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standards, policies and communication in bioscience

Dawn Field^{1,2}

Susanna-Assunta Sansone¹

Philippe Rocca-Serra¹

also on behalf of our international partners and collaborators

1. University of Oxford, Oxford e-Research Centre, Oxford, UK

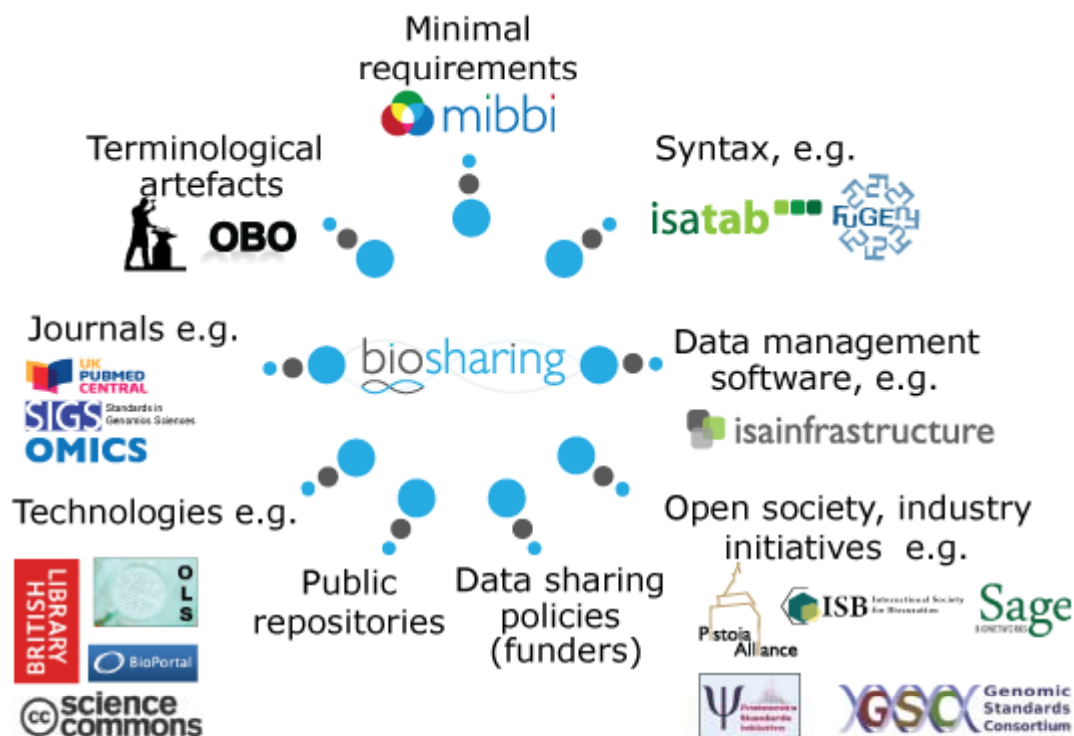
2. NERC Environmental Bioinformatics Data Centre, UK

COMBINE 2011, Heidelberg, Germany

MEGASCIENCE

'Omics Data Sharing

Dawn Field,^{1*}† Susanna-Assunta Sansone,^{1,2†} Amanda Collis,^{3†} Tim Booth,¹ Peter Dukes,⁴ Susan K. Gregurick,⁵ Karen Kennedy,⁶ Patrik Kolar,⁷ Eugene Kolker,⁸ Mary Maxon,⁹ Siân Millard,¹⁰ Alexis-Michel Mugabushaka,¹¹ Nicola Perrin,¹² Jacques E. Remacle,⁷ Karin Remington,¹³ Philippe Rocca-Serra,¹² Chris F. Taylor,¹² Mark Thorley,¹⁴ Bela Tiwari,¹ John Wilbanks¹⁵



Data sharing, and the good annotation practices it depends on, must become part of the fabric of daily research for researchers and funders.

¹U.K. Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Environmental Bioinformatics Centre. ²European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Outstation, The European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI). ³U.K. Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council. ⁴U.K. Medical Research Council. ⁵U.S. Department of Energy. ⁶Genome Canada. ⁷Unit for Genomics and Systems Biology, European Commission. ⁸Seattle Childrens Hospital. ⁹Marine Microbiology Initiative, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. ¹⁰U.K. Economic and Social Research Council. ¹¹European Science Foundation. ¹²The Wellcome Trust. ¹³U.S. National Institute of General Medical Sciences, NIH. ¹⁴NERC. ¹⁵Science Commons.

* The first three authors contributed equally to this article.



To exploit fully the promise of scientific data we need both innovation and community agreement on how to provide appropriate stewardship of these resources for the benefit of all.

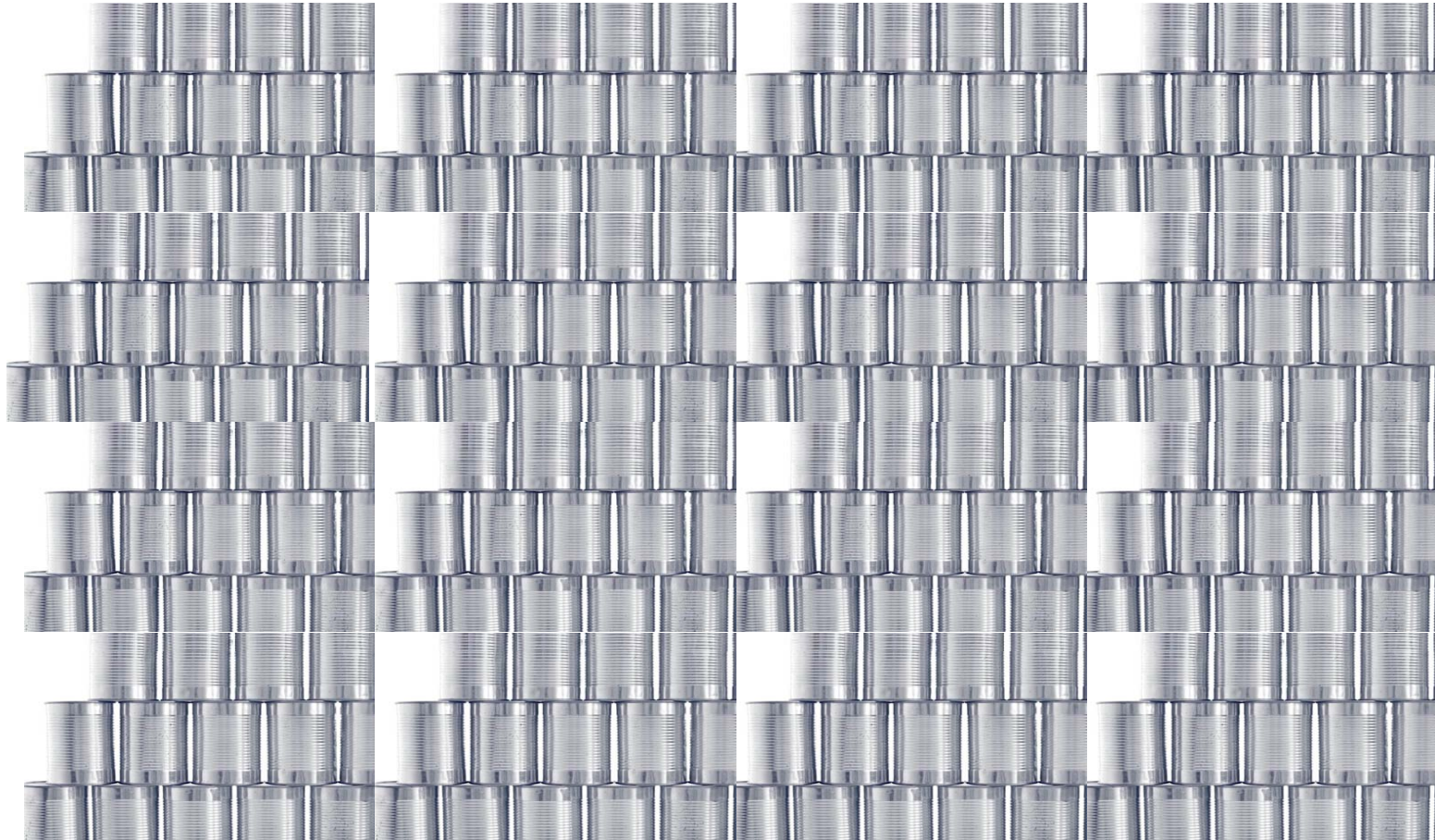
Requires the evolution of our scientific, technological and sociological thinking....

The Data SuperMarket



DataMarket

Norman Morrison



Packaging data



Labels for data



standards

Principles:

Not everything should be 'standardized'

Aggregation of data, information, and knowledge requires
standard ways of doing things

Standards provide foundations; Standards should drive innovation
(think of electrical plugs or the internet)

Pick the right concepts to standardize – at the right time, with
the right people

Requires good 'group think' – or 'systems thinking'

Community-driven solutions:

The Common Path:

- Identify the problem
- Define a community to address it
- Define scope of the solution
- Implement solution
- Gain adoption of solution

The Genomic Standards Consortium



Innovation through Collaboration

GSC 10
Argonne, 2010



GSC 11,
Hinxton, 2010



GSC 12
Bremen, 2011



GSC 13
BGI 2012



The GSC's Mission



- the implementation of new genomic standards
- methods of capturing and exchanging metadata
- harmonization of metadata collection and analysis efforts across the wider genomics community

The GSC fulfills its mission by



- Organizing meetings
- Forming working groups
- Creating Consensus Products



Specification projects	MIGS	MIMS	MIMARKS	New checklists
Checklists	EU BA PL VI ORG	metagenomes	survey specimen	e.g. pan-genomes
Shared descriptors	i.e. descriptors specific to sequencing methodology			
Checklist specific descriptors	i.e. details of organisms	i.e. details of sampling	i.e. details of PCR and genes
Applicable environmental packages (measurements and observations)	Air Host-associated Human-gut Soil Water			

The minimum (MIGS) spec

Dawn Field^{*1}, George Gar
Nicholas Thomson⁸, Mich
Sandra Baldauf¹², Stuart B
Claude dePamphilis¹⁸, Rol
Frank Oliver Glöckner²³, F
Henning Hermjakob⁶, Ch
Jessie Kennedy²⁷, George I
Jim Leebens-Mack³³, Suza
Victor Markowitz³⁷, Jenni
Julian Parkhill⁸, Lita Proct
Paul Swift¹, Chris Taylor⁶,
Naomi Ward⁴⁵, Trish Whe

Minimum information about a marker gene sequence (MIMARKS) and minimum information about any (x) sequence (MlxS) specifications

Pelin Yilmaz^{1,2*}, Renzo Kottmann¹, Dawn Field³, Rob Knight^{4,5}, James R Cole^{6,7}, Linda Amaral-Zettler⁸,
Jack A Gilbert⁹⁻¹¹, Ilene Karsch-Mizrachi¹², Anjanette Johnston¹², Guy Cochrane¹³, Robert Vaughan¹³,
Christopher Hunter¹³, Joonhong Park¹⁴, Norman Morrison^{3,15}, Philippe Rocca-Serra¹⁶, Peter Sterk³,
Manimozhiyan Arumugam¹⁷, Mark Bailey³, Laura Baumgartner¹⁸, Bruce W Birren¹⁹, Martin J Blaser²⁰,
Vivien Bonazzi²¹, Tim Booth³, Peer Bork¹⁷, Frederic D Bushman²², Pier Luigi Buttigieg^{1,2}, Patrick S G Chain^{7,23,24},
Emily Charlson²², Elizabeth K Costello⁴, Heather Huot-Creasy²⁵, Peter Dawyndt²⁶, Todd DeSantis²⁷,
Noah Fierer²⁸, Jed A Fuhrman²⁹, Rachel E Gallery³⁰, Dirk Gevers¹⁹, Richard A Gibbs^{31,32}, Inigo San Gil³³,
Antonio Gonzalez³⁴, Jeffrey I Gordon³⁵, Robert Guralnick^{28,36}, Wolfgang Hakenl^{1,2}, Sarah Highlander^{31,37},
Philip Hugenholtz³⁸, Janet Jansson^{23,39}, Andrew L Kau³⁵, Scott T Kelley⁴⁰, Jerry Kennedy⁴, Dan Knights³⁴,
Omry Koren⁴¹, Justin Kuczynski¹⁸, Nikos Kyrpides²³, Robert Larsen⁴, Christian L Lauber⁴², Teresa Legg²⁸,
Ruth E Ley⁴¹, Catherine A Lozupone⁴, Wolfgang Ludwig⁴³, Donna Lyons⁴², Eamonn Maguire¹⁶, Barbara A Methé⁴⁴,
Folker Meyer¹⁰, Brian Muegge³⁵, Sara Nakieln⁴, Karen E Nelson⁴⁴, Diana Nemergut⁴⁵, Josh D Neufeld⁴⁶,
Lindsay K Newbold³, Anna E Oliver³, Norman R Pace¹⁸, Giriprakash Palanisamy⁴⁷, Jörg Peplies⁴⁸,
Joseph Petrosino^{31,37}, Lita Proctor²¹, Elmar Pruesse^{1,2}, Christian Quast¹, Jeroen Raes⁴⁹, Sujeevan Ratnasingham⁵⁰,
Jacques Ravel²⁵, David A Relman^{51,52}, Susanna Assunta-Sansone¹⁶, Patrick D Schloss⁵³, Lynn Schriml²⁵,
Rohini Sinha²², Michelle I Smith³⁵, Erica Sodergren⁵⁴, Aymé Spor⁴¹, Jesse Stombaugh⁴, James M Tiedje⁷,
Douglas V Ward¹⁹, George M Weinstock⁵⁴, Doug Wendel⁴, Owen White²⁵, Andrew Whitalev³, Andreas Wilhelm¹⁰



Use of MIXS

Please provide this minimum information when you publish



- a genome
- a metagenome
- a gene marker study (i.e. ribosomal genes)

Genbank, EMBL and DDBJ now accept this information and encourage its submission to their public DNA databases

Labels for data



Escalating number of standardization efforts in bioscience, *e.g.:*



formats



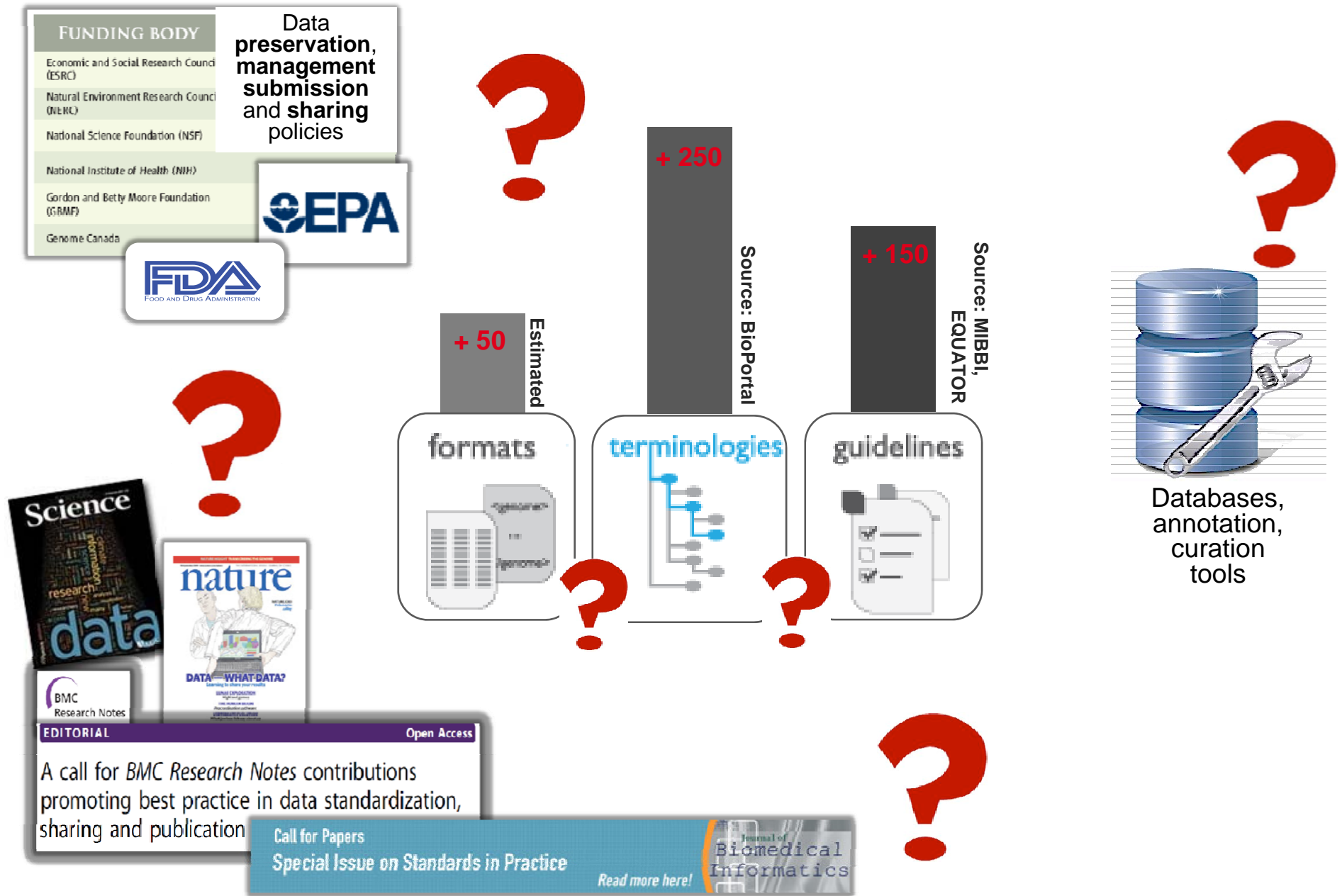
terminologies



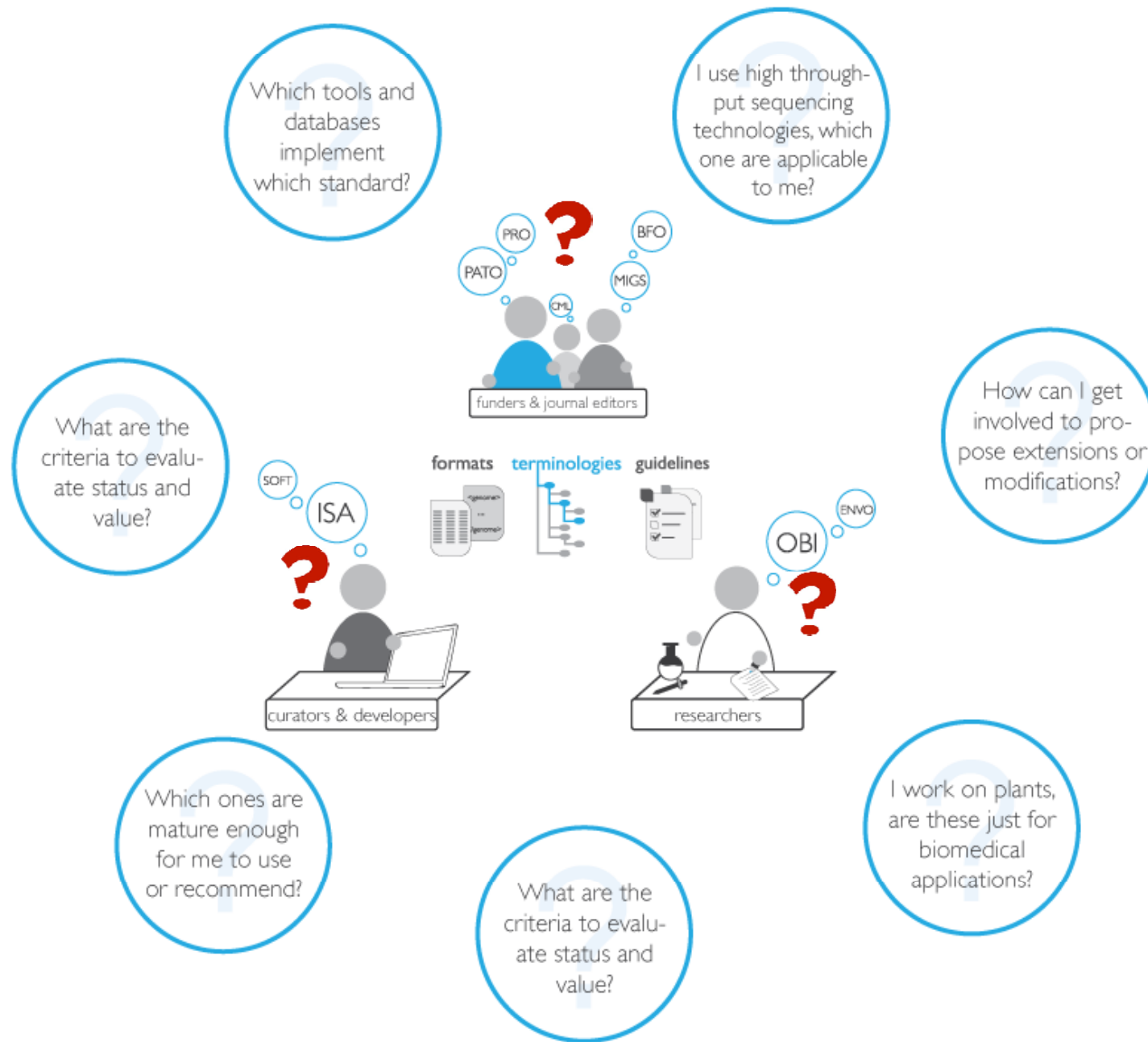
guidelines



Growing number of standards and interest in their use....

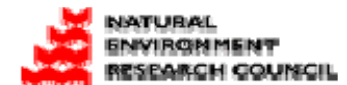


But how much do we know about these standards?



Promoting coherent minimum reporting guidelines for biological and biomedical investigations: the MIBBI project

Chris F Taylor^{*1,2}, Dawn Field^{2,3}, Susanna-Assunta Sansone^{1,2}, Jan Aerts⁴, Rolf Apweiler¹, Michael Ashburner⁵, Catherine A Ball⁶, Pierre-Alain Binz^{7,8}, Molly Bogue⁹, Tim Booth², Alvis Brazma¹, Ryan R Brinkman¹⁰, Adam Michael Clark¹¹, Eric W Deutsch¹², Oliver Fiehn¹³, Jennifer Fostel¹⁴, Peter Ghazal¹⁵, Frank Gibson¹⁶, Tanya Gray^{2,3}, Graeme Grimes¹⁵, John M Hancock¹⁷, Nigel W Hardy¹⁸, Henning Hermjakob¹, Randall K Julian Jr¹⁹, Matthew Kane²⁰, Carsten Kettner²¹, Christopher Kinsinger²², Eugene Kolker^{23,24}, Martin Kuiper²⁵, Nicolas Le Novère¹, Jim Leebens-Mack²⁶, Suzanna E Lewis²⁷, Phillip Lord¹⁶, Ann-Marie Mallon¹⁷, Nishanth Marthandan²⁸, Hiroshi Masuya²⁹, Ruth McNally³⁰, Alexander Mehrle³¹, Norman Morrison^{2,32}, Sandra Orchard¹, John Quackenbush³³, James M Reecy³⁴, Donald G Robertson³⁵, Philippe Rocca-Serra^{1,36}, Henry Rodriguez²², Heiko Rosenfelder³¹, Javier Santoyo-Lopez¹⁵, Richard H Scheuermann²⁸, Daniel Schober¹, Barry Smith³⁷, Jason Snape³⁸, Christian J Stoeckert Jr³⁹, Keith Tipton⁴⁰, Peter Sterk¹, Andreas Untergasser⁴¹, Jo Vandesompele⁴² & Stefan Wiemann³¹



'Omics Data Sharing

Dawn Field,^{1*†‡} Susanna-Assunta Sansone,^{1,2†} Amanda Collis,^{3†} Tim Booth,¹ Peter Dukes,⁴ Susan K. Gregurick,⁵ Karen Kennedy,⁶ Patrik Kolar,⁷ Eugene Kolker,⁸ Mary Maxon,⁹ Siân Millard,¹⁰ Alexis-Michel Mugabushaka,¹¹ Nicola Perrin,¹² Jacques E. Remacle,⁷ Karin Remington,¹³ Philippe Rocca-Serra,¹² Chris F. Taylor,¹² Mark Thorley,¹⁴ Bela Tiwari,¹ John Wilbanks¹⁵

Data sharing, and the good annotation practices it depends on, must become part of the fabric of daily research for **researchers** and **funders**.


www.biosharing.org

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“ BioSharing works at the global level to build stable linkages between journals, funders, implementing data sharing policies, and well-constituted standardization efforts in the biosciences domain, to expedite the communication and the production of an integrated standards-based framework for the capture and sharing of high-throughput genomics and functional genomic bioscience data.

We work with other organisations to

1. develop catalogues to centralize bioscience data policies and reporting standards
 - enrich these progressively by linking to other related portals and resources to serve those seeking information on systems serving or implementing the standards;
2. moderate a communication forum for funders and stakeholders
 - promote mutual support and cross-project activities to ensure the difference among the policies and standards do not impede seamless interoperability of the data. ”

POLICIES



A catalogue of data preservation, management and sharing policies from international funding agencies and regulators.

STANDARDS

formats terminologies checklists



A catalogue of reporting standards (minimum reporting guidelines, exchange formats and terminologies) and organizations that develop these.

RECENT NEWS

BioSharing attends the BioHackathon 2011 - Focus on Linked Data in life science: <http://t.co/5Erq0PG>
12 days ago

BioSharing: Report of the BMC-led Publishing Open Data Working Group meeting - now available: <http://t.co/spUpGh5>
24 days ago

Read more on our [blog...](#)

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 **BioMed Central**
The Open Access Publisher
BioMed Central and the journal BMC Research Notes proudly support BioSharing and its catalogue of domain-specific data standards.

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POLICIES

A prototype catalogue that centralizes bioscience data policies and plans. The entry links to the relevant [submission form](#).

ORGANISATION

ROLE

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	funding body
Cancer Research UK	funding body
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research	regulator
Department of Energy	funding body
Economic and Social Research Council	funding body
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	funding body
European Commission	funding body
European Science Foundation	funding body
Genome Canada	funding body
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	funding body
Medical Research Council	funding body
multiple organizations	funding bodies; research institutes; charitable foundations; international organisations
National Institute of Health	funding body
National Science Foundation	funding body
Natural Environment Research Council	funding body
Wellcome Trust	funding body
Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute	research institute

0 votes

Wellcome Trust Policy on Data Management and Sharing

David Carr

The Wellcome Trust's policy statement on data management and sharing, which was originally published in January 2007 and revised in August 2010.

Received 07 June 2011 15:06 UTC; Posted 07 June 2011

Posted to: Genetics & Genomics, Bioinformatics

0 votes

Information and Data Sharing Policy, Genomic Science Program, DOE

Susan Gregurick

The Office of Biological and Environmental Research (OBER) will require that all publishable information resulting from GTL funded research must conform to community recognized standard formats when...

Received 19 May 2011 15:28 UTC; Posted 19 May 2011

Posted to: Genetics & Genomics

EPSRC Policy Framework on Research Data	UK	2011
Communication calling for uniform policies across Member Nations	EU	n/a
ESF mainly provides ""network"" funding, therefore researchers are expected to follow the policies of the national agencies that directly provide research funding.	EU	n/a
Genome Canada Data Release and Resource Sharing Policy	US	2008 (since 2005)
G3MF Data Sharing Philosophy and Plan	US	2008 (since 2005)
MRC Data Sharing and Preservation Policy	UK	2006
Sharing research data to improve public health: joint statement of purpose	UK; US; DE; NZ; FR; AU; global	2011
NIH Data Sharing Policy	US	2003
NSF Data Sharing Policy and Data Management Plan Requirements	US	2001
NERC Data Policy	UK	2008 (since 1996)
WT Policy on Data Management and Sharing	UK	2010 (since 2007)
Data Sharing Policy and Guidelines	UK	2009 (since 1993)

A catalogue of data sharing resources that (collaboratively) works to:

2. **Centralizes** community-developed **bioscience standards**, linking to:
 - data sharing, preservation and management **policies**;
 - other **portals** e.g. NCBO's BioPortal, OBOfoundry;
 - related open access, **published material** e.g. BioMedCentral, Nature Precedings, F1000;
 - lists of **tools** and **databases** implementing the standards e.g. NIF, Links Directory, Biositemaps
2. **Identifies** and maintain a set of (implicit) **criteria for assessing usability and popularity** of the standards, including:
 - **implementations** by tools and databases
 - availability of standards-compliant, public **datasets**
 - **relations** among standards;
3. **Fosters communication** among groups, in particular to:
 - address overlaps and duplication of efforts and enhance **interoperability** of standards;
 - produce '**best practice**' guidelines starting new, or contributing to existing efforts.

View and browse the standards in a table or explore a draft set of visualizations:



A CATALOGUE OF STANDARDS

You can **sort** columns and **browse** the reporting guidelines content, or you can view [all the standards](#), or [terminological artifacts](#) or [exchange formats](#) only; or go back to the [catalogue main page](#).

ACRONYM	FULL NAME	TYPE▲	DOMAIN	VERSION	PUBLICATION	CONTACT
BioPAX	Biological Pathway Exchange	exchange format	biological pathway	Level 3	Demir et al; Nat Biotech; 2010	BioPAX community
CellML	Cell Markup Language	exchange format	cell modelling	v 1.1	Cuellar et al; Simulation; 2003	CellML community
SBML	System Biology Markup Language	exchange format	computational modelling (biochemical reaction networks)	level 3, v 1 core	Hucka et al; Bioinformatics; 2003	SBML community
FuGE	Functional Genomics Experiment Markup Language	exchange format	experimental description	v 1.0	Jones et al; Nature Biotech; 2007	FuGE working group
ISA-Tab	Investigation/Study/Assay Tabular	exchange format	experimental description	v 1.0	Rocca-Serra et al; Bioinformatics; 2010	ISA working group
MINiML	MIAME Notation in Markup Language	exchange format	experimental description (functional genomics)	v 1.0		GEO
SOFT	Simple Omnibus Format in Text	exchange format	experimental description (functional genomics)	not versioned		GEO
GCDML	Genomic Contextual Data Markup Language	exchange format	experimental description (genomics)	v 2.0.0 beta	Kottmann et al; OMICS; 2008	GSC
MAGE-Tab	MicroArray Gene Expression Tabular	exchange format	experimental description (transcriptomics)	v 1.0	Rayner et al; BMC Bioinformatics; 2006	FGED Society
GelML	Gel Electrophoresis Markup Language	exchange format	gel electrophoresis	v 1.0	Gibson et al; Proteomics; 2010	HUPO PSI Protein Separation working group
mzML	mz Markup Language	exchange format	mass spectrometry (proteomics)	v 1.1.0	Martens et al; Mol Cell Proteomics; 2011	HUPO PSI
MIABE	Minimum Information About a Bioactive Entity	reporting guideline	bioactive entities	0.4		MIABE Working Group
MIPFE	Minimal Information for Protein Functional Evaluation	reporting guideline	biochemistry	v 01	de Marco; Microbial Cell Factories; 2008	MIPFE working group
BioCoreDB	Core Attributes of Biological Databases	reporting guideline	biological databases	not specified	Gaudet et al; NAR; 2010	Biocuration Society
GIATE	Guidelines for Information About Therapy Experiments	reporting guideline	cancer therapy experiments	not specified	Yong et al; Protein Eng Des Sel; 2009	Antibody Society
MIRIAM	Minimal Information Required In the Annotation of biochemical Models	reporting guideline	computational modeling	not specified	Le Novère et al; Nature Biotech; 2005	BioModels.net

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SOFT

GCDML

MAGE-Tab

GelML

mzML

MIABE

MIPFE

BioCoreDB

SBML

System Biology Markup Language

ID

[bsg-000052](#)

TYPE

exchange format

DOMAIN(S) COVERED

computational modelling (biochemical reaction networks)

PUBLICATION(S)

[Hucka et al; Bioinformatics; 2003](#)

ORGANIZATION

[SBML community](#)

MAIN CONTACT(S)

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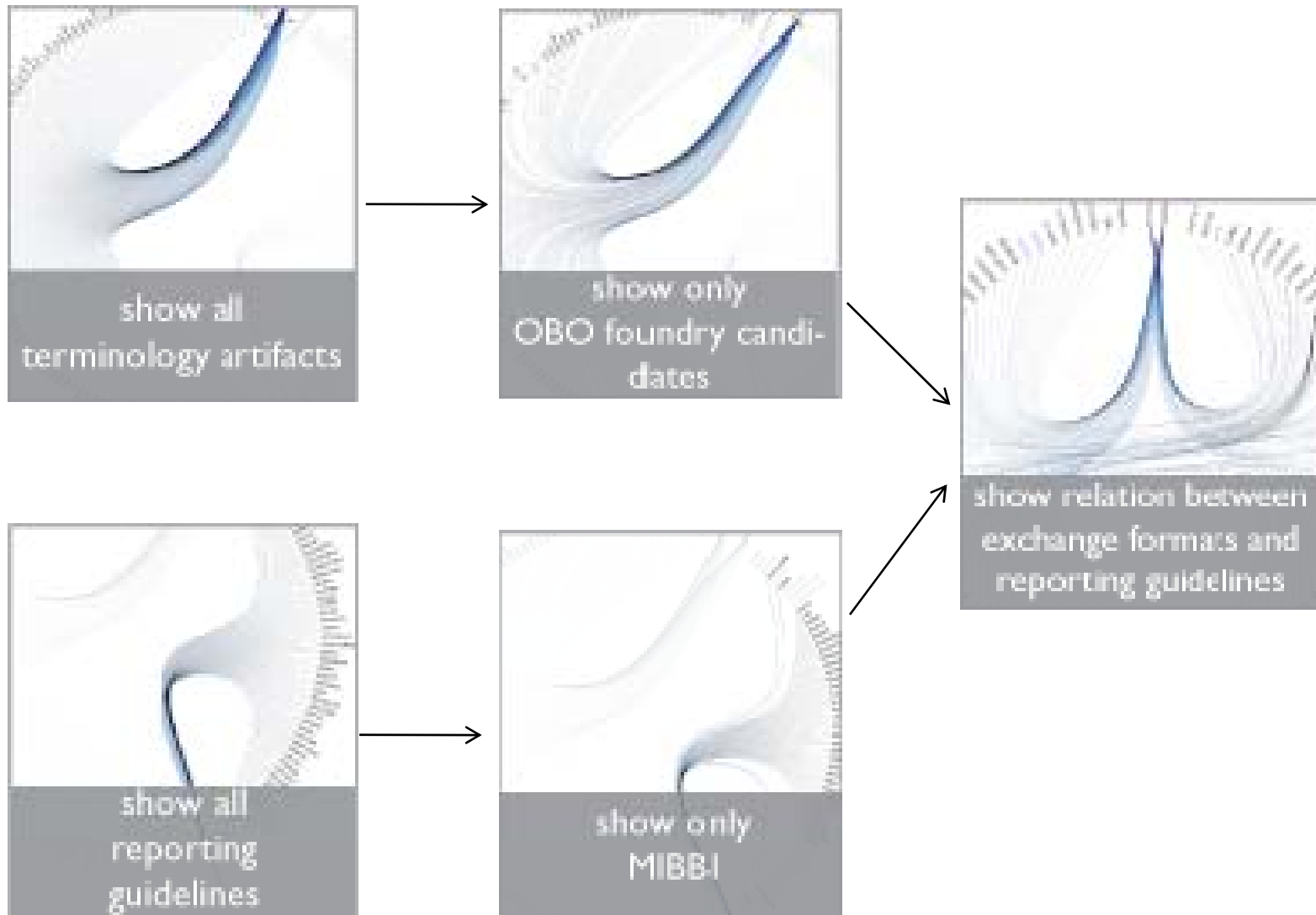
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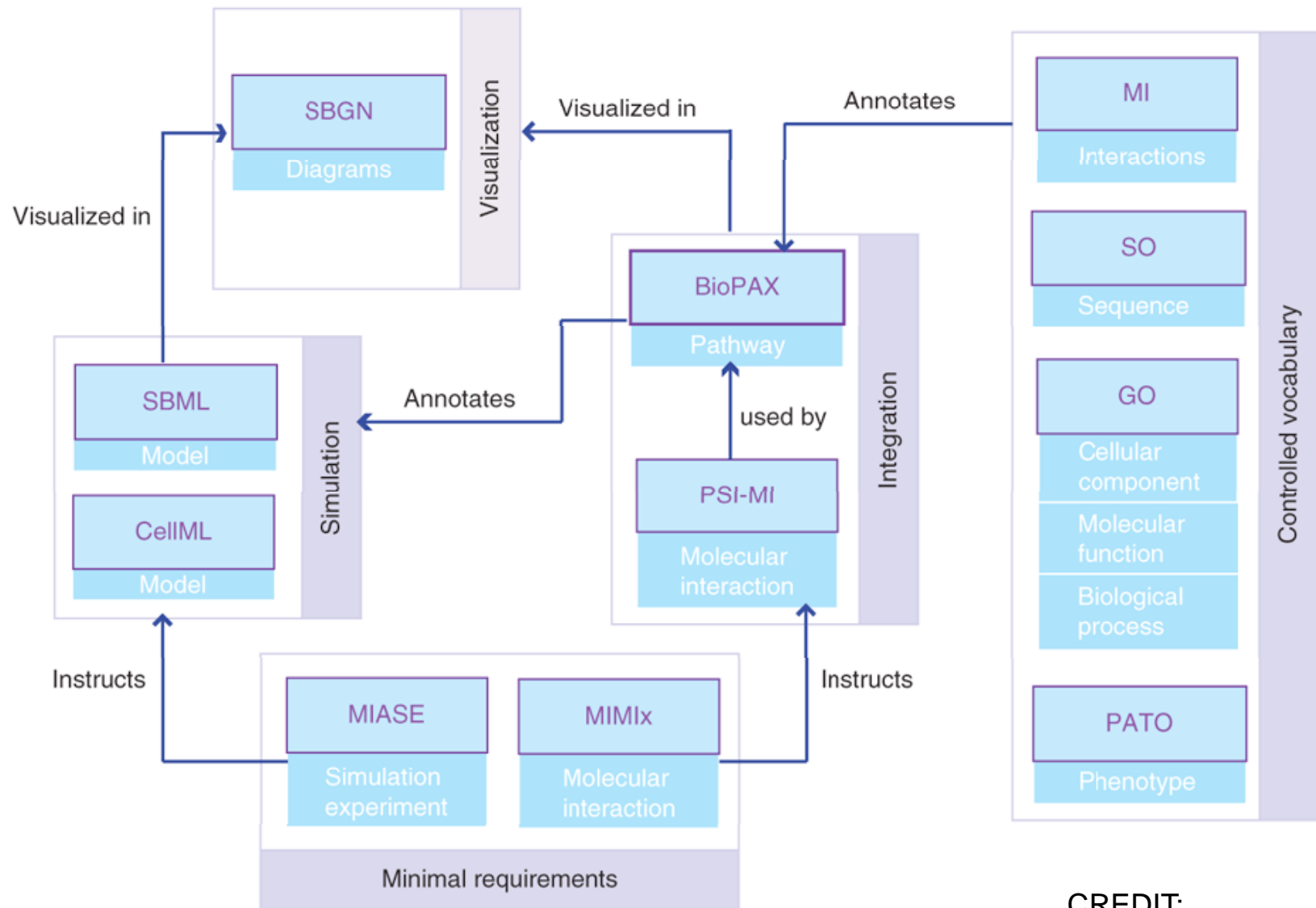
GIATE	About Therapy Experiments	guideline	experiments	not specified	Eng Des Sel; 2009	Antibody Society
MIRIAM	Minimal Information Required In the Annotation of biochemical Models	reporting guideline	computational modeling	not specified	Le Novère et al; Nature Biotech; 2005	BioModels.net

Classify the domain(s) the standards cover (*in progress*)

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BioCoreDB	Core Attributes of Biological Databases	reporting guideline	biological databases	not specified	Gaudet et al; NAR; 2010	Biocuration Society
GIATE	Guidelines for Information About Therapy Experiments	reporting guideline	cancer therapy experiments	not specified	Yong et al; Protein Eng Des Sel; 2009	Antibody Society
MIRIAM	Minimal Information Required In the Annotation of biochemical Models	reporting guideline	computational modeling	not specified	Le Novère et al; Nature Biotech; 2005	BioModels.net

Define groups and relations among standards (*in progress*)





The relationship among popular standard formats for pathway information

BioPAX and PSI-MI are designed for data exchange to and from databases and pathway and network data integration. SBML and CellML are designed to support mathematical simulations of biological systems and SBGN represents pathway diagrams.

CREDIT:

"The BioPAX community standard for pathway data sharing."

Nature Biotechnology 28, 2010.

User accounts for editing and updates (*soon active*)

[POLICIES](#) | [STANDARDS](#) | [BLOG](#) | [CONTACT](#) | [COMMUNITIES](#) | [ABOUT](#) | [LOGIN OR REGISTER](#)

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BioMed Central and the journal BMC Research Notes proudly support BioSharing and its catalogue of domain-specific data standards.

EDITORIAL

nature
genetics

NATURE GENETICS | VOLUME 43 | NUMBER 6 | JUNE 2011

Standard cooperating procedures

Community review of proposed standards is a good strategy to broaden consensus on ways to conduct principled, ethical and efficient research. We are pleased to welcome new partners for our *Nature Precedings* Data Standards initiative and suggest other standards that could be usefully presented as citable preprints.

Our community approach extends not only to our own site but to those of other publishers, funders, informaticians and research consortia. In this respect, we are pleased to work with the Biosharing project

Conclusions

- The era of real data sharing is just beginning...
- Self-organization by the scientific community can pay dividends (i.e. consensus building, large-scale co-ordination)
 - Standards are keys to unlocking data
 - Group thinking overcomes the tragedy of the commons
- Many communities and 'solutions'
 - Should be interlocking
 - BioSharing – aims to drive cross-community collaborations

Acknowledgements

GSC Funding

RCN4GSC

Coordination, workshops, working groups,
infrastructure and exchange visits



Additional workshop funds



Local Hosts of
GSC workshops



Sponsors of
GSC 9 and GSC 10





Standards, Policies and Communication

THE TEAM

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[Philippe Rocca-Serra](#) (University of Oxford, UK)

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Chris Taylor (EMBL-EBI, UK)

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