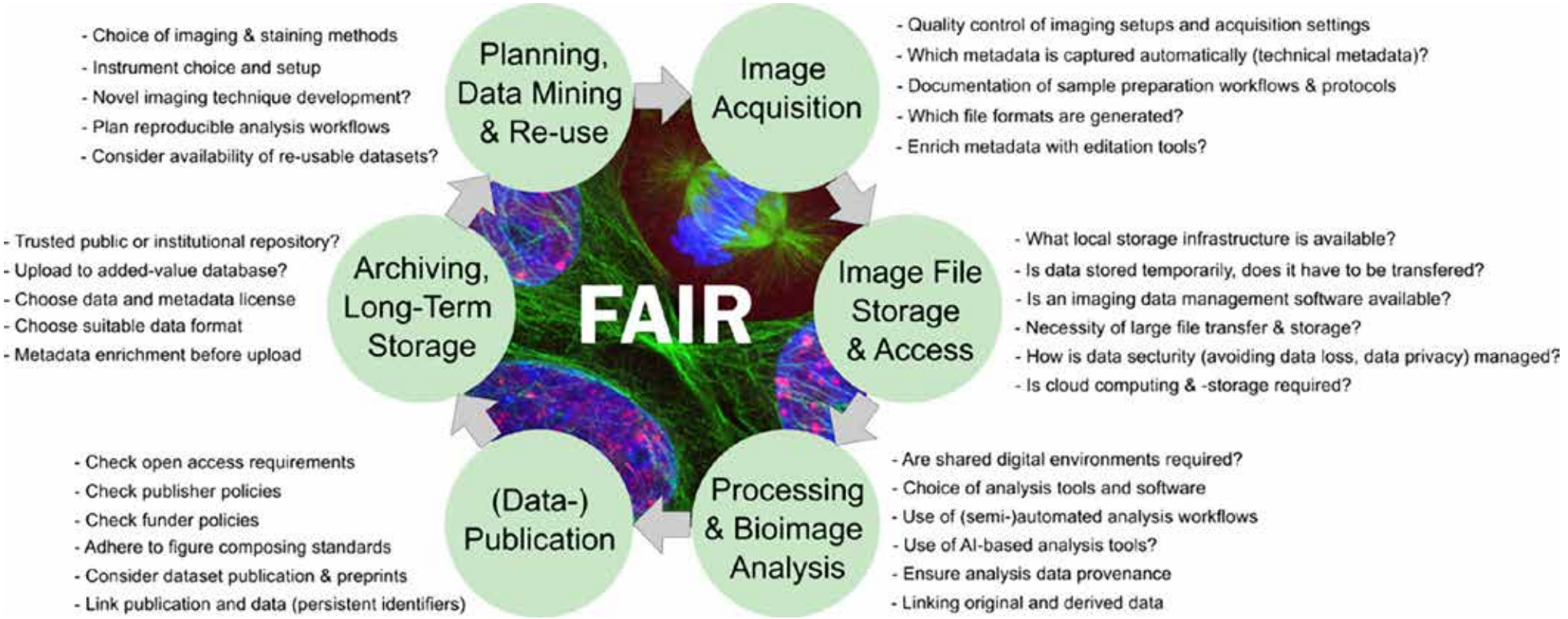
How/where to start? Where to go?

- Think about your data creation process and beyond!



Ref: UK Data Archive: http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/create-manage/life-cycle

Lifecycle in bioimaging

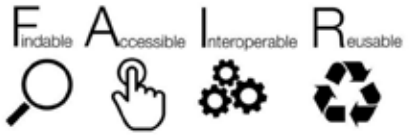


from [I3D:bio – Information Infrastructure for BioImage Data]

Two most important points to care about when planning data management

1. MAKE SURE YOU PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE **METADATA**

2. BE **F.A.I.R.**



What is METADATA?

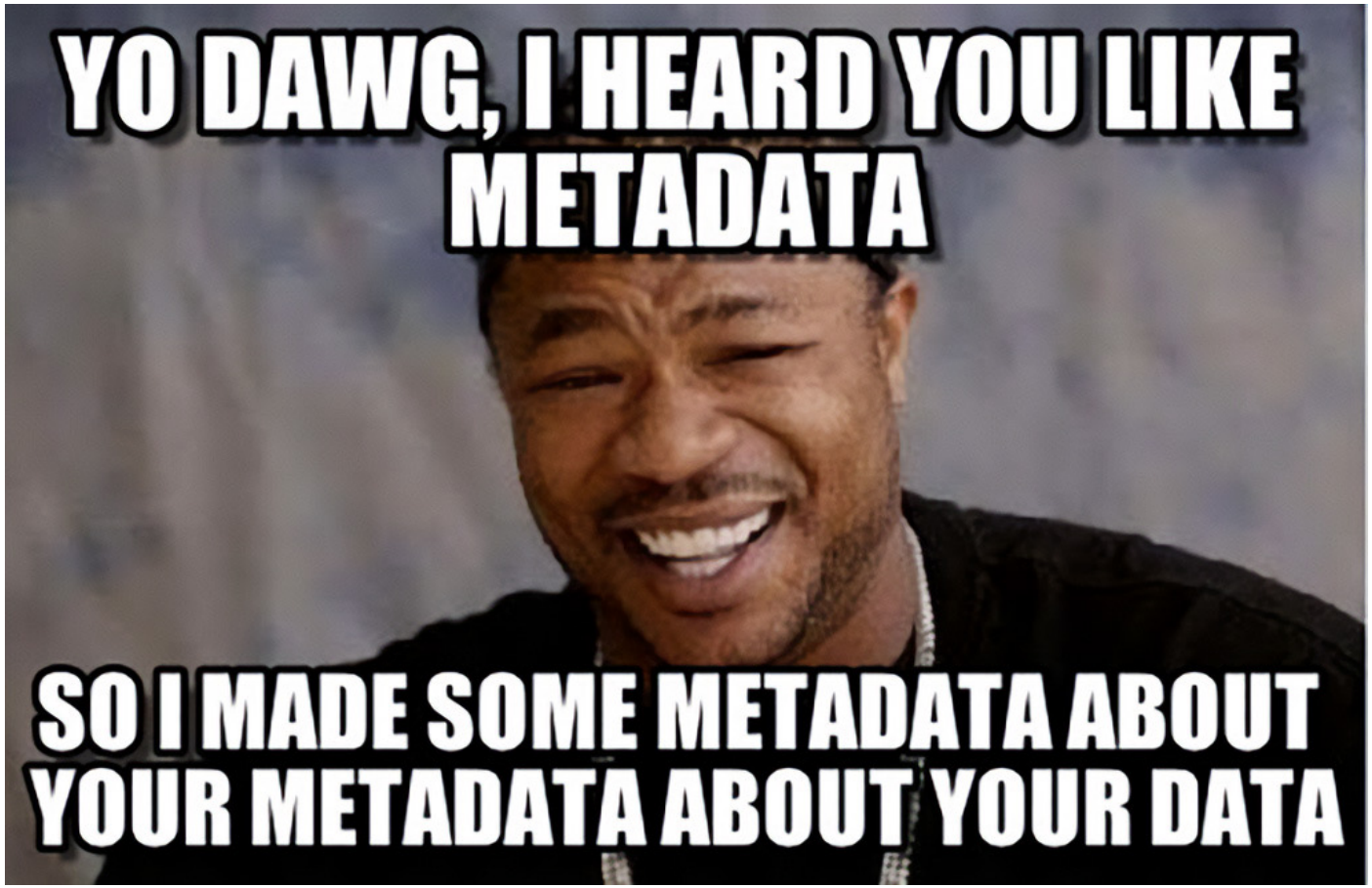
“We kill people based on metadata”

Gen. Michael Hayden

Former head of the National Security Agency

What is METADATA?

Data about your data…



What is METADATA?

METADATA = a set of data that describes and gives information about other data.

- **scientific images** – image size, objective (mag., NA), filters, laser wavelength, exposure time, opt. slice thickness, stack size, xy resolution, etc.
- **photography** – image size, exposure, time & date, objective, zoom, flash/no flash, GPS data, etc. (EXIF information)
- **movies** – file format, movie length, size, actors, director, producer, etc.
- **ebooks** – format, author, editor, year of publication, # pages, ISBN, etc.
- **Music streaming** – artist, album, title, length of song, genre, etc.

What is METADATA? – a definition

"Metadata is constructed, constructive, and actionable."

Karen Coyle, Digital Librarian, Author of Coyle's InFormation

- Constructed - a man-made artifice, not naturally occurring
- Constructive - serving a useful purpose, to solve some problem
- Actionable - can be acted upon, processed by humans and machines

METADATA types

There are 3 main types of metadata:

- **Descriptive metadata** enables **discovery**, **identification**, and **selection** of resources. It can include elements such as title, author, and subjects.

- **Administrative metadata** facilities the **management of resources**.
  It can include elements such as technical, preservation, rights, and use.

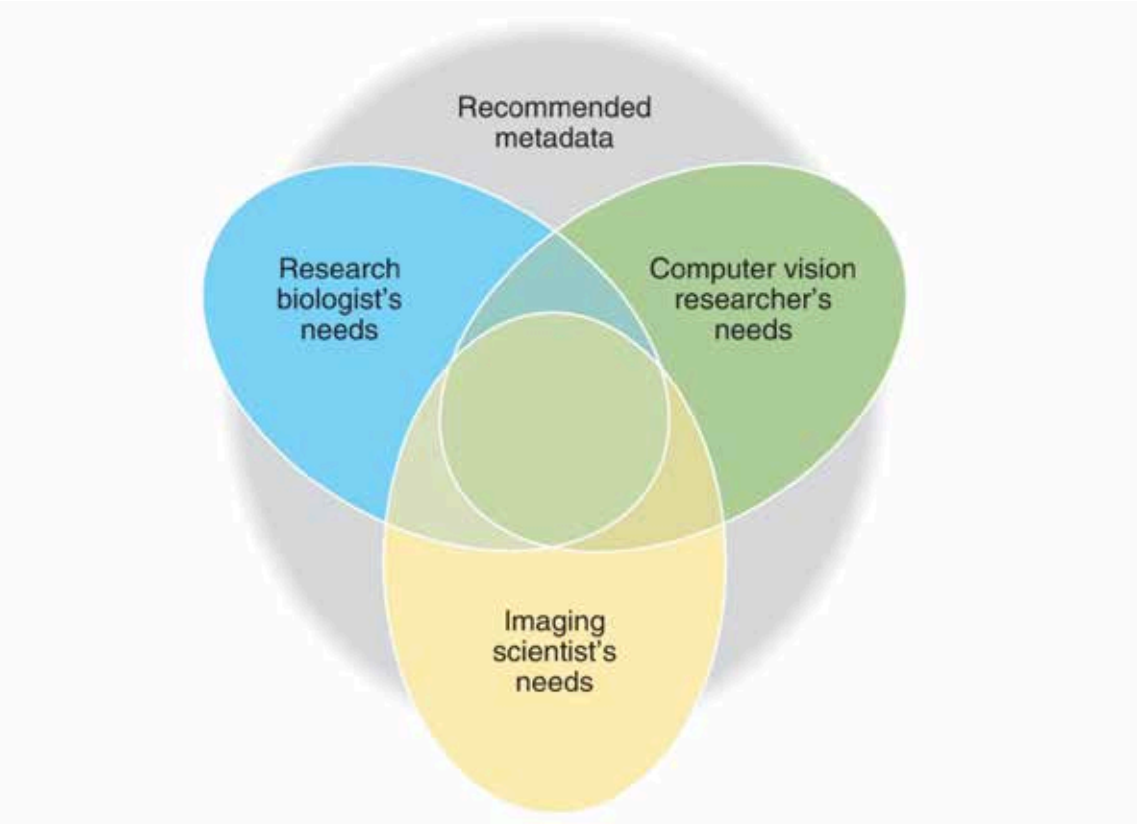
- **Structural metadata,** generally **used in machine processing**, describes **relationships** among various parts of a resource, such as chapters in a book.

METADATA in bioimaging (example)

- **Technical metadata** contains information on hardware and settings used to acquire an image.
  - includes **device specifications**, **objective** lens specifications, **light-source**, **laser** and **filter** settings, number of **channels**, **camera**, bit depth, etc.
  - is **automatically recorded** by most microscopes and **stored in the metadata header** of the image file.
  - can be accessed and edited using metadata editing tools.

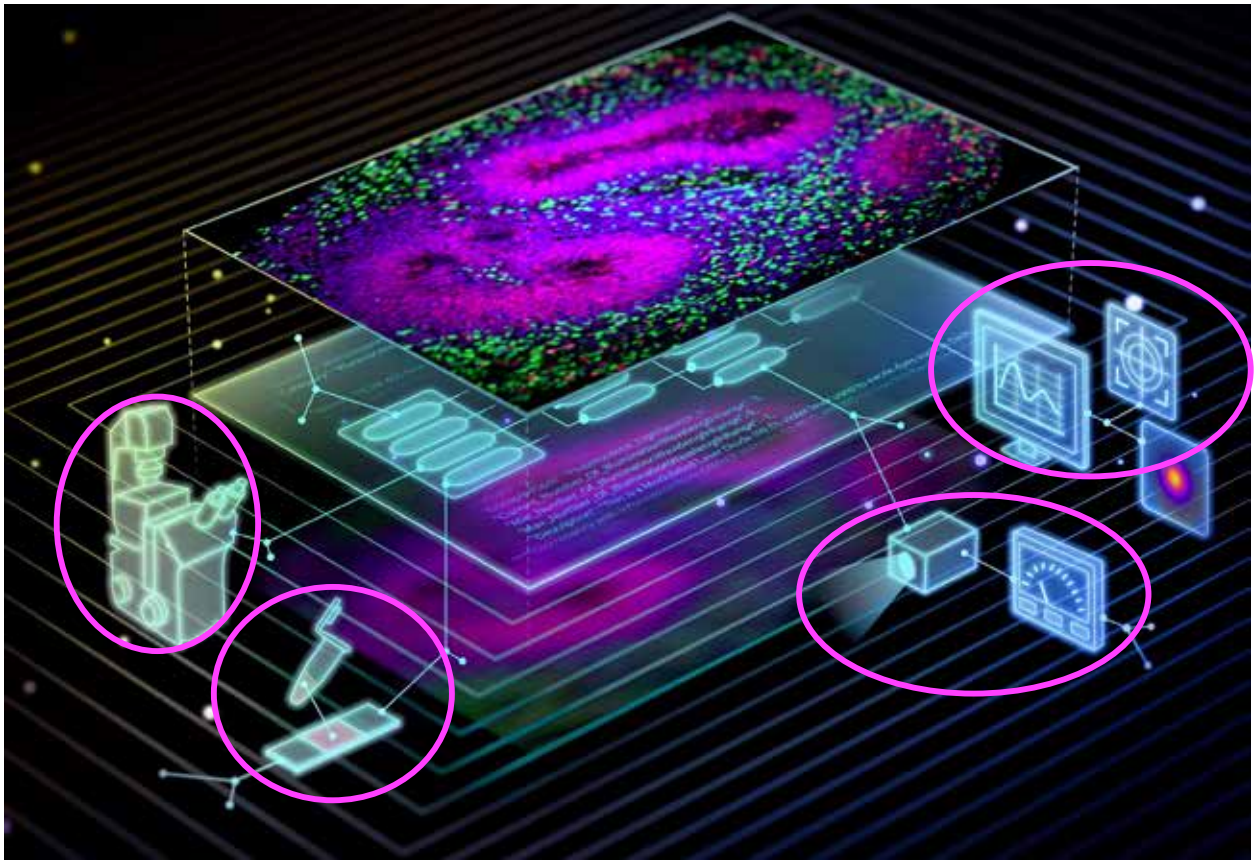
- **Experimental and sample preparation metadata** contains information about the specimen that is imaged (organism, cell line, organ, expression contstructs, etc.)
  - The **experimenter must add** all this information to the data.
  - This experimental metadata **should also cover**
    - **how a sample has been prepared** for imaging
      - fixed and stained with antibodies
      - conjugated to fluorescent dyes?
    - whether **live** cells and under what conditions were they imaged?

METADATA you need in bioimaging - visualization



from *REMBI: Recommended Metadata for Biological Images—enabling reuse of microscopy data in biology*

METADATA in bioimaging



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Nature Methods FOCUS issue on Reporting and Reproducibility in Microscopy
https://www.nature.com/collections/djiciihhjh

All information that is needed to interpret, evaluate the quality, reproduce and share microscopy images

- Sample preparation
- Image Acquisition
  - Hardware configuration
  - Acquisition setting
  - Quality Control
- Image data processing and analysis

How to create useful experimental METADATA

You want to describe your experimental data in a F.A.I.R. way?

What would you do?

You should use

- specific and defined **keywords or tags**
- **Controlled vocabularies** or **taxonomies**

Treasure map = METADATA and controlled vocabularies

How do you **find your treasure**?

- Randomly checking every island you find?
- Searching every corner of the island and do some digging at suspicious locations?

No!!!!

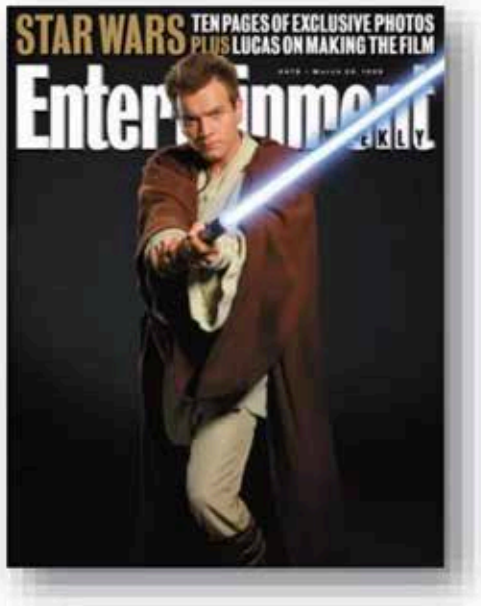
You would only start searching **if you had the treasure map**!

- Directly navigate to the island that fits the map
- Follow the path indicated on the map which is referring to **specific known or easily identifiable landmarks**
- **Search at the location** where the data treasure is hidden

Metadata is a map. Metadata is a means by which the complexity of an object is represented in a simpler form.

Standardizing keywords – an example

- **Star Wars: Episode I -- The Phantom Menace**
- Episode 1
- Episode I
- Phantom Menace
- Star Wars Episode I The Phantom Menace
- Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace
- Star Wars prequel
- Star Wars: Episode 1 -- The Phantom Menace
- Star Wars: Episode i -- the Phantom Menace
- Star Wars: Episode I: The Phantom Menace
- Star Wars: Episode I--The Phantom Menace
- Star Wars: Episode I--The Phantom Menance
- Star Wars: Episode One -- The Phantom Menace
- Star Wars: The Phantom Menace
- Star Wars: The Phantom Menace -- Episode I
- The Phantom Menace
- The Phanton Menace



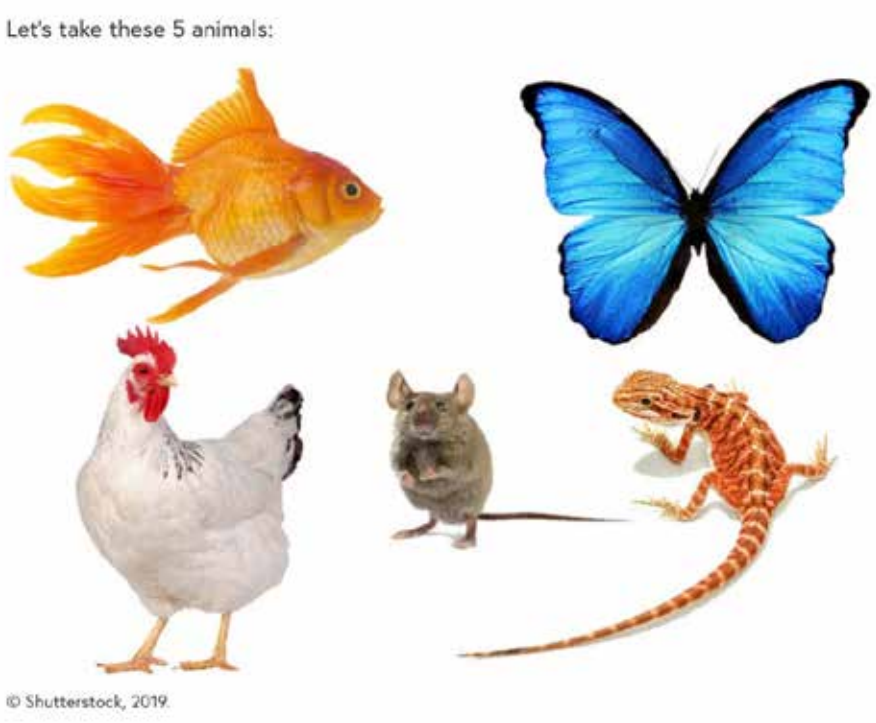
from https://www.slideshare.net/rlovinger/metadata-is-a-love-note-to-the-future

Controlled vocabularies example: Biological Taxonomy

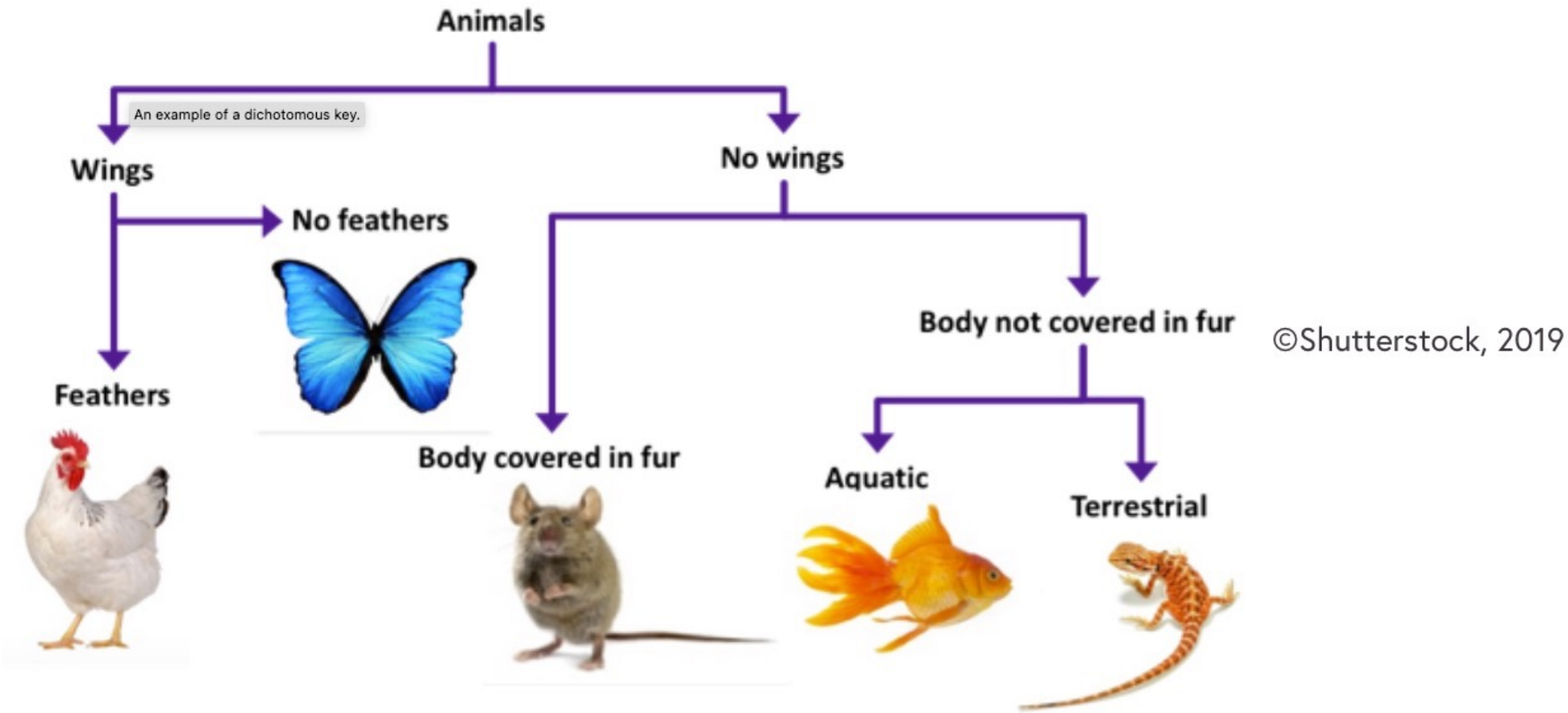
Carolus Linnaeus, first person to combine binomial definition (nomenclature) with a hierarchical structure of classification.

His **system organized both plants and animals from the level of the kingdom, right down to species**.

He used this system consistently to identify every species of plant and animal he came across and this is the basis of the system we use today.



Controlled vocabularies example: Biological Taxonomy



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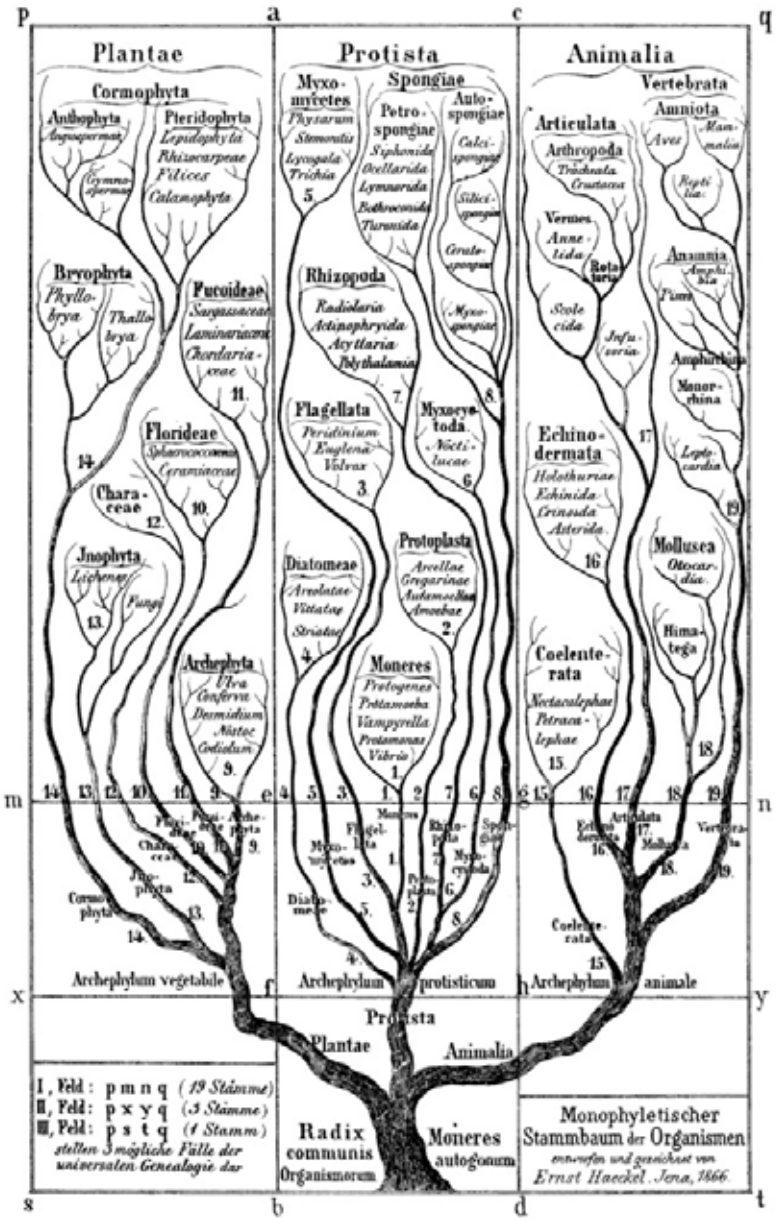
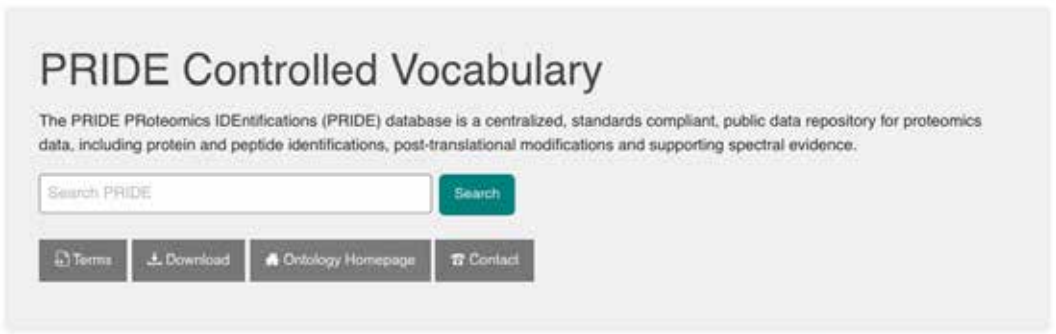
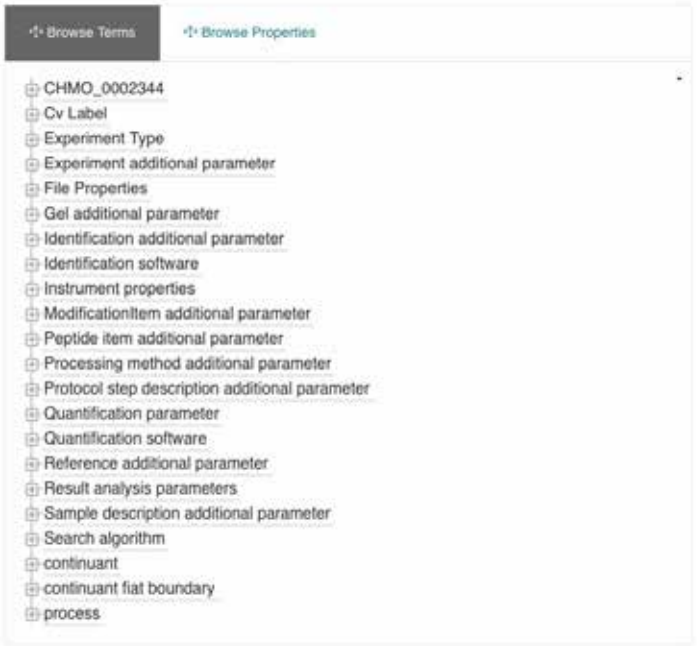
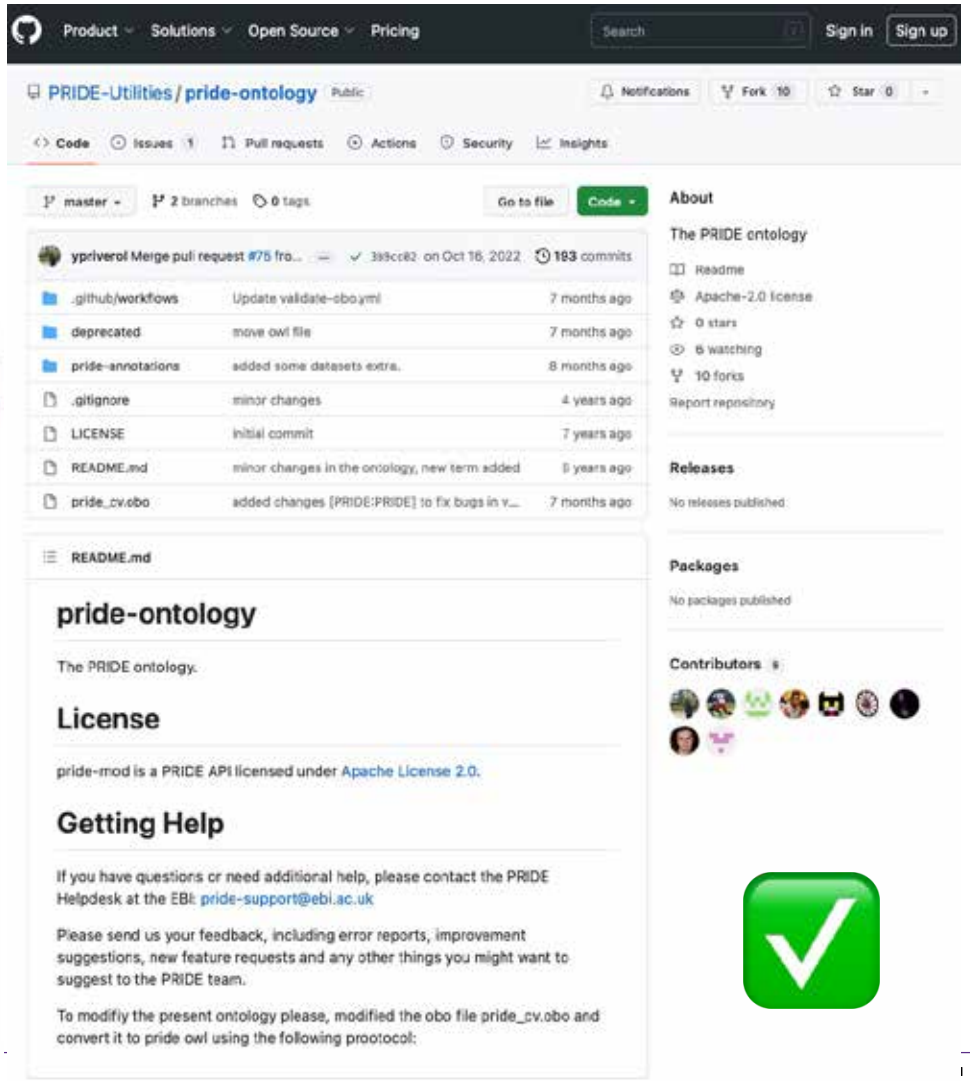
Controlled vocabularies example: Biological Taxonomy



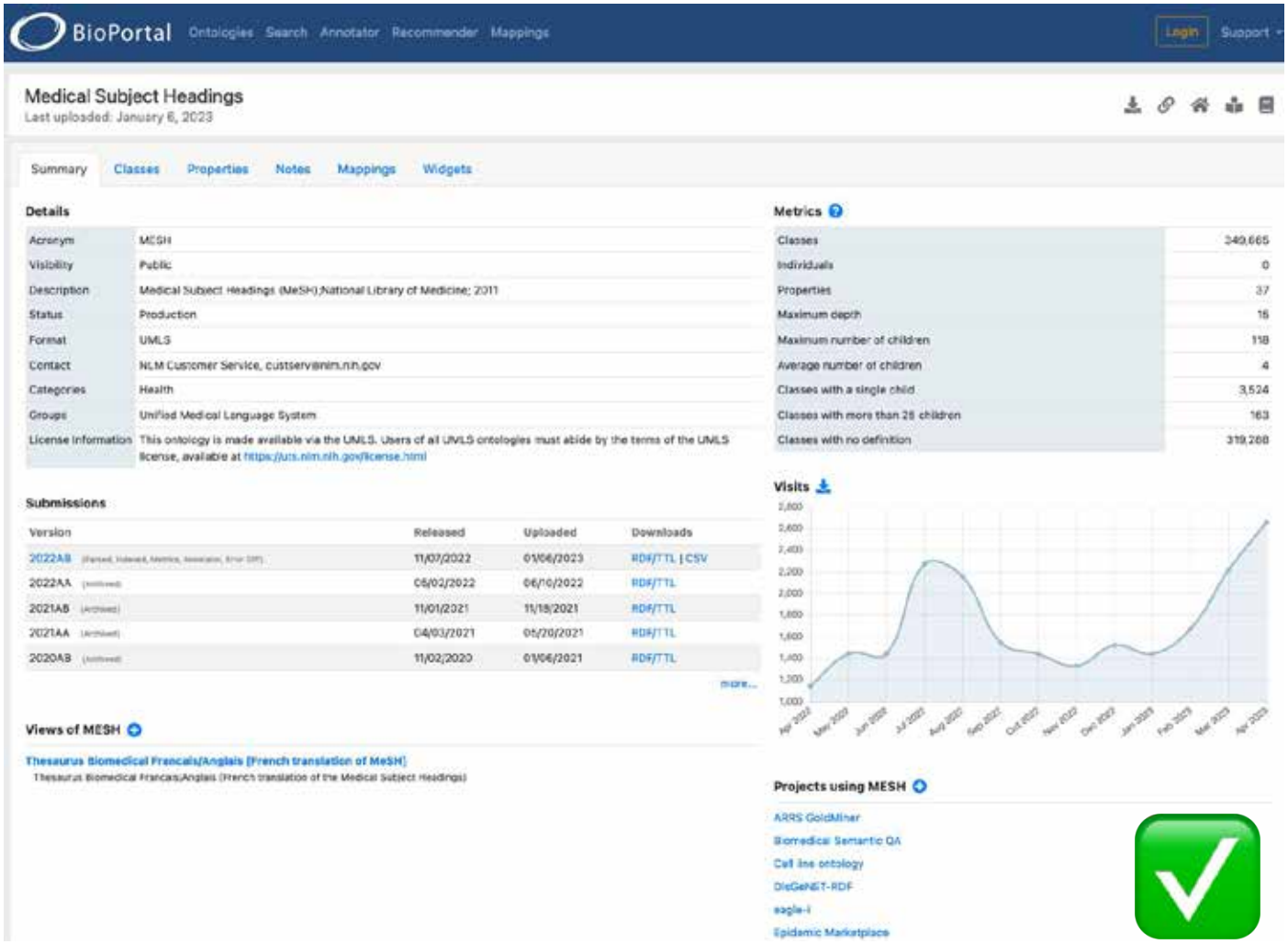
Controlled vocabularies example in life sciences today - PRIDE





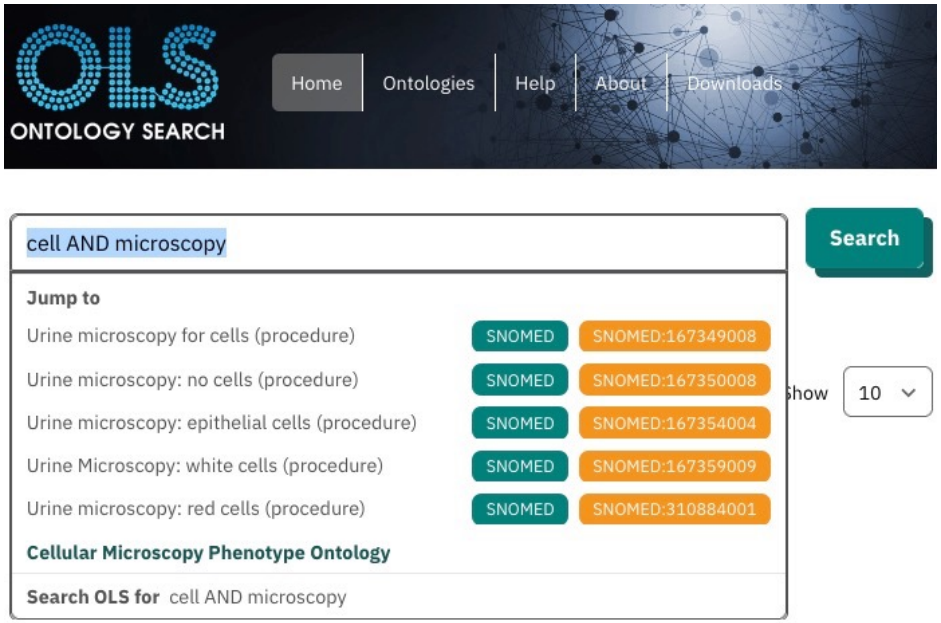


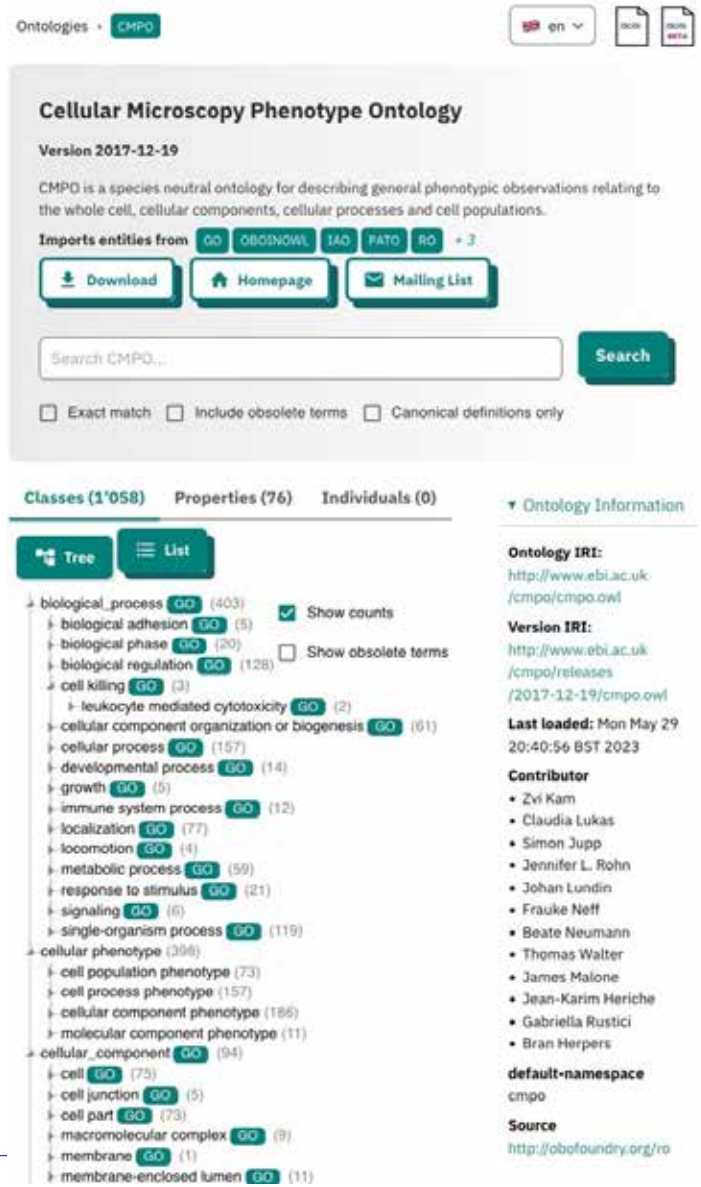
Medical Subject Headings - MESH



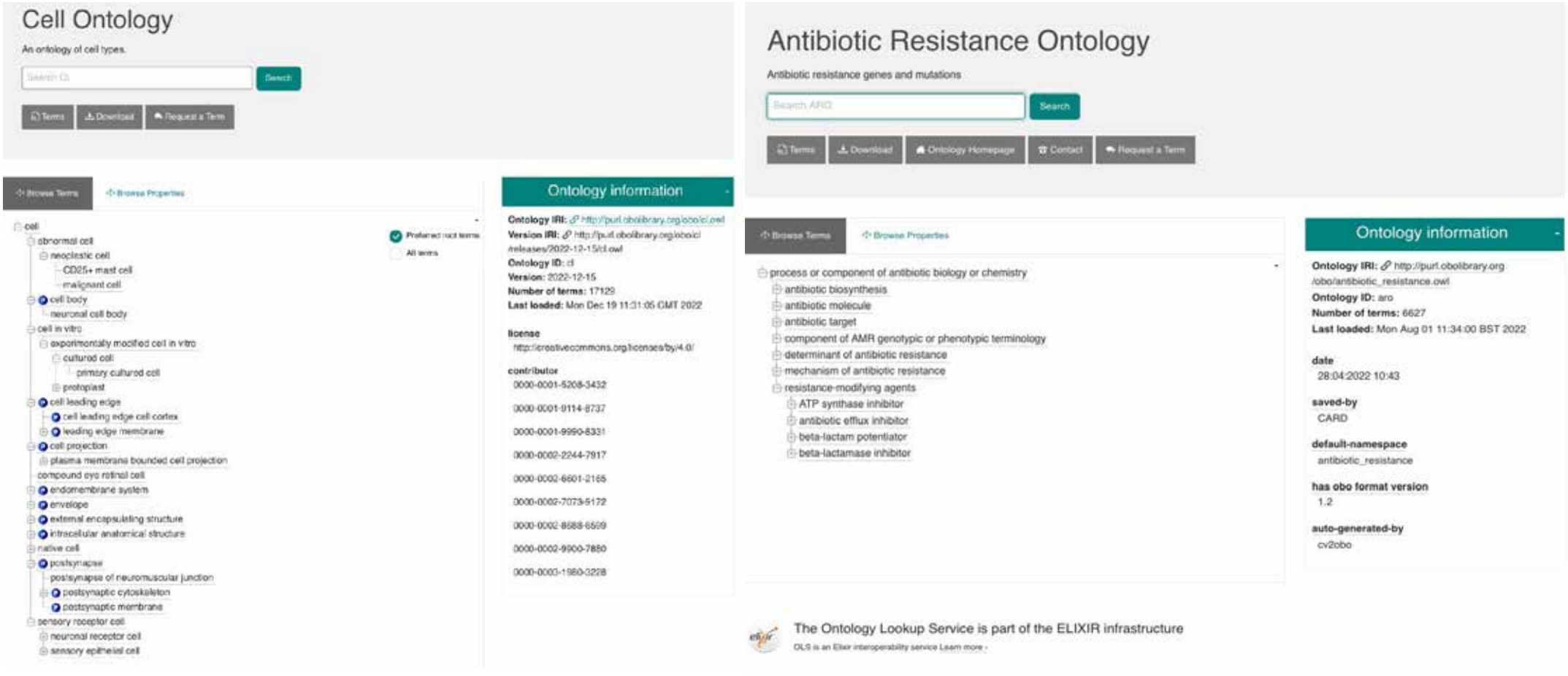
What if you do not know “your” specific ontology yet?

Search OLS (Ontology Lookup Service)





Ontologies that might be useful for NCCR AntiResist



What if you do not find a suitable ontology?

Create your own ontology

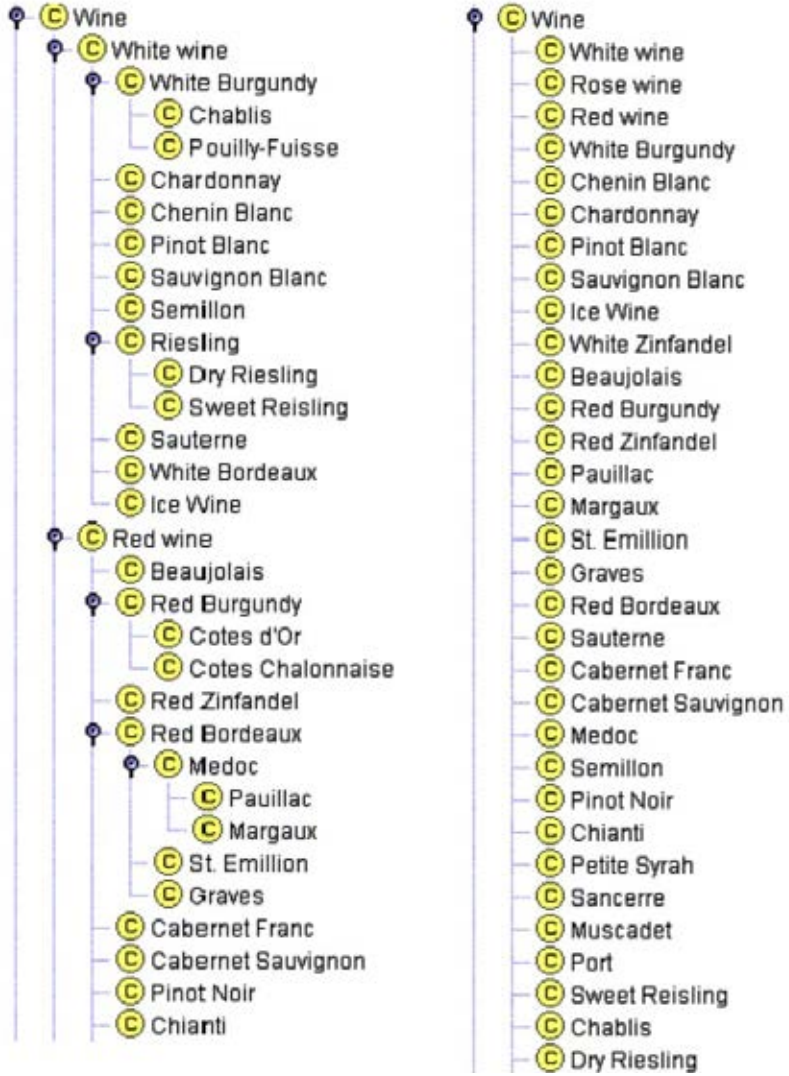
1. Determine the **domain and scope** of the ontology.

2. **Consider reusing** existing ontologies. At least to start with

3. Enumerate **important terms**.

4. Define the **classes & class hierarchy**.

5. Define the **properties of classes**.



from http://www.ksl.stanford.edu/people/dlm/papers/ontology101/

If you are planning to create your own ontology

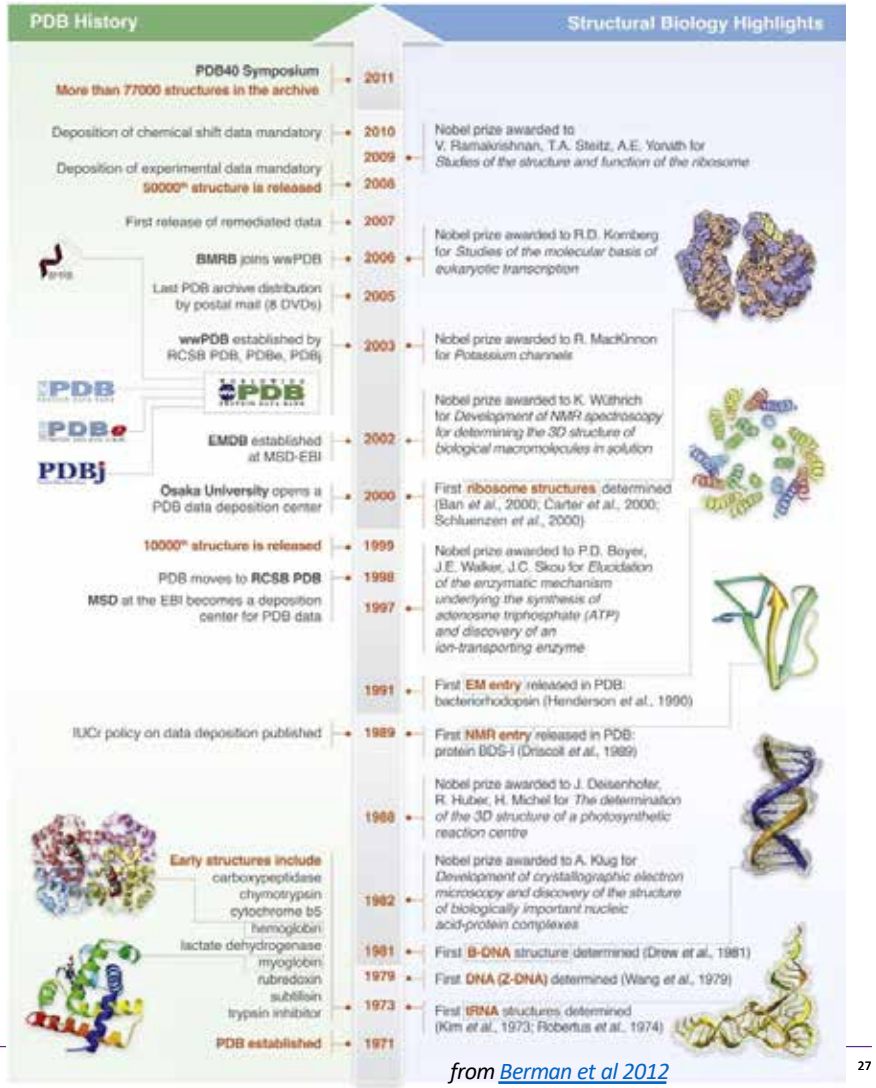
- Try to **avoid individual group level solutions** at all costs, as they are almost never sustainable and F.A.I.R.

- Try to **reach out to the largest possible community** and get them all involved (if possible).

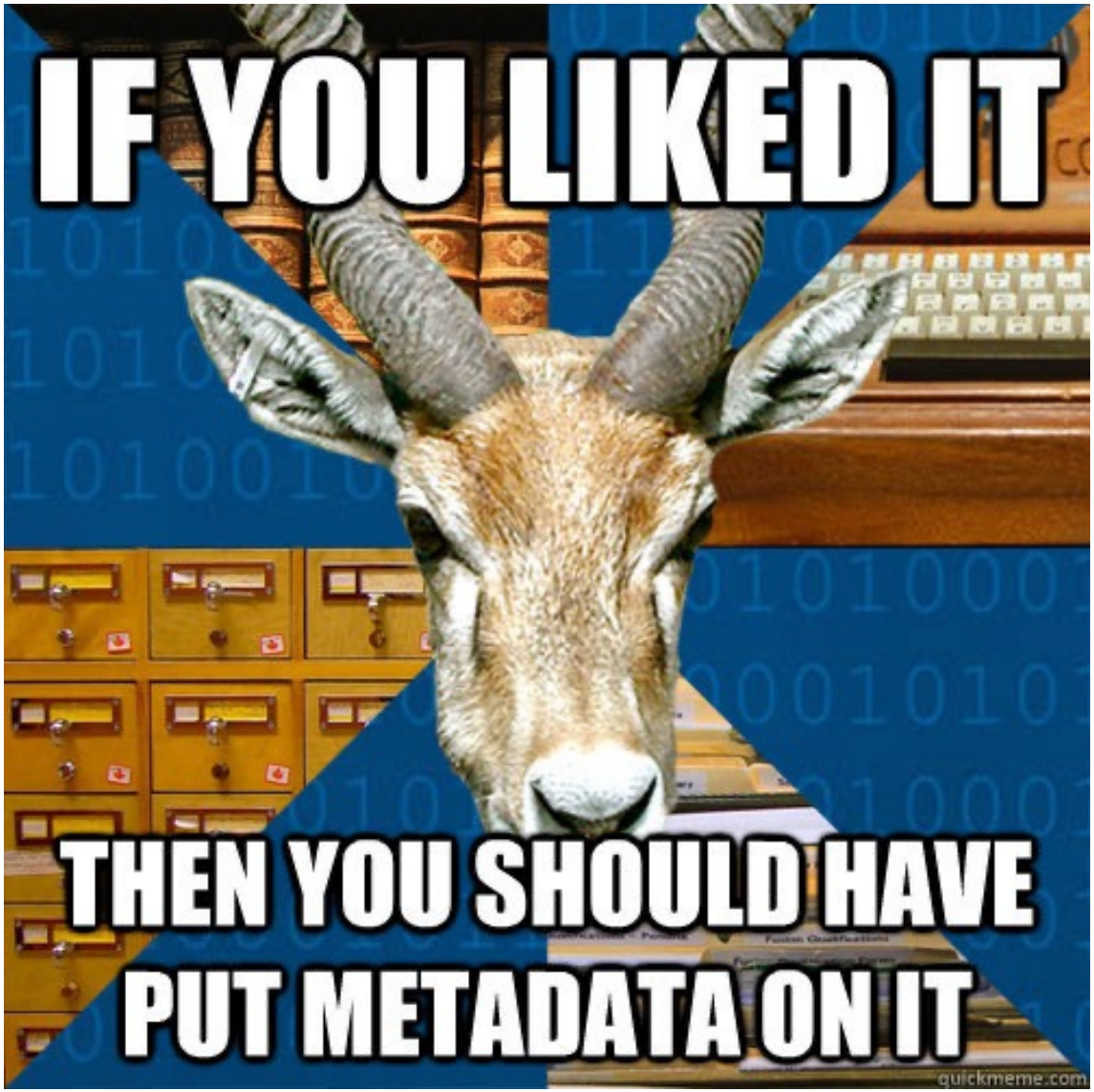
  This usually makes the process longer and more tedious, but in the end it **results in an ontology that is used by everyone** in the field (see PRIDE, PDB, etc).

"We just do the right thing to the best of our ability and that happens to be F.A.I.R."

On of the success stories for a database, metadata, ontology



from [Berman et al 2012]


IF YOU LIKED IT
THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE
PUT METADATA ON IT
quickmeme.com

Workshop - LEGO group exercise

(5 groups à 5-6 persons)

- **Group into 5 groups à 5-6 persons**

LEGO group exercise (5 groups à 5-6 persons)

- **Build the structure assigned to the respective building station**
  - **Document your structure** using available tools
  - **Take a picture** of your build (or tutor will take a picture)
- **Disassemble** build

modified from LEGO® Metadata for Reproducibility game pack by University of Glasgow

LEGO group exercise (5 groups à 5-6 persons)

- **Build #1** - Build the structure assigned to the respective building station
  - **Document your structure** using available tools at the station
  - **Take a picture** of your build (or tutor will take a picture)
- **Disassemble** build

- **Build #2** – Rebuild the previous structure
  using the documentation of the previous group
- **Compare**
- **Discuss your experience**

modified from LEGO® Metadata for Reproducibility game pack by University of Glasgow

LEGO group exercise- discussion of results

- Did you find this a simple way to document your process?
- Was there anything you found difficult to capture?
- Did those replicating the builds find it straightforward to follow?
- Did you encounter any ambiguity in the instructions?

modified from LEGO® Metadata for Reproducibility game pack by University of Glasgow

We hope you liked the workshop

And always remember: