

The ELIXIR Tools Ecosystem

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Tools Ecosystem Development Team⁶

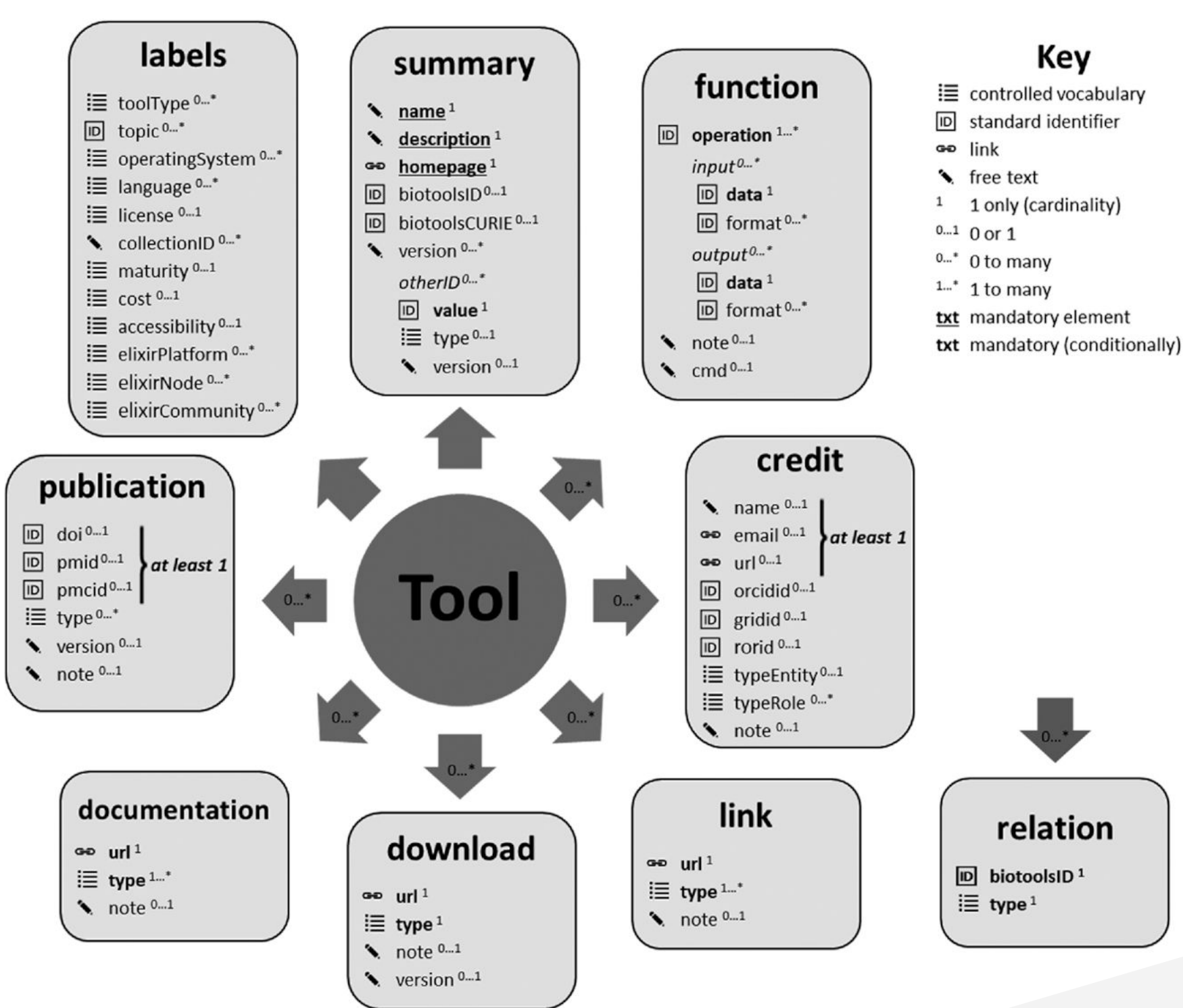
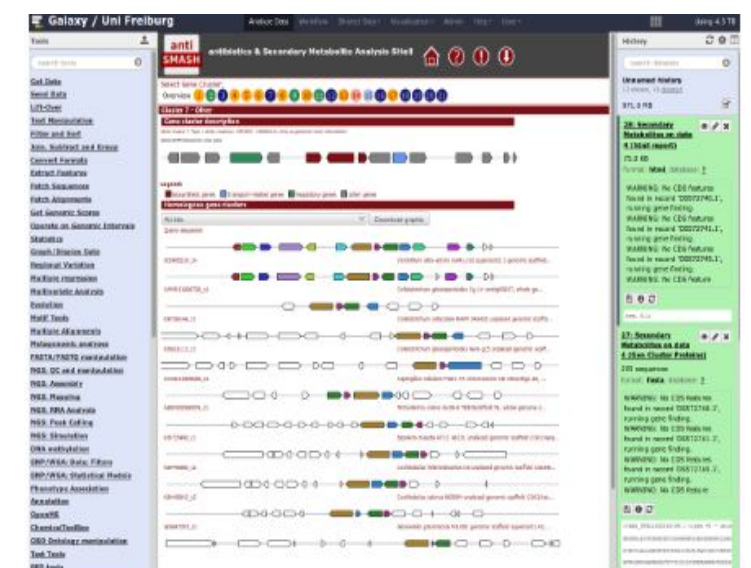
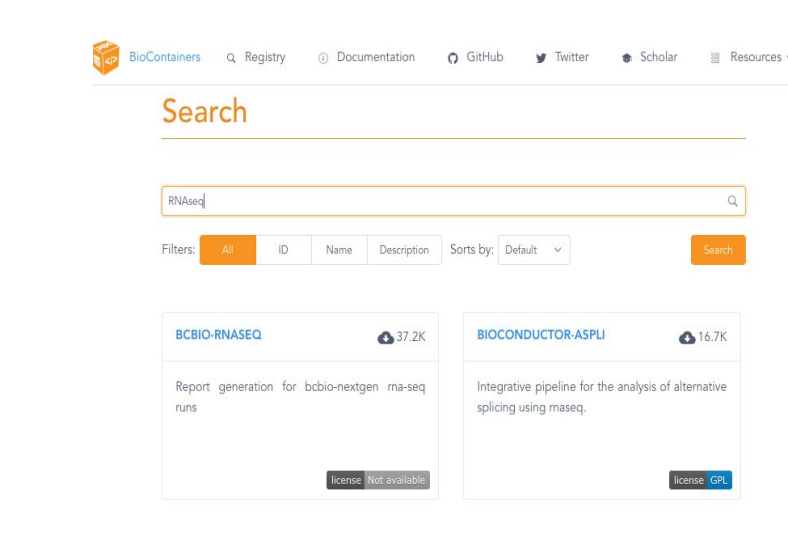
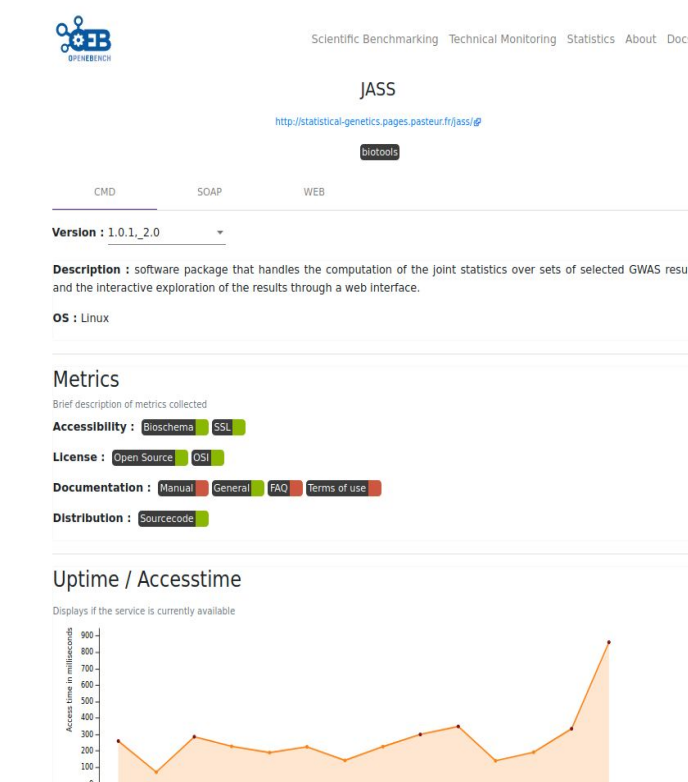
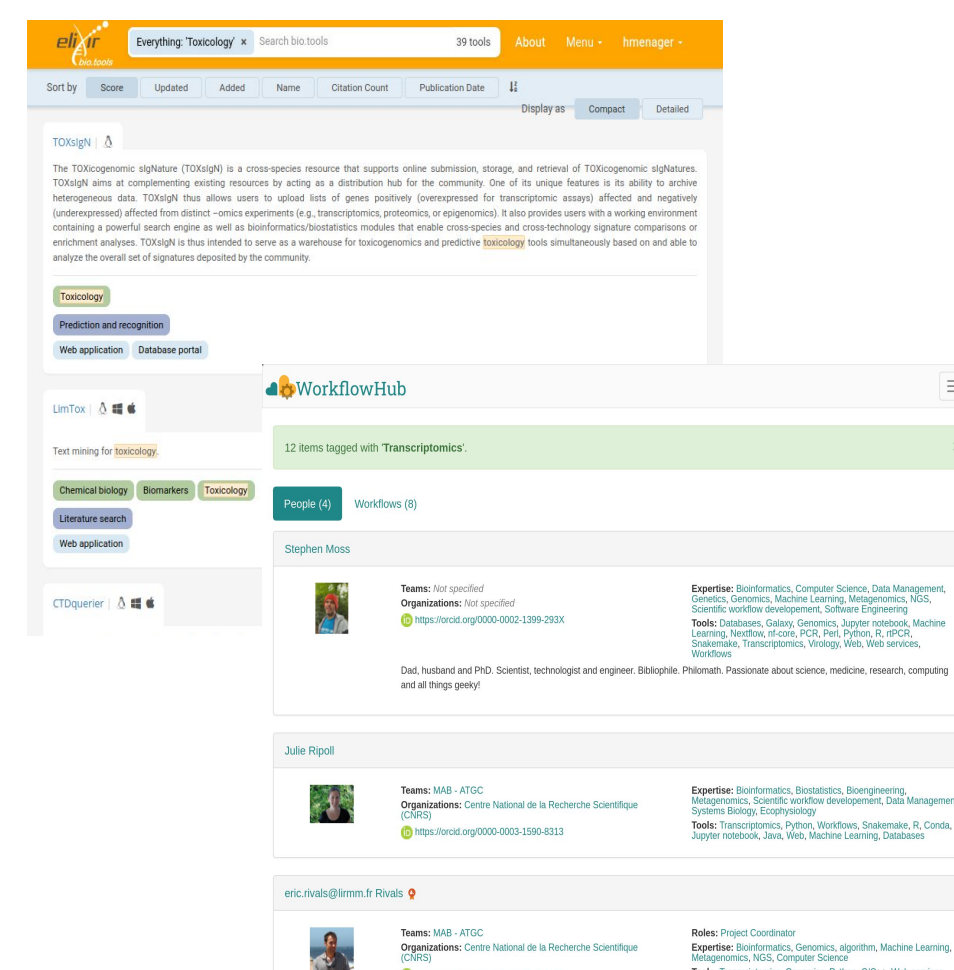
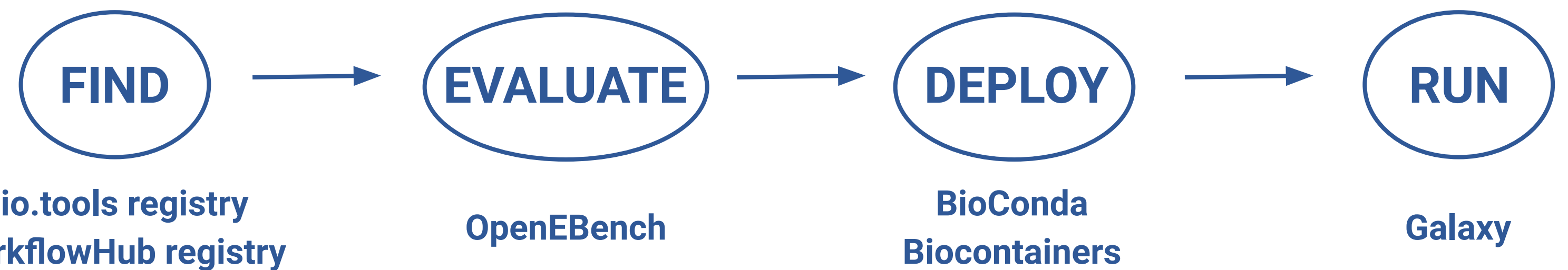


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Research software is a critical component of computational research. Thus, being able to discover, understand and adequately utilize software is essential. These activities all rely on software metadata metadata. However, these metadata are sparse, expensive to maintain, and frequently inconsistent across different resources.

The ELIXIR Tools Ecosystem acts as a proxy to maintain and preserve high-quality metadata for describing research software, aggregating multiple heterogeneous metadata resources. These resources often have different objectives, user communities and technical implementations.

The goals of this project are to consolidate these metadata, and facilitate their integration, curation, and re-usability by the contributors and the wider research community.

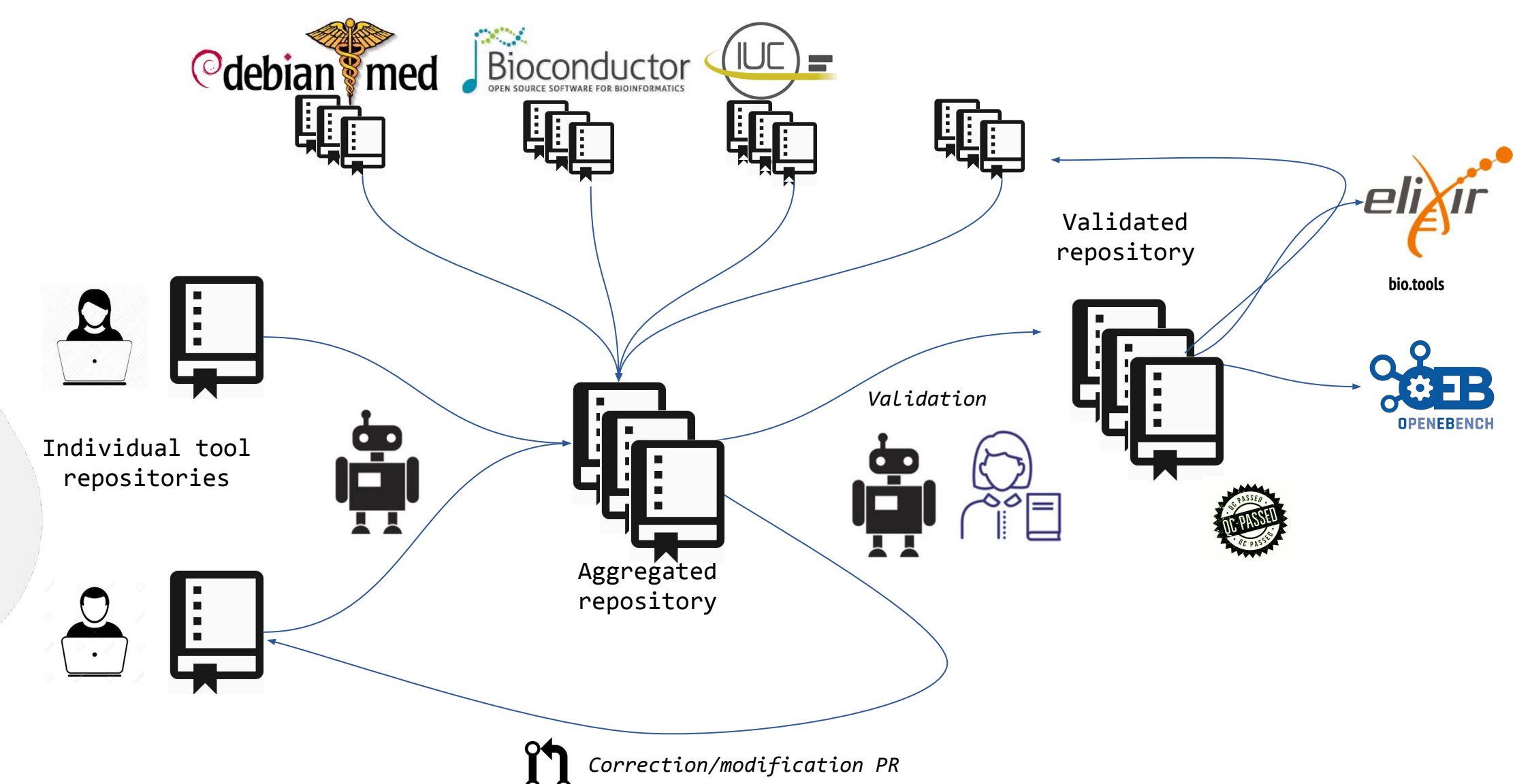


For **developers**, the ecosystem facilitates the description of their software and workflows. It centralizes all the available metadata related to a given software in their source format, but the use and mapping of standards such as EDAM, biotoolsSchema and BioSchemas will facilitate the propagation of these metadata, and improve their overall FAIRness.



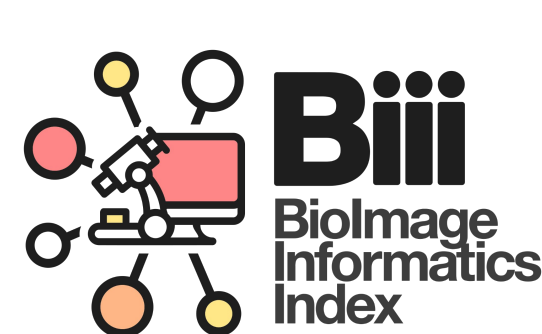
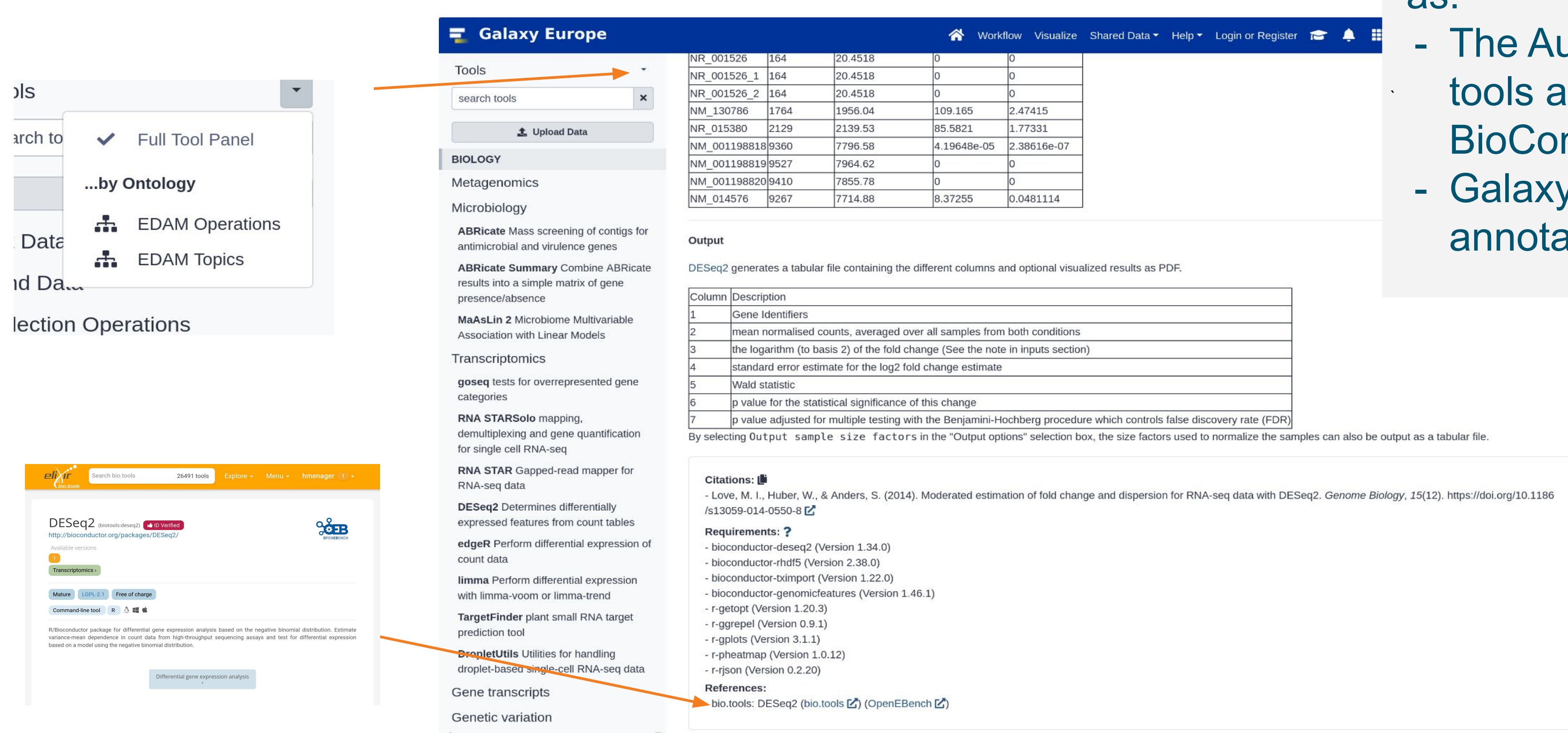
For **curators**, the metadata are available in a centralized, open, and version-controlled repository.

The maintenance tasks related to the synchronization, quality control, and various cross-validation and cross-linking of information are largely automated using continuous integration procedures.



For **users**, this resource is directly queried by multiple systems, such as:

- The Australian BioCommons ToolFinder, which lists bioinformatics tools and software that are installed across several of the BioCommons partners.
- Galaxy, which uses it e.g. to sort tools according to their EDAM annotations, or to provide links to the corresponding bio.tools entries.



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Project Website: <https://elixir-europe.org/internal-projects/commissioned-services/tool-platform-ecosystem>

Source Code: <https://github.com/research-software-ecosystem/>

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