

Data standards, sharing and publication in the life sciences

Susanna-Assunta Sansone, PhD

*Associate Director,
Principal Investigator*



Board of Directors



*Data Consultant,
Honorary Academic Editor*



ODIN mission

ODIN will build on the ORCID and DataCite initiatives to uniquely identify scientists and data sets and connect this information across multiple services and infrastructures for scholarly communication. It will address some of the critical open questions in the area:

- Referencing a data object
- Tracking of use and re-use
- Links between a data object, subsets, articles, rights statements and every person involved in its life-cycle.

Outline of my talk

Problem:

Identification of datasets is pivotal. But meaningful sharing and (re)use also depend on how well described the datasets are.

Status quo:

In the life sciences there is a wealth of 'reporting standards' set to enhance and facilitate the experimental descriptions.

Challenges:

Identify 'reporting standards' and their organizations, track their use, usability and impact (e.g. linking them to datasets), credit their developers, users (e.g. curators)...

My team's activities and groups we work with

data management, biocuration and publication,
collaborative development of software, database, standards and ontology

- environmental genomics
- metabolomics
- metagenomics
- nanotechnology
- proteomics



- stem cell discovery
- system biology
- transcriptomics
- toxicogenomics
- environmental health



env



agro



tox/pharma



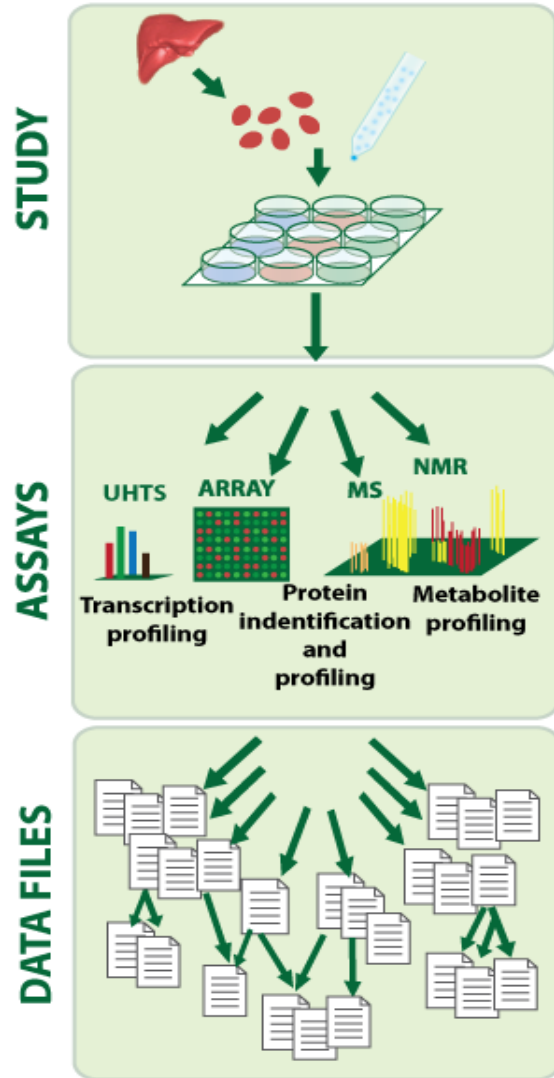
health



CC BY

Growing movement for reproducible research

Example of experimental WORKFLOW

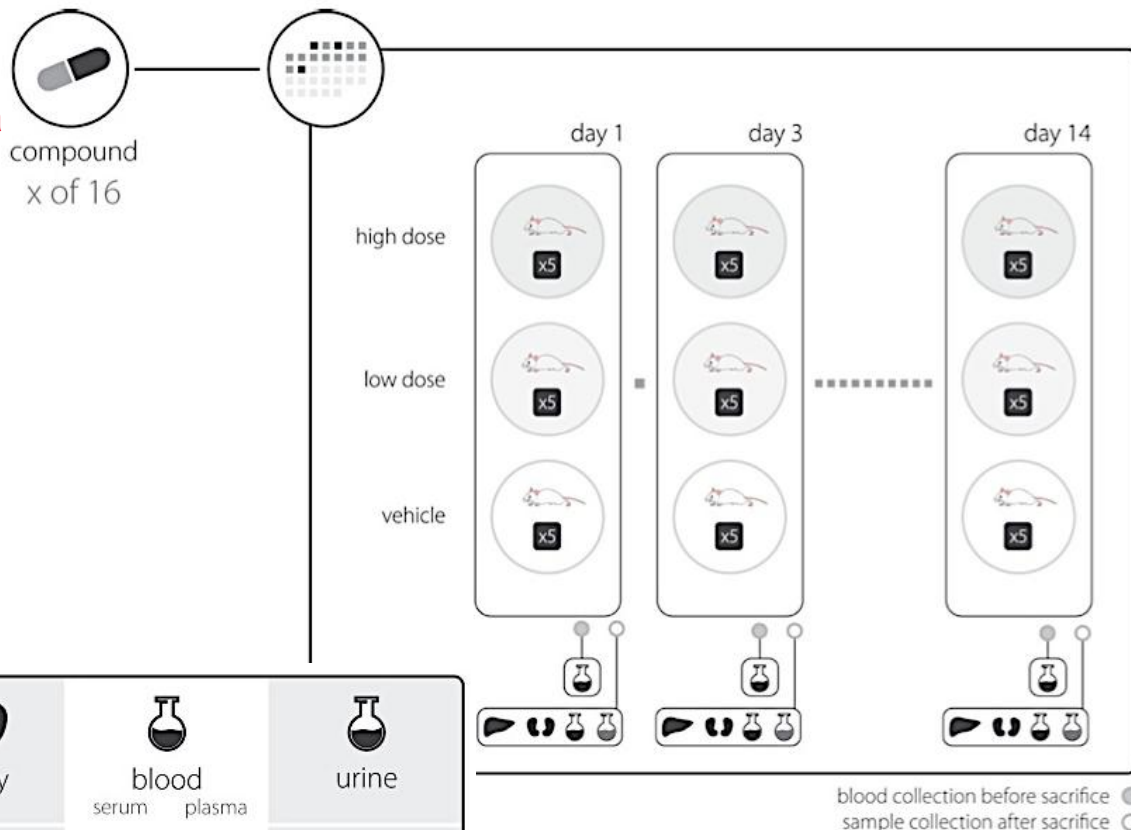









- **Researchers** and **bioinformaticians** in both *academic* and *commercial* arenas, along with **funding agencies** and **publishers**, embrace the concept that to be *comprehensible*, *interoperable* and *reusable* shared datasets we should have **richly described**:

- **entities of interest**
e.g., genes, metabolites, phenotypes, computational models, diseases ...
- **experimental steps**
e.g., provenance of study materials, technology and measurement types, experimentalists and curators ...

The **necessity** for **well-annotated data** and **unambiguous experimental metadata** was especially apparent

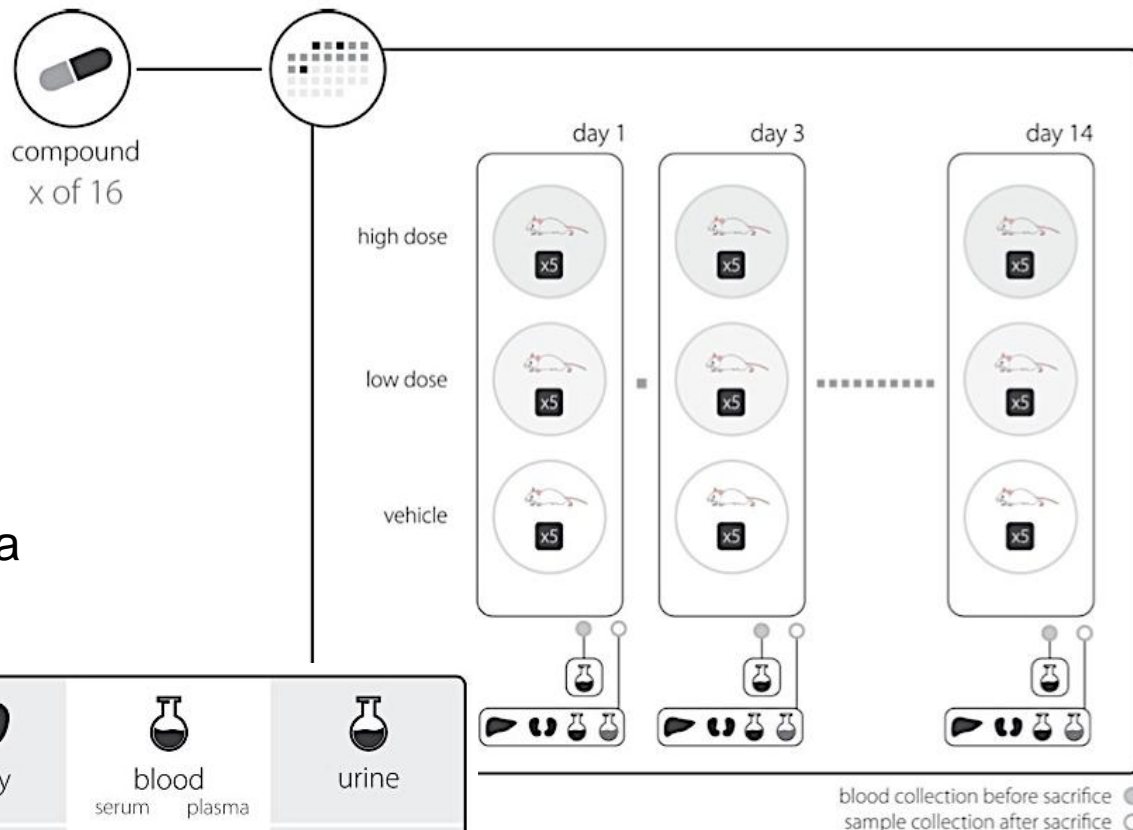
- during cross-study comparisons and data analysis
- in preparation for reformatting the datasets for submission to the different EBI repositories, requiring different level of information



				
	liver	kidney	serum plasma	urine
 protein expression profiling by mass spectrometry	✓	✓	✓	✓
 transcription profiling by dna microarray	✓	✓	✓	✓
 metabolite profiling by mass spectrometry	✓	✓	✓	✓
 metabolite profiling by nmr spectroscopy	✓	✓	✓	✓
 histology	✓	✓		
 clinical chemistry			✓	✓
 hematology			✓	✓

experimental design
sample characteristic(s)
experimental variable(s)
technology(s)
measurement(s)
protocols(s)
data file(s)

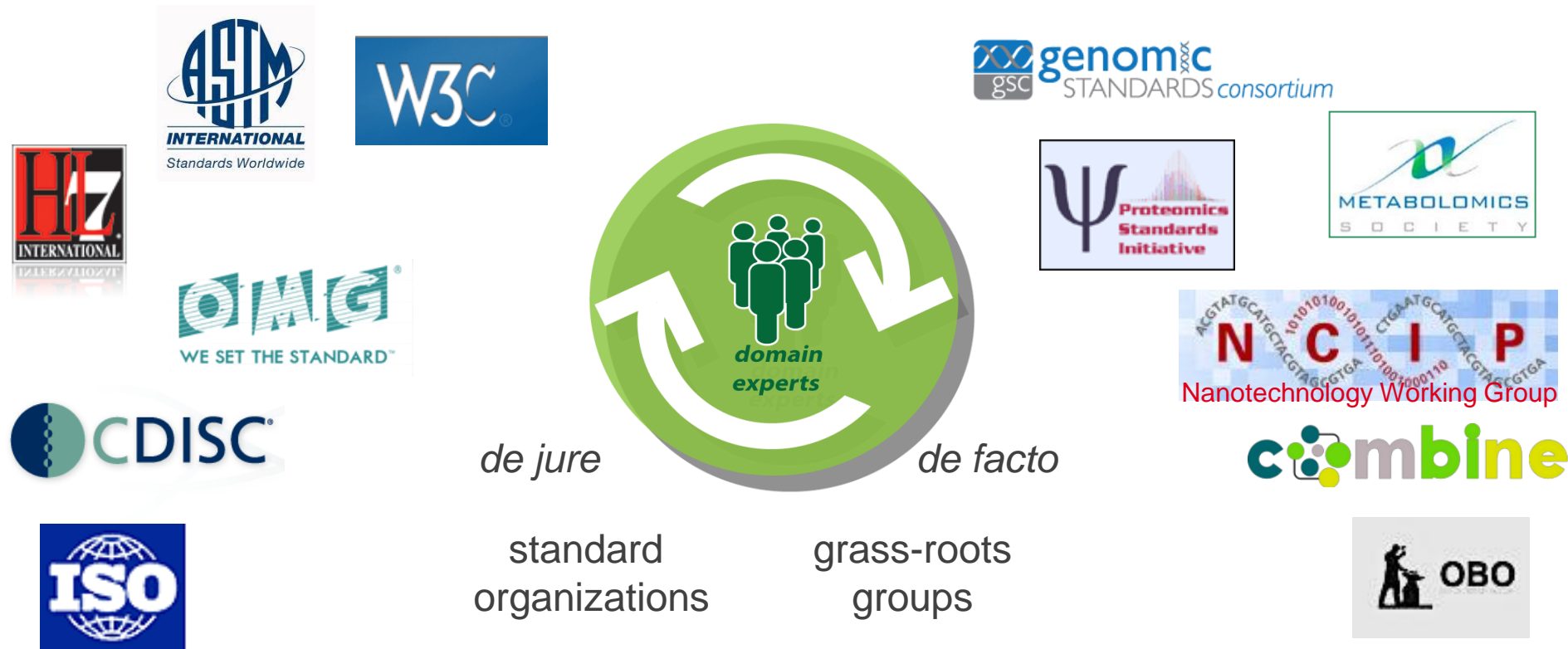
- One must strike a balance between
 - depth and breadth of information; and
 - sufficient information required to reuse the data



	liver	kidney	blood serum plasma		urine
protein expression profiling by mass spectrometry	✓	✓	✓		✓
transcription profiling by dna microarray	✓	✓	✓	✓	
metabolite profiling by mass spectrometry	✓	✓	✓		✓
metabolite profiling by nmr spectroscopy	✓	✓	✓		✓
histology	✓	✓			
clinical chemistry			✓	✓	✓
hematology			✓	✓	

- Capture all salient features of the experimental workflow
- Make annotation explicit and discoverable
- Structure the descriptions for consistency, tracking

A community mobilization to develop standards, e.g.:



■ Structural and operational differences

- organization types (open, close to members, society, WG etc.)
- standards development (how to formulate, conduct and maintain)
- adoption, uptake, outreach (link to journals, funders and commercial sector)
- funds (sponsors, memberships, grants, volunteering)

Types of reporting standards



formats



terminologies



guidelines

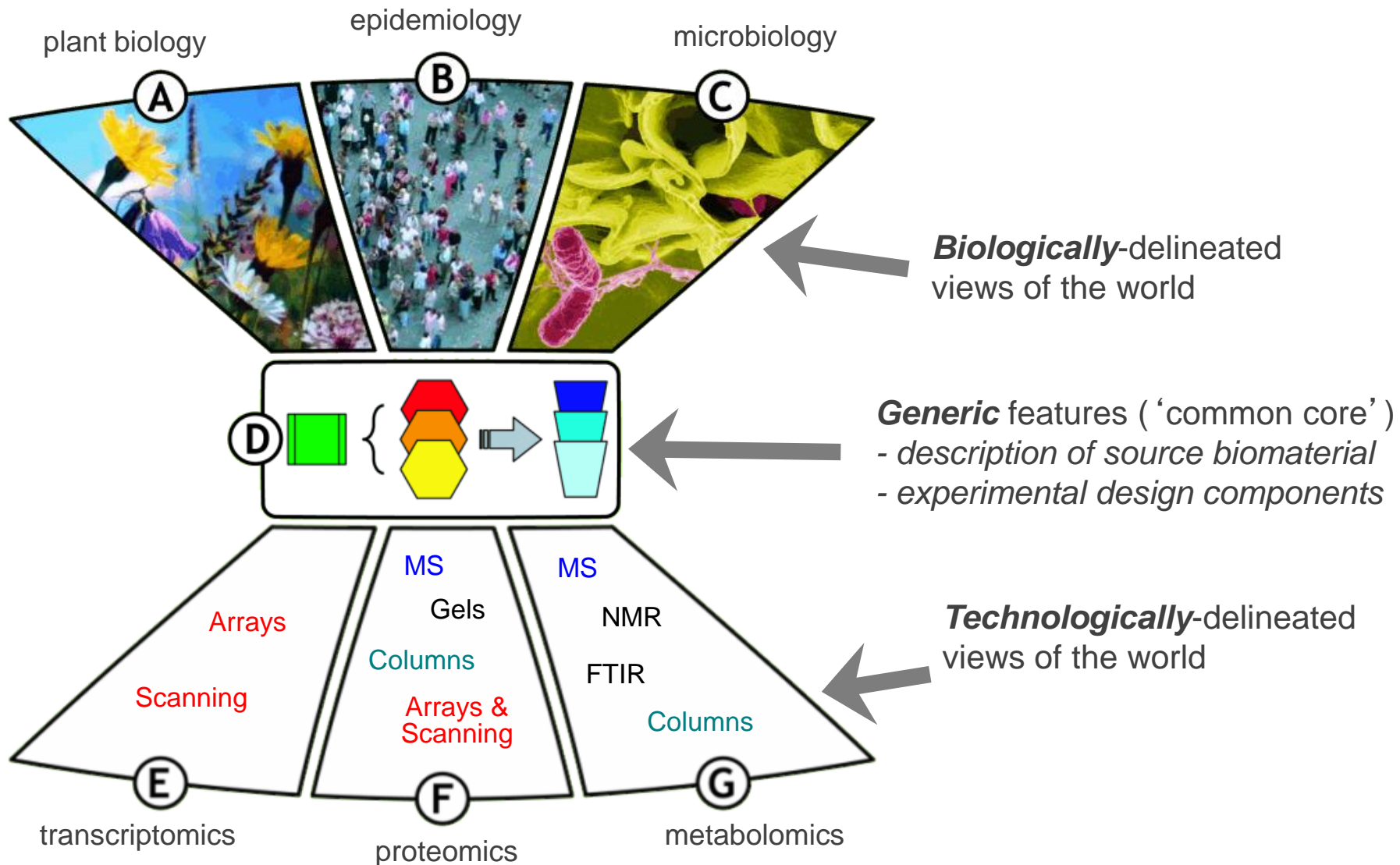


Including **conceptual model, conceptual schema** from which an exchange format is derived **to allow data to flow from one system to another**

Including **controlled vocabularies, taxonomies, thesauri, ontologies** etc. **to use the same word and refer to the same 'thing'**

Including **minimum information reporting requirements**, or **checklists** **to report the same core, essential information**

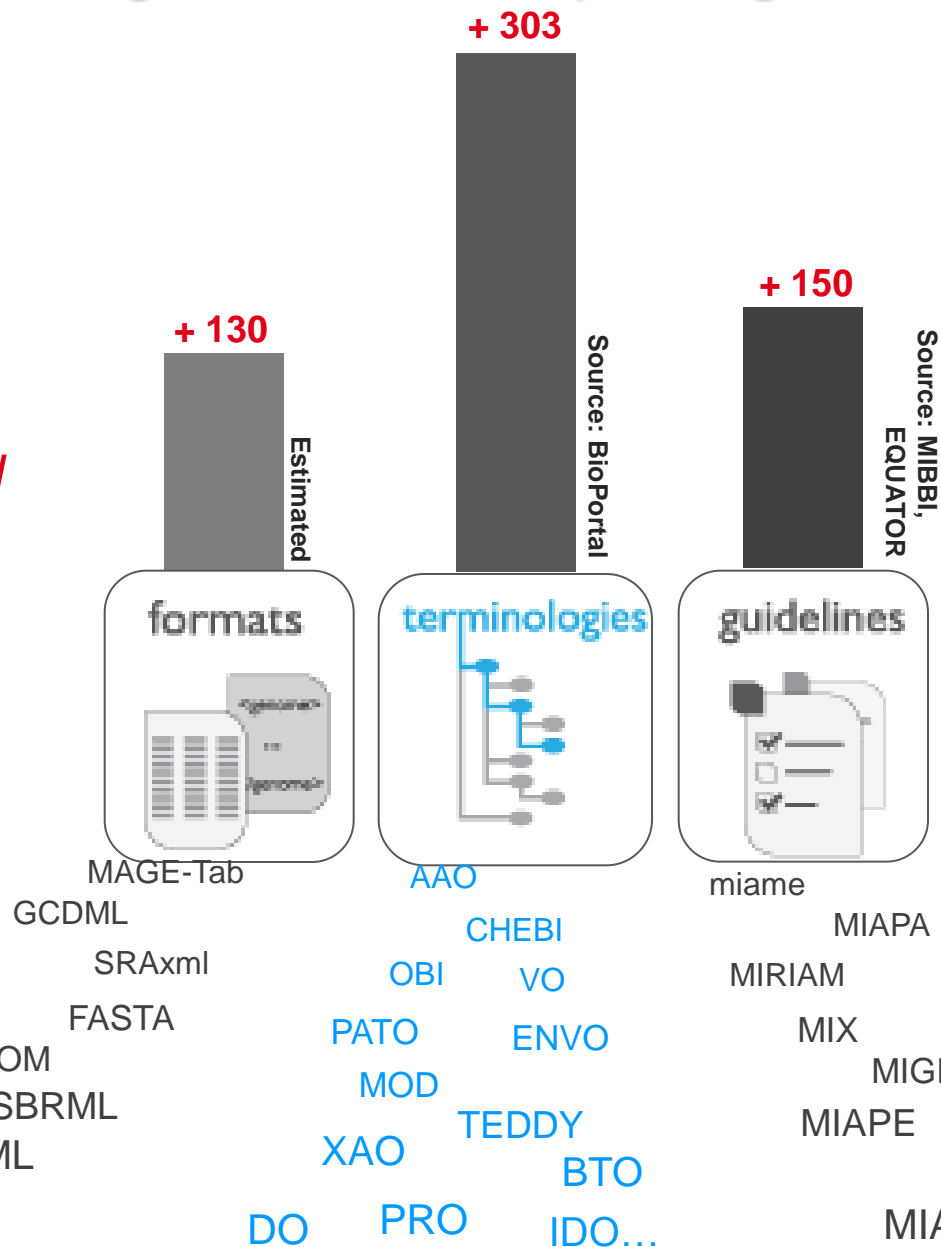
Fragmentation, duplications and gaps



To compare and integrate data we need interoperable standards

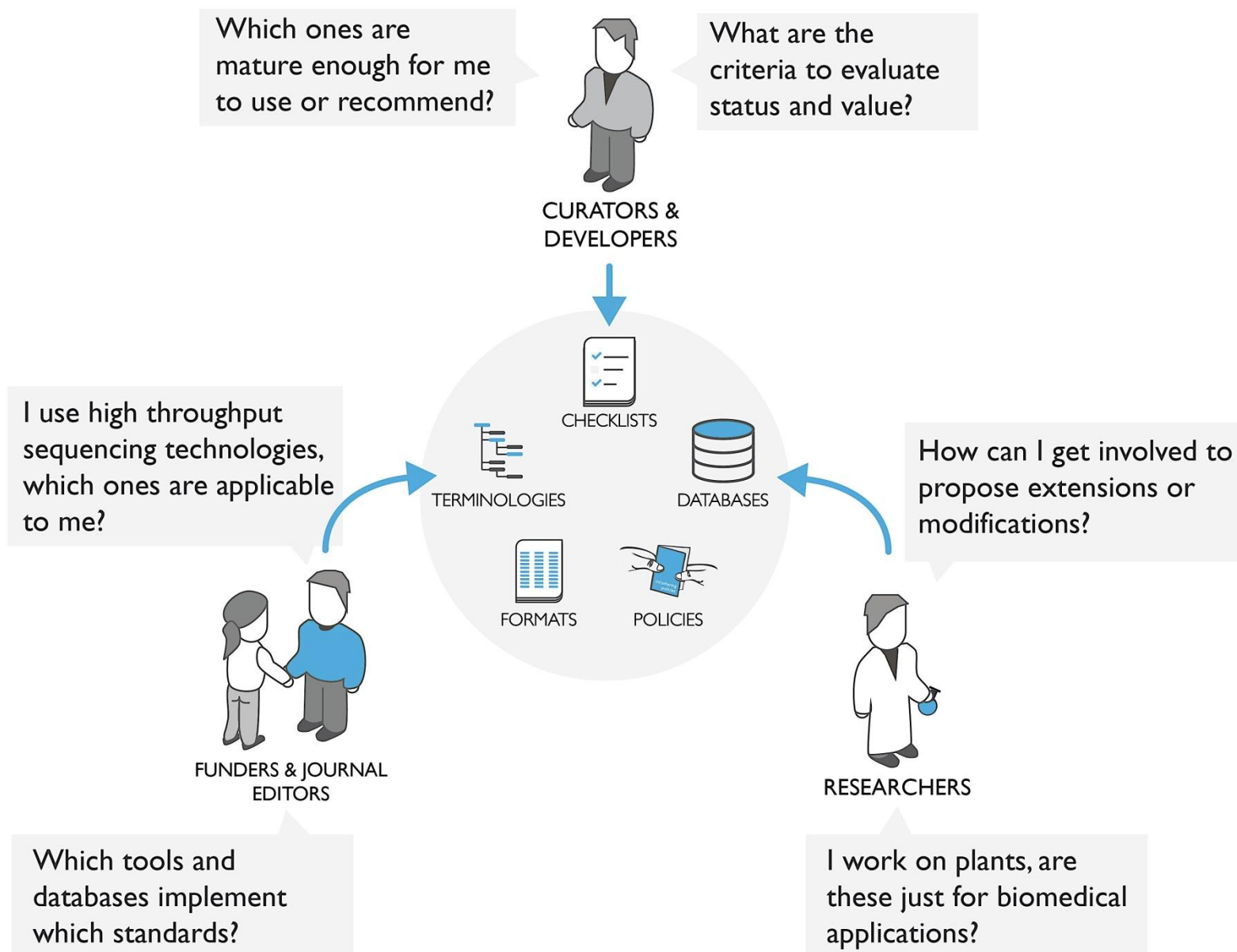
Growing number of reporting standards

*To track
provenance of
the information
and ensure
richness of data
and experimental
metadata
descriptions, to
maximize
reusability*



Databases,
annotation,
curation
tools

But how much do we know about these standards

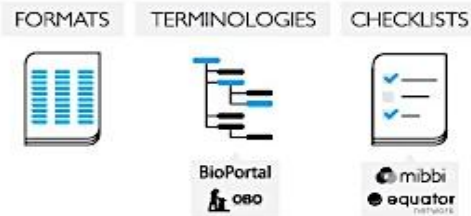


POLICIES



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

STANDARDS



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



DATABASES



BioDBcore
International Society
for Biocuration

A catalogue of databases, described according to the BioDBcore guidelines, along with the standards used within them; compiled in collaboration with 2012 NAR Database.

re3data.org
REGISTRY OF RESEARCH DATA REPOSITORIES

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

- A coherent, curated and searchable registry of **standards** for describing and reporting experiments in life science, environmental, biomedical and biotechnological domains



BioPortal



PeerJ



Sage



F1000 FACULTY 1000



F1000 FACULTY 1000



POLICIES



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

STANDARDS

FORMATS TERMINOLOGIES CHECKLISTS



BioPortal
OBO

mibbi
equator
network

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



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OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

- A *coherent, curated and searchable registry* of **standards** for describing and reporting experiments in life science, environmental, biomedical and biotechnological domains
- Progressively **associate** standards to data policies and databases
- **Develop** assessment **criteria** for usability and popularity of standards
- Help stakeholders to make informed decisions on e.g. what standards or databases to use or recommend; identify efforts they have funded

functional genomics

☒ Standards ☒ Databases

Domains

GENOME	24
PROTEIN	11
DNA	9
EXPERIMENT	7
GENE ONTOLOGY ANNOTATIONS	6
FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS	6
GENE	5
FILE	4
REPORT	4
STRUCTURE	4

[SHOW MORE](#)

Taxonomies

HOMO SAPIENS	10
ALL	8
CAENORHABDITIS ELEGANS	5
ARCHAEA	4
BACTERIA	4
MUS MUSCULUS	4



Genome Annotation File version 1

Genome Annotation File version 1

Systems **6**

Publications **0**



Genome Annotation File version 2

Genome Annotation File version 2

Systems **0**

Publications **0**



MIARE-TAB

Minimum Information About a RNAi Experiment Tabular

Systems **0**

Publications **0**



FunCoup

Standards **0**

Publications **2**



ISA-Tab

Investigation Study Assay Tabular

Systems **4**

Publications **2**



FuGE-ML

Functional Genomics Experiment Markup Language

Systems **0**

Publications **1**



Candida Genome Database

Standards **2**

Publications **2**



Cnidarian Evolutionary Genomics Database

Standards **1**

Publications **1**



Tomato Functional Genomics Database

Standards **2**

Publications **1**



PlantNATsDB: a



Cryptosporidium Genomics



Shanghai Rapeseed

ISA-Tab - Investigation Study Assay Tabular

General-purpose ISA-Tab file format - an extensible, hierarchical structure that focuses on the description of the experimental metadata (i.e. sample characteristics, technology and measurement types, sample-to-data relationships)

Database scope and data types

[FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS](#) [BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL](#) [REPORT](#) [EXPERIMENT](#) [DEVICE](#) [FILE](#) [ASSAY](#) [REAGENT](#) [MATRIX](#)

Support

DOCUMENTATION http://isatab.sourceforge.net/docs/ISA-TAB_release-candidate-1_v1.0_24nov08.pdf

Mailing List [isaforum\[at\]googlegroups.com](mailto:isaforum[at]googlegroups.com)

Contact Details

Philippe Rocca-
Serra [Email](#)

Organisations

Maintainers

ISA community

Funders

BBSRC

Implementing Databases

[Stem Cell Discovery Engine](#)
Comparison system for cancer stem cell analysis

Giga Science Database

GigaDB primarily serves as a repository to host data and tools associated with articles in GigaScience; however, it also includes a subset of datasets that are not associated with GigaScience articles. GigaDB defines a dataset as a group of files (e.g., sequencing data, analyses, imaging files, software programs) that are related to and support an article or study.

MetaboLights

MetaboLights is a database for Metabolomics experiments and derived information. The database is

Publications

ISA software suite: supporting standards-compliant experimental annotation and enabling curation at the community level.

Bioinformatics 2010

[View Paper](#)

MetaboLights—an open-access general-purpose repository for metabolomics studies and associated meta-data

Nucleic Acid Research 2013

[View Paper](#)

[View Paper](#)

Will the ISNI-based ORCID affiliation module cover standards organizations too?

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[FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS](#) [BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL](#) [REPORT](#) [EXPERIMENT](#) [DEVICE](#) [FILE](#) [ASSAY](#) [REAGENT](#) [MATRIX](#)

Support

DOCUMENTATION http://isatab.sourceforge.net/docs/ISA-TAB_release-candidate-1_v1.0_24nov08.pdf

Mailing List [isaforum\[at\]googlegroups.com](mailto:isaforum[at]googlegroups.com)

Contact Details

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ISA community

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Nucleic Acid Research 2013

[View Paper](#)

[View Paper](#)

User profiles populated from ORCID...



AGBELTRAN

ORCID Profile

Alejandra Gonzalez-Beltran

Alejandra currently works in the ISA Team (<http://www.isa-tools.org>) at the Oxford e-Research Centre, University of Oxford, UK. Before that, Alejandra was at University College London, UK, working at the Computational and Systems Medicine project and the Department of Computer Science. Previously, she was awarded a PhD in Computer Science at Queen's University Belfast, UK and a Licentiate (equivalent to MSc) from Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina.

Websites

[LinkedIn Profile](#)

[UCL Personal Website](#)

[OeRC Personal Website](#)

[View Alejandras profile on ORCID.](#)

Latest Publications

MetaboLights - An open-access general-purpose repository for metabolomics studies and associated meta-data

[Read the paper](#)

[Get article metrics](#)

Guidelines for information about therapy experiments: A proposal on best practice for recording experimental data on cancer therapy

[Read the paper](#)

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Establishing a knowledge trail from molecular experiments to clinical trials

[Read the paper](#)

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My Standards

GIATE
Guidelines for Information About Therapy Experiments

[View Record](#)



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Establishing a knowledge trail from molecular experiments to clinical trials

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Guidelines for Information About Therapy Experiments

[View Record](#)

Ownership of open standards can be problematic in broad, grass-root collaborations

It requires improved models, to encourage *maintenance* of and *contributions* to these efforts, *rewards* and *incentives* need to be identified for all contributors to supporting the continued development of standards



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Latest Publications

Growth control of the eukaryote cell: a systems biology study in yeast.

[Read the paper](#)

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↑ Associated Data

E-MEXP-115

Saccharomyces cerevisiae

[Raw data](#)

[Processed data](#)

E-MAXD-4

Saccharomyces cerevisiae

[Raw data](#)

[Processed data](#)

MetaboLights: towards a new COSMOS of metabolomics data management

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[Get article metrics](#)

Toward interoperable bioscience data

[Read the paper](#)

[Get article metrics](#)

...and associated article-level metrics



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Article Impact Metrics Metrics from ImpactStory

Sansone, Rocca-Serra, Field, Maguire, Taylor, Hofmann, Fang, Neumann, Tong, Amaral-Zettler, Begley, Booth, Bougueleret, Burns, Chapman, Clark, Coleman, Copeland, Das, de Daruvar, de Matos, Dix, Edmunds, Evelo, Forster, Gaudet, Gilbert, Goble, Griffin, Jacob, Kleinjans, Harland, Haug, Hermjakob, Sui, Laederach, Liang, Marshall, McGrath, Merrill, Reilly, Roux, Shamu, Shang, Steinbeck, Trefethen, Williams-Jones, Wolstencroft, Xenarios, Hide

Nature Genetics, 2012

Pubmed Citations **9**

Reader country

34% United States
18% United Kingdom
9% Germany

Reader domain

59% Biological Sciences
21% Computer and Information Science
7% Medicine

Career stage

25% Ph.D. Student
13% Other Professional
13% Researcher (at an Academic Institution)

Latest Publications

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↑ Associated Data

E-MEXP-115

Saccharomyces cerevisiae

[Raw data](#)

[Processed data](#)

E-MAXD-4

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[Raw data](#)

[Processed data](#)

MetaboLights: towards a new COSMOS of metabolomics data management

[Read the paper](#)

[Get article metrics](#)

Toward interoperable bioscience data

[Read the paper](#)

[Get article metrics](#)

We need “standards impact metrics” to evaluate use/usability

► The standard itself

- specification documentation
- ease of implementation (eg, level of documentation, requirement for programmer support)
- human and machine readability
- formal structure
- expressivity—the breadth of information that can be represented
- ease of use, for example, minimal required fields, text-based interface familiarity to biologists.

► Adoption and user community

- broad adoption and implementation, outside the initial group
- support supplied by the user community
- use by community databases
- software development that supports the standard (eg, for curating, submitting to databases)
- responsiveness to community requests
- availability of examples of use
- requirements of relevant authoritative bodies, for example, funders (NIH, National Science Foundation, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services), publishers, etc.

► Additional factors

- integration/compatibility with other standards
- extensibility and flexibility to cover new domains
- conversion and mapping, when applicable
- cost (eg, open vs licensing fee).

JAMIA



OPEN ACCESS

A sea of standards for omics data: sink or swim?

Jessica D Tenenbaum, Susanna-Assunta Sansone and Melissa Haendel

J Am Med Inform Assoc published online September 27, 2013
doi: 10.1136/amiajnl-2013-002066







biosharing.org working with data publication platforms:

SCIENTIFIC DATA


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April 3, 2013

[Press Release] NPG to launch Scientific Data to help scientists publish and reuse research data
April 3, 2013

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(GIGA)ⁿDB

Promoting reproducible research

GigaScience's integrated "big-data" repository containing citable data available for public download and use

(GIGA)ⁿSCIENCE

华大基因
BGI

 **BioMed Central**
The Open Access Publisher

“Invisible” use of standards in data reporting tools



Alejandra Gonzalez-Beltran, PhD



ORCID CodeFest

Mash ups with the PUBLIC ORCID API

🕒 Thursday, May 23 2013 12:00 AM BST

One of the winners.

Project: integration of ORCID with the ISAcreeator, the editor tool, helping curators and researchers to describe experiments following community standards.



collect and curate, following standards

Describe the experimental steps using community-defined minimum reporting requirements and ontologies, where possible.



store and browse, locally or publicly

create your own repository to search and browse the experimental description and associated data making it close or open.



submit to public repositories

when required, reformat the experiments for submission to supported public repositories or directly export to those already using ISA-Tab.



analyse with existing tools

upload experimental description and associated data to a growing number of well-known analysis systems, ISA connects with.



release, reason and nanopublish

explore how to reason over your experiments, open them to the linked data universe, or publish nano-statements of your discoveries.



publish data along your article

directly export your experiments to the new generation of data journals, accepting submission in ISA-Tab.

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Summarizing my talk

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Challenges addressed by ***sharing***

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Acknowledgements

Philippe Rocca-Serra
Alejandra Gonzalez-Beltran
Eamonn Maguire

Collaborators:

OBO Foundry
COSMOS
GSC
Metabolomics Society
Data Dryad
Pistoia Alliance
Elixir UK
NPG's Scientific Data
and many more....

