Metadata and submitting sequences

Geert van Geest Interfaculty Bioinformatics Unit, UniBe Training group, SIB

Question

Data life cycle



Sequencing data life

DANGER ZONE

- No standardized metadata - info gets lost
- Limited backups
 technical failure
 leads to data loss

Data at sequencing center

Basic QC

Data short-term stored for analysis

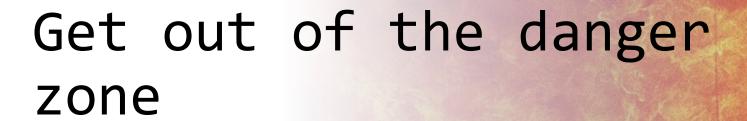
Analysis + annotation

Data at repository

Data at repository (SRA)

Publication





- Use your data management plan
- Plan data submission as part of the experiment
- Start the submission soon in the project

How?

- Submit it to the sequence read archive of one of the INSDC databases:
 - Describe (metadata)
 - Upload



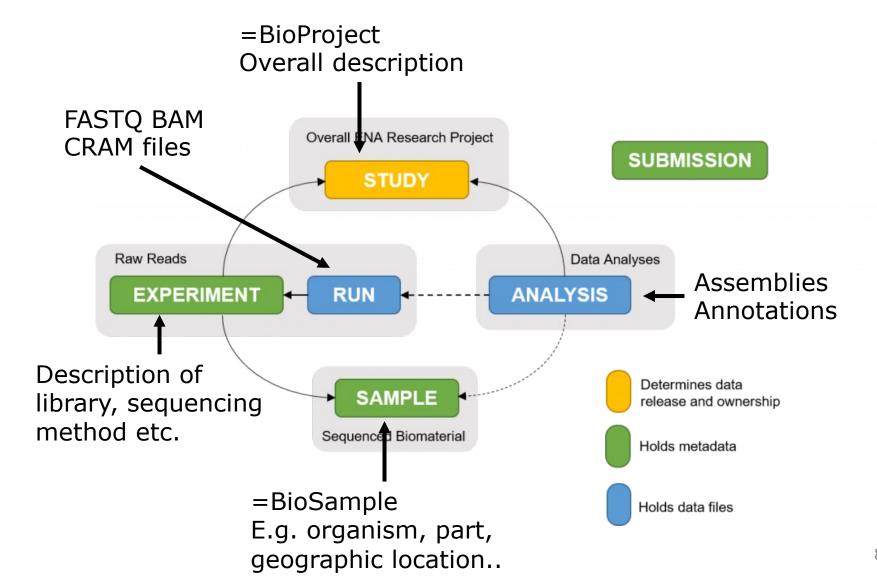




Metadata

- Annoying:
 - standardized description of unique data, samples and experiments
 - Everything is already in the paper!
- But essential:
 - Enables finding
 - Enables re-use
- Data is useless without context!

ENA database



Transferring data

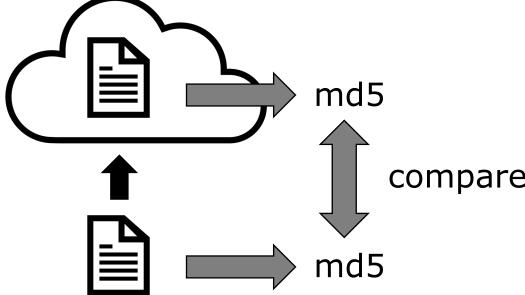
- Sequence data files are LARGE
- Possible protocols:
 - Webin File Uploader (GUI)
 - File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
 - Command line
 - FileZilla
 - Aspera



md5 checksums

- Timeouts and failed transfers are common
- FASTQ files can become useless

Solution: md5 checksum - changes if file changes



Exercises

- Create metadata entries on project, samples and experiment
- Upload sequence files to SRA
- We use the test environment during submission!



https://wwwdev.ebi.ac.uk/ena/browser/home