BioCatalogue Strategy Advisory Board Telecom Meeting

Date: 12 January 2010

Attending: Carole Goble, Jiten Bhagat, Steve Pettifer, Franck Tanoh, Rodrigo Lopez, Eric Nzuobontane, Chris Rawlings, Jo Dicks, Steve Kemp, Antoine H.C. van Kampen, Terry Payne, Mark Wilkinson, Robert Gill

Apologies: Robert Stevens, Anil Wipat, Holger Lausen

Agenda
1. Review of actions of last SAB
2. Update of BioCatalogue activity including presentations, alliances meetings and challenges
3. Next 6-month roadmap for software, content and promotion (focus on curation)
4. Outlook and sustainability plans
5. AOB

Presentation slides: http://tinyurl.com/yehg9wd

Minutes
1. Review of actions of last SAB
Previous minutes from SAB meeting here: **http://tinyurl.com/y9fmcbw**

2. Update of BioCatalogue activity including presentations, alliances, meetings and challenges

   a) BioCatalogue outreach:
http://www.biocatalogue.org/wiki/doku.php?id=public:news

   b) Feedback from the SAB Members
   • The BioCatalogue feels more like a database than a web 2.0 site. Web 2.0 is about linking people with similar interest
   • BioCatalogue should improve its discovery mechanism. Should also link search result, e.g. people who searched for this also searched for that.
   • Users usually want to use services as part of a pipeline. Therefore the BioCatalogue should suggest services linked to the one they found.
   • Users should be able to import the BioCatalogue and its contents in their own environment, e.g. Facebook, myExperiment, Twitter etc.
   • The BioCatalogue API is urgently needed for tool developer to start interacting with the catalogue. Users should be able to search, submit and annotate web services through the API.
   • Possibility to filter and rank services by different mechanisms such as popularity, performance, function, well annotated vs. non-annotated etc.
   • Need to think about making some description fields compulsory.
   • Improve the quality of the content of the catalogue.
   • Service provider would love to be able to register services and not worry about developing a monitoring framework. BioCatalogue should do it for them.

Action to be taken
- (Jits) To send to Mark detailed information on the APIs
- (BioCatalogue team) Ensure that focus is placed on web2.0 aspects to demonstrate the utility of the service it provides. The APIs are keys elements to achieve that.
- (SAB) To point to ontologies that can be used to provide richer annotation of services.
- (Jits) To request data dump on service links in BioMoby in appropriate format.
- (All) Revisit the Platinum, Gold, silver, bronze annotation model

3. Next 6-month roadmap for software, content and promotion
These elements were considered top priority:
- Functional Unit
- API for other tools to consume the catalogue
- Guidelines and recommendations on service annotation
- Curation interface improvement
- Search result improvement including better filtering and ranking
- Service ownership: encourage service submitter to provide appropriate contact details of the provider/"responsible" for the service.
- Integration of the BioCatalogue into related systems (this is on-going work already with e.g. myexperiment). Similarly, seekda entries could also have links to BioCatalogue entries and the service providers/submitted could be encouraged to link to BioCatalogue on their services documentation pages.

Actions to be taken
- (BioCatalogue team) To discuss with seekda team the minimum annotation required for services
- (All) revisit MIAWS (Minimum Information About Web Service)
- (BioCatalogue team) Talk to seekda about better integration between the BioCatalogue and seekda registry.

4. Outlook and sustainability plans
- Find motivations for people to add content and annotation to services. For example better search and filtering, better service monitoring and testing, platinum vs. bronze annotated services
- Demonstrate that the BioCatalogue is useful to the community.
- Focus on the social aspect of the project
- Make BioCatalogue the one stop shop for bio web services
- BioCatalogue as an advertisement place. Some industries might pay to get their products advertised.

Action to be taken
- (Jonathan) BioCatalogue questionnaire to address who the BioCatalogue users are (Biologists, computer scientists, Bioinformaticians, etc)
- (BioCatalogue team) Promote features like the APIs and the service testing harness and monitoring as advantages to registering services.
- Continue to promote BioCatalogue as the one stop shop for bio web service
- (Rodrigo & Carole) Explore BBR bid within BBSRC

5. AOB
BioMoby strategy for success:
- F2F meeting with influential and decision-making people at start of the project
- Good online response and bug fixing
- Focus on product quality
- Notify people when anything goes wrong with their services
- Demonstrated that BioMoby is here for long
- Making user experience as easy and pleasant as possible