

BioSharing.org

**Mapping the landscape of Standards, Databases and
Data policies in the life, biomedical and
environmental sciences**

Peter McQuilton

BioSharing Content Lead

@biosharing



Outline

- What is BioSharing?
- Ensuring FAIR-ness for standards, databases and policies
- How do we describe and link records?
- Exploring the landscape of standards, databases and data policies in the life sciences

A curated, informative and educational resource on inter-related data standards, databases, and policies in the life, environmental and biomedical sciences

[Find](#)


Recommendations

Standards and/or databases recommended by journal or funder data policies.

[Discover](#)


Collections

Standards and/or databases grouped by domain, species or organization.

[Learn](#)


Educational

About standards, their use in databases and policies, and how we can help you.



[Search](#)

☒ Standards
 ☒ Databases
 ☒ Policies
 ☒ Collections/Recommendations

Advanced Search



Fine grained control over your search.

Search Wizard



Let us guide you to your results.



666 Standards

Terminology Artifact	346
Model/Format	210
Reporting Guideline	110

[View all](#)


811 Databases

Protein	163
Genome	126
DNA	84

[View all](#)


81 Policies

Funder	19
Journal	56
Society	2

[View all](#)



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Standards and/or databases recommended by journal or funder data policies.

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Educational

About standards, their use in databases and policies, and how we can help you.

A web-based, curated and searchable portal that monitors the development and **evolution** of **standards**, their **use** in **databases** and the adoption of both in **data policies**, to **inform** and **educate** the user community.



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Standards are digital objects too and we make them FAIR



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Terminology Artifact	346
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811 Databases

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View all

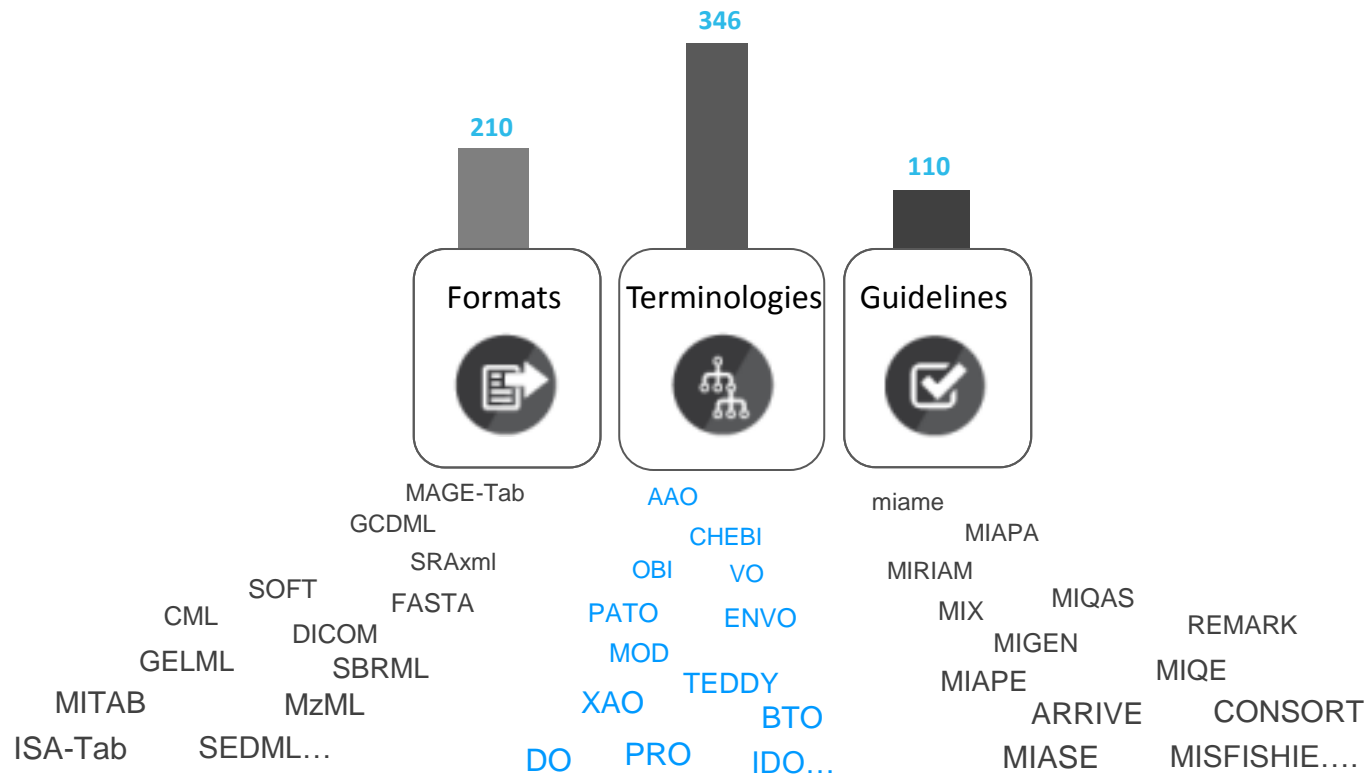


81 Policies

Funder	19
Journal	56
Society	2

View all

There are over 650 standards in the life sciences



Enablers: to better describe, share and query data

Models/Formats = Conceptual model, conceptual schema, exchange formats

- Allow data to flow from one system to another
- e.g. FASTA



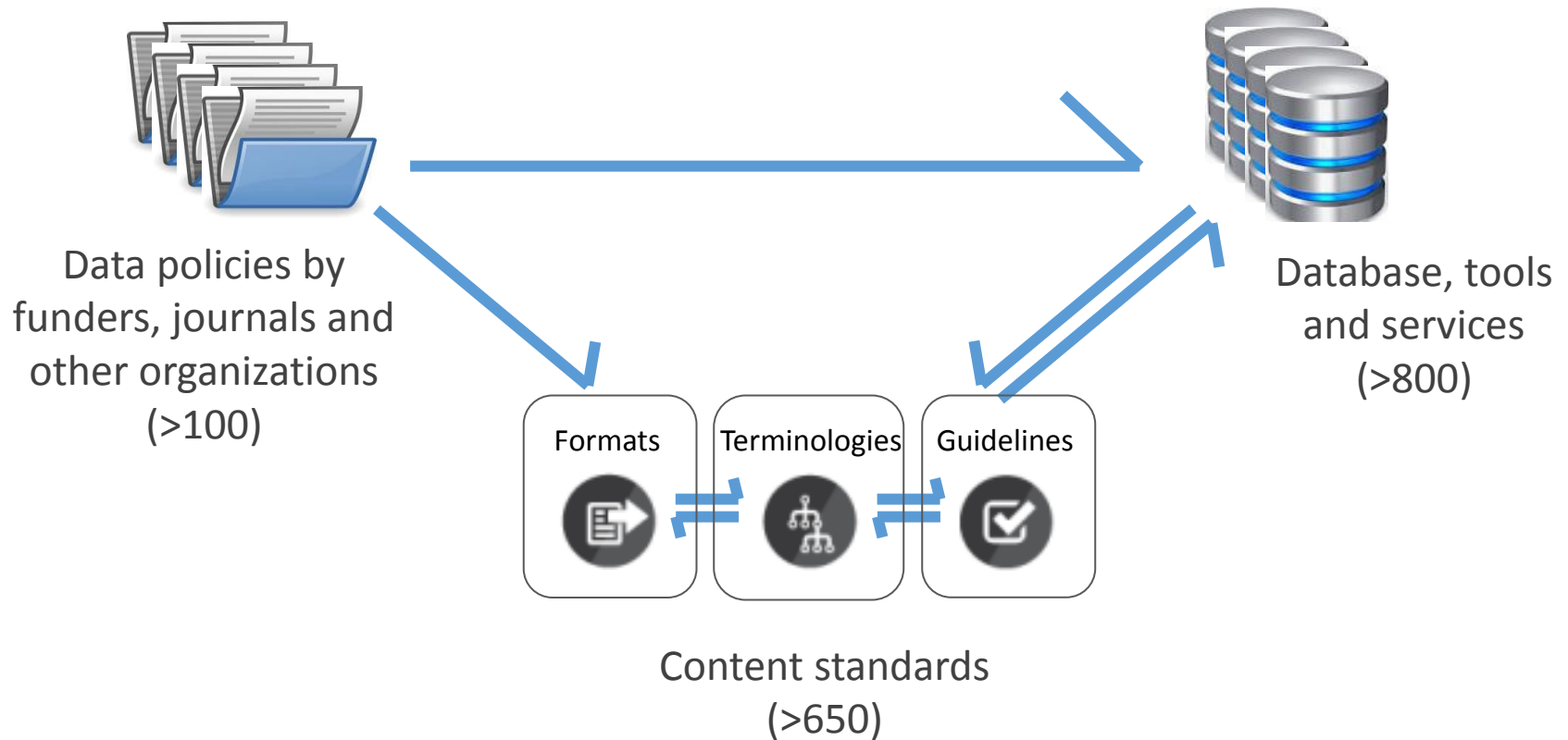
Guidelines = Minimum information reporting requirements, checklists

- Report the same core, essential information
- e.g. ARRIVE guidelines

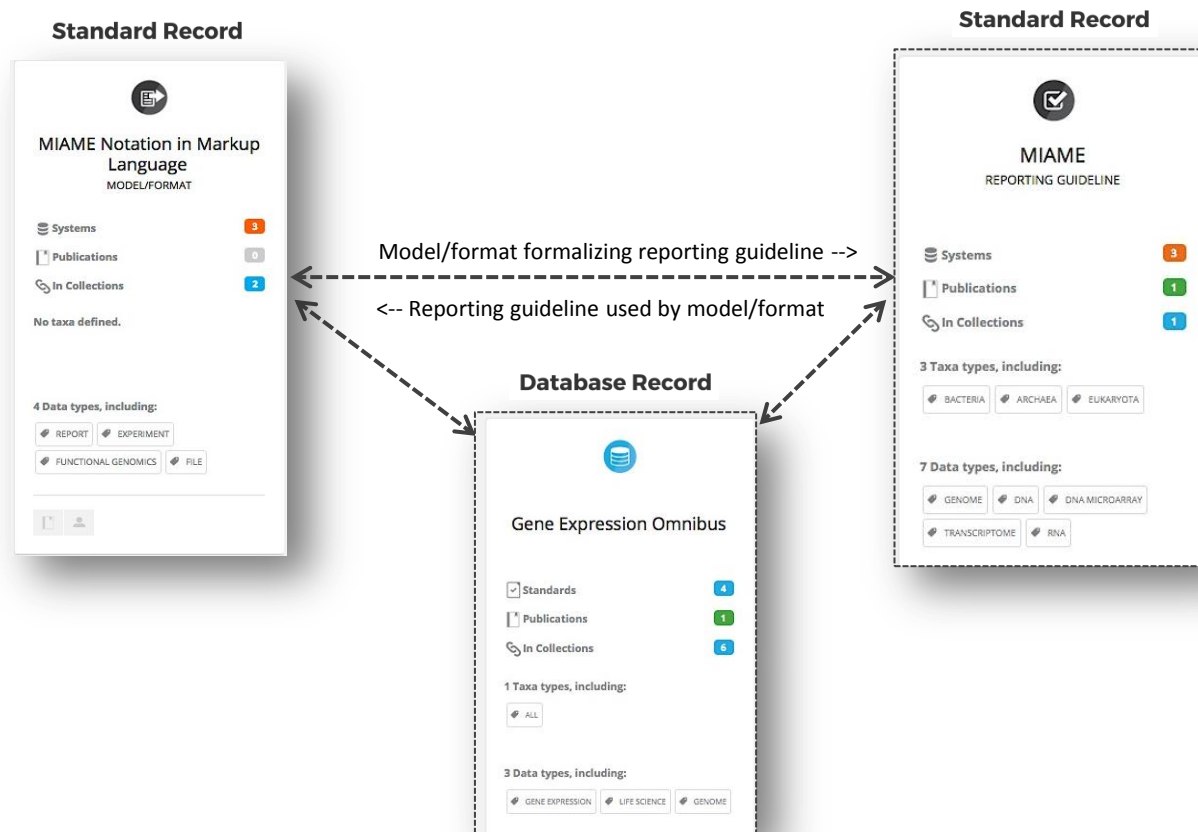
Terminologies = Controlled vocabularies, taxonomies, thesauri, ontologies etc.

- Use the same word and refer to the same 'thing'
- e.g. Gene Ontology

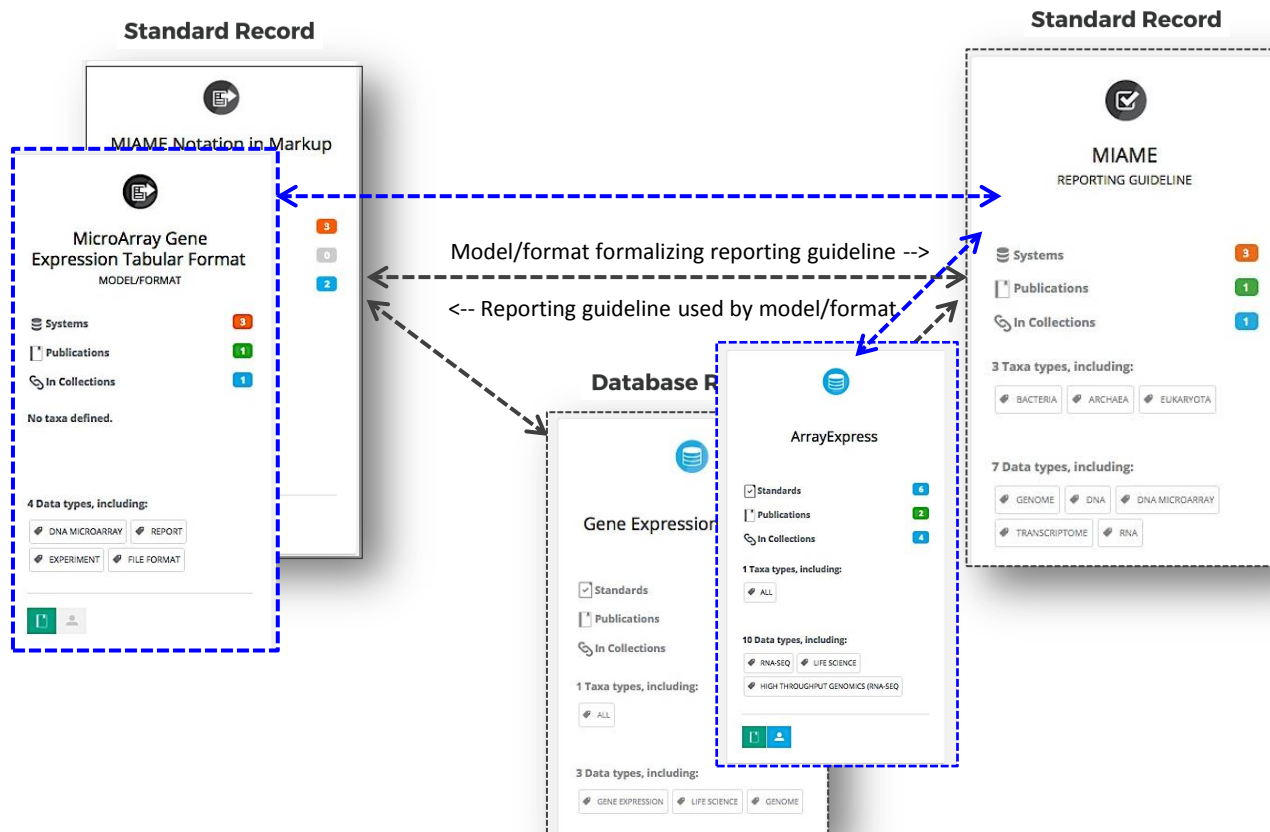
Complex and evolving landscape



Cross-linking standards to standards and databases



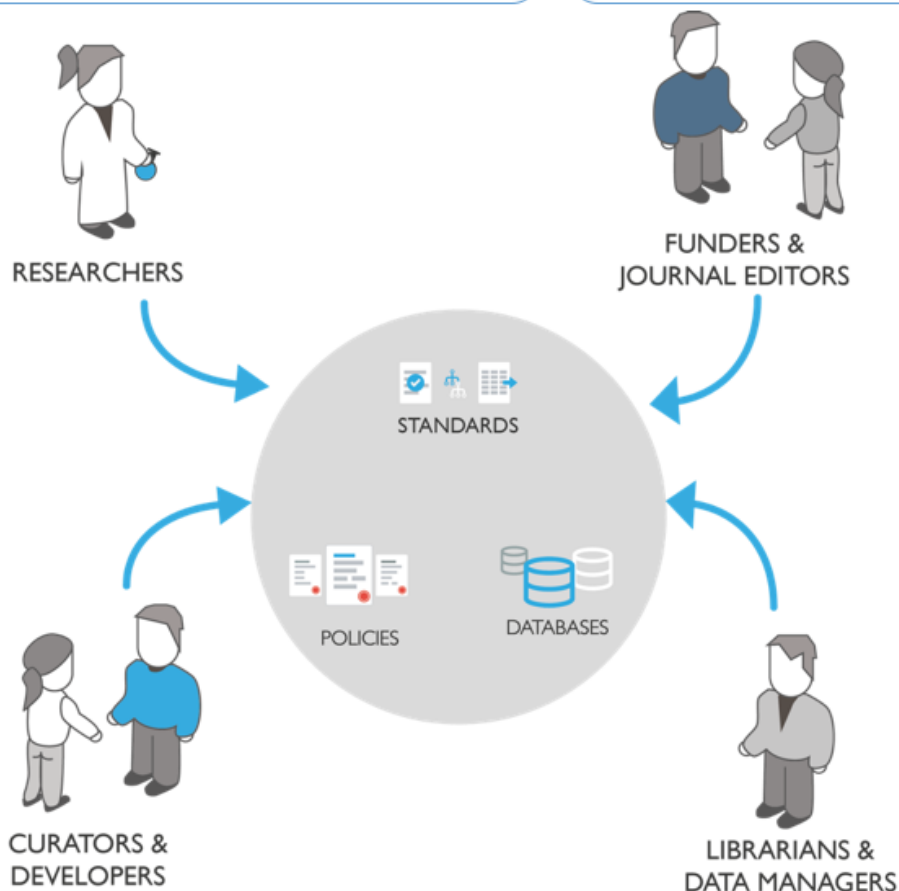
Cross-linking standards to standards and databases



Helping users make the right decision

My funder's data policy recommends the use of **established standards**, but which ones are widely **endorsed** and applicable to my **toxicological** and **clinical** data?

What are the **mature standards** and **standards-compliant databases** we should recommend to our authors?



Am I using the **most up-to-date version** of this terminology to annotate **cell-based assays**?

I understand this format has been **deprecated**; what has it been **replaced** by and is it appropriate for this data?

How do we describe and link records

Using standards as an example

Criteria for evaluating standards

Perspective

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

Jessica D Tenenbaum,¹ Susanna-Assunta Sansone,² Melissa Haendel³

Tenenbaum JD, et al. *J Am Med Inform Assoc* 2013;0:1–4. doi:10.1136/amiajnl-2013-002066

- ▶ 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).

standards > model/format > bsg-000052

System Biology Markup Language

Abbreviation: SBML

MODEL/FORMAT

General Information

The Systems Biology Markup Language (SBML) is a machine-readable exchange format for computational models of biological processes. Its strength is in representing phenomena at the scale of biochemical reactions, but it is not limited to that. By supporting SBML as an input and output format, different software tools can operate on the same representation of a model, removing chances for errors in translation and assuring a common starting point for analyses and simulations.

Homepage <http://sbml.org>

Developed in Worldwide

Created in 1999

Taxonomic range

 All

Scope and data types

 Computational Model

 Network Interaction Model

 Molecular Entity

 Pathway Model

 Enzymatic Reaction

 Cellular Organisms

Record added: May 14, 2015, 11:14 a.m. Record updated: Feb. 24, 2016, 3:26 p.m. by [The BioSharing Team](#).

RECOMMENDED

Recommended by

[Computational Modeling](#)

[EMBO Press](#)

Support

help	http://sbml.org/Documents/FAQ
mailing list	sbml-discuss@googlegroups.com
online documentation	http://sbml.org/Documents/Specifications
rss	http://sbml.org/index.php?title=News&act ...
twitter	@sbmlnews

Additional Information

Contact	SBML Forum
---------	----------------------------

Tools

No tools defined

Conditions of Use

License

Related Standards

Reporting Guidelines

[Minimal Information Required In the Annotation of Models](#)

Terminology Artifacts

[Systems Biology Ontology](#)

Models and Formats

[Systems Biology Graphical Notation](#)

[Simulation Experiment Description Markup Language](#)

[CellML](#)

Implementing Databases (13)

[MetaCrop 2.0: managing and exploring information about crop plant metabolism](#)
Biochemical pathways and enzymes in crop plants

IPAVS

Integrated Pathway Analysis and Visualization System

The Comprehensive Enzyme Information System


BRENDA is the main collection of enzyme functional data available to the scientific community.

A repository of mathematical models of biological and biomedical systems

BioModels is a repository of computational models of biological processes. It allows users to search and retrieve mathematical models published in the literature. Many models are manually curated (to ensure reproducibility) and extensively cross-linked to publicly available reference information.


Scroll for more...

Training



Linking standards and databases to training material



 **ELIXIR** ALPHA


Events Materials Packages Workflows Content Providers Nodes About

Search


[Home](#) / [Content providers](#) / [European Bioinformatics ...](#) / **MetaboLights: Quick tour**

MetaboLights: Quick tour

Content Provider

**EMBL-EBI**
European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI)
EMBL-EBI provides freely available data from life science experiments, performs basic research in computational biology and offers an extensive user training programme,... [read more](#)

Home page:
<http://www.ebi.ac.uk>

 **ELIXIR Node**

Material Packages Activity log

MetaboLights: Quick tour

This quick tour provides a brief introduction to the EBI's metabolomics resource: MetaboLights.

Details

Field	Value
Source URL	http://www.ebi.ac.uk/training/online/course/metabolights-quick-tour-0
Last updated	June 4, 2015, 15:16
Created	April 1, 2015, 14:16


Tags

Chemical biology Systems

Related events

This training material has no additional events

Additional resources

 **MetaboLights record on Biosharing.org**
This record summarises the details of the MetaboLights database, including... [Open](#)

MetaboLights
Abbreviation: MTBLS

General Information
MetaboLights is a database for Metabolomics experiments and derived information. The database is cross-species, cross-technique and covers metabolite structures and their reference spectra as well as their biological roles, locations and concentrations, and experimental data from metabolite experiments. We offer user-submission tools and have strong reporting capabilities. We will utilise and further develop de-facto standard formats where various components are encapsulated, such as the encoded spectral and chromatographic data, and associated information about the chemical structure, as well as metadata describing assays and the study as a whole. We are dedicated to collaborate closely with major parties in world-wide metabolomics communities, such as the Metabolomics Society and the associated Metabolomics Standards Initiative (MSI).
Last updated: Oct. 30, 2015, 3:51 p.m.

Homepage <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/metabolights/>
Developed in United Kingdom, European Union
Created in 2012

Taxonomic range
[ALL](#)

Database scope and data types
[METABOLITE](#) [METABOLOMICS](#) [LIPIDOMICS](#) [MASS SPECTROMETRY](#) [NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE SPECTROSCOPY](#)
[FELUXOMICS](#) [PUBLICATIONS](#) [LIFE SCIENCE](#)

Support
online document <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/metabolights/help>
training <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/training/online/course/metabolights-quick-tour-0>

Additional Information
Contact [Reza Salek](#) [ORCID](#)
MIRIAM Registry [None](#)

Tools
ISACreator <http://www.isa-tools.org/>

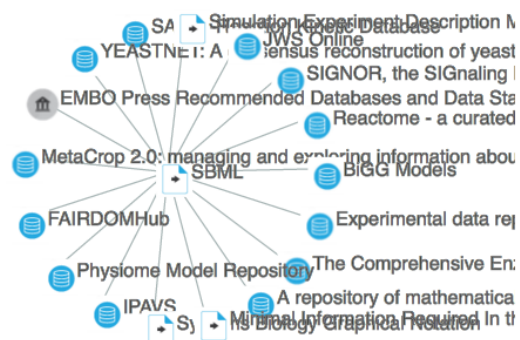
In Collections
Journal: Scientific Data Recommended Repositories
Project: Metabolomics Standards and Databases

Related Standards
Reporting Guidelines
[Core Information for Metabolomics Reporting](#)
Terminology Artifacts
[Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Controlled Vocabulary](#)
[Ontology for Biomedical Investigations](#)
[Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Controlled Vocabulary](#)
[Mass Spectrometry](#)
[Chemical Entities of Biological Interest](#)
Models and Formats
[Investigation Study Assay Tabular](#)
[Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Markup Language](#)

Related Databases
No related databases defined

Implementing Policies
[Scientific Data's Recommended Data Repositories](#)

Connectivity



Schemas

Name: SBML

[Download](#) [Show](#)

Version: l2v4

Name: SBML

[Download](#) [Show](#)

Version: l2v3

Name: SBML

[Download](#) [Show](#)

Version: l2v2

Implementing Policies

[EMBO Press Recommended Databases and Data Standards](#)

Credit

Record Maintainer

This record is maintained by [skeating](#) [ORCID](#)

Development Group

[SBML Community](#)

Funders

[California Institute of Technology](#)

[EMBL-EBI](#)

[NIGMS NIH HHS](#)

Grant Number(s)

[R01 GM070923](#) (NIGMS NIH HHS)

Collaborators

[COMBINE](#)

Publications

The systems biology markup language (SBML): a medium for representation and exchange of biochemical network models.

Hucka M, Finney A, Sauro HM, Bolouri H, Doyle JC, Kitano H, Arkin AP, Bornstein BJ, Bray D, Cornish-Bowden A, Cuellar AA, Dronov S, Gilles ED, Ginkel M, Gor V, Goryanin II, Hedley

Using indicators to describe the 'status' of a resource



Ready for use, implementation, or recommendation



In development



Status uncertain



Deprecated as subsumed or superseded

Manually curated, approved by the community

D



LINCS 1: Cell Lines

LINCS Pilot Phase 1 Metadata Standards: Cell Lines

REPORTING GUIDELINE

DEPRECATED

☰ Implementing databases 1

📄 Publications 0

🔗 In Collections 1

🔗 Recommended 0

1 Taxa types, including:

🔗 Homo Sapiens

3 Data types, including:

🔗 Cell-Based Assays

🔗 Gene Expression

🔗 Life Science



R



LINCS 2: Cell lines

LINCS Production Phase 2 Extended Metadata Standard: Cell lines

REPORTING GUIDELINE

☰ Implementing databases 1

📄 Publications 1

🔗 In Collections 1

🔗 Recommended 0

1 Taxa types, including:

🔗 Homo Sapiens

6 Data types, including:

🔗 Cell-Based Assays

🔗 Cell Lines

🔗 Enzyme Assays

🔗 Gene Expression



D

✓

LINCS 1: Cell Lines

LINCS Pilot Phase 1 Metadata Standards: Cell Lines

REPORTING GUIDELINE

DEPRECATED

Implementing databases1

Publications0

In Collections1

Recommended

1 Taxa types, including:

Homo Sapiens

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Cell-Based Assays

Life Science



R

✓

LINCS 2: Cell lines

LINCS Production Phase 2 Extended Metadata Standard: Cell lines

REPORTING GUIDELINE

Implementing databases1

Publications1

In Collections1

0

Cell Lines

Expression

D LINCS Pilot Phase 1 Metadata Standards: Cell Lines

Abbreviation: LINCS 1: Cell Lines

REPORTING GUIDELINE

General Information

This record was deprecated on Aug. 10, 2016 for the following reason(s): This standard was a pilot study for the LINC2 Cell line standard (<https://biosharing.org/bsg-s000651>) and as such has been superseded by this standard.

The LINCS Pilot Phase 1 metadata standards annotate reagents outside the context of the experiments in which they were used. The underlying theme among all cell types is their association with a tissue or organ from which the cells were derived.

This record is replaced by:

[LINCS Production Phase 2 Extended Metadata Standard: Cell lines](#)


Homepage <http://www.lincsproject.org/data/data-standards/>

Developed in United States of America

Created in 2012

Taxonomic range

Homo Sapiens

Dev


LCI facility data repository

DATABASE

☒ Standards 0

☐ Publications 0

☐ In Collections 1

☐ Recommended 0

No taxa defined.


3 Data types, including:

Biological Imaging

 High-Content Screening



<https://biosharing.org/collection/EuroBioImaging>

U


CPO

Cell Phenotype Ontology

TERMINOLOGY ARTIFACT

Implementing databases 0

☐ Publications 1

☐ In Collections 1

☐ Recommended 0

1 Taxa types, including:

All

2 Data types, including:

Cell
 Phenotype

BioSharing allows you to

- Track the provenance and evolution of a standard or database
- See which standards a database uses
- Explore the resources appropriate to your domain, species, technique etc.
- Map the resources available from a particular funder, country or with a particular access license
- See which standards and databases a publisher, funder or institution/organisation recommends

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 ☒ Databases
 ☒ Policies
 ☒ Collections/Recommendations

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Search Wizard



ask biosharing

Let us guide you to your results.



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[View all](#)

THE BASICS OF STANDARDS

1. Generic information

1.1 What is a standard?

In essence, a standard is an agreed way of doing something. A standard provides the requirements, specifications, guidelines or characteristics that can be used for the description, interoperability, citation, sharing, publication, or preservation of all kinds of digital objects such as data, code, algorithms, workflows, software, or papers.

1.2 How many types are there and what are they for?

1.3 Who should care about them, and why?

1.4 What are the FAIR principles and why are standards key?

2. Focussing on data/metadata standards

2.1 What are they and how many types are there?

[2.2 What are they used for and by whom?](#)

Broadly, these standards allow data and its associated contextual/experimental metadata to be harmonized, with respect to structure, format and annotation. This opens their content to transparent interpretation, reuse, integrative analysis and comparison. Data and metadata standards are essential for the implementation of the [FAIR principles](#).

Data and metadata standards are used and implemented by many stakeholders, communities, data services and resources in the public, private and governmental sectors for the collection, reporting, storage, publishing and dissemination of research information, and to make it more accessible to benefit the wider scientific community. Better standards = Better data and metadata = Better science!

2.3 What is a *de jure* and a *de facto* standard?

2.4 Who are the community involved and how are they organized?

3. Developing, contributing and using a data/metadata standards

3.1 What is the typical standard life cycle?

3.2 Create a new standard or join an existing effort?

5. Linking standards, databases and data policies, and to other resources

5.1 Why it is important to link these types of resource?

By interlinking standards, databases and policies, BioSharing guides users to discover existing databases and standards, to identify those standards that are implemented by databases, and to find the policies that refer to them. The latter two points also provide evidence of use and are important indicators when users select a standards or a database.

The relationships between standards, databases and policies are not a static but evolve over time (new links are added, others removed). BioSharing fulfills the essential job of mapping this dynamic landscape and in doing so helps a variety of users in their tasks. Examples include:

- *Researchers* - to find journals that meet their funder requirements, journal standards, the specific needs for a data management plan, and to enable their data to be shared as widely as possible (as per funding and publication requirements).
- *Publishers* - to link from journals to repositories that meet the requirements as set down by their data policies and to meet any necessary content standards.
- *Funders* - to understand which journals and repositories meet their policies; and knowledge of the current landscape of community defined-standards and databases to refine their recommendations.
- *Developers* and curators of repositories and standards - to ensure their products are discoverable and well described so they can be:
 - evaluated and recommended by journals and funders in their policies;
 - used by researchers to meet their funder policies and the policies of the journals they wish to publish in; or reused and/or extended by other developers and curators, according to the products' licence, to meet their specific needs.
- *Librarians* to support scholars to:
 - utilize data standards; and conform to journal, institutional, and funder policies;
 - develop and maintain institutional data and publication repositories.

5.2 Why and how do we link to other terminology portals?

5.3 What about tools and training materials for standards and databases?

5.4 Which are the communities we work with and for?

6. Looking for guidance on standards, databases and policies

6.1 Are you a Researcher creating a Data Management Plan?

6.2 Are you a curator or data manager?

6.3 Are you a standard or database developer?

HOW TO USE THE BIOSHARING PORTAL

7. Search functionalities to help find what you need

7.1 When should I use the search box and how can I see all content?

7.2 When should I use the wizard?

Our step-by-step [wizard](#) guides users through the process of searching the three registries of [standards](#), [databases](#), and data [policies](#), refining the search via data type, scope and species. Users should employ the wizard when they are unsure as to what to look for, or if they simply want to browse the data in a more stepwise manner.

7.3 How can I search for a standard, database and policy in a particular area/domain/species, or from a particular funder, country or organisation?

7.4 When should I use the advanced search?

7.5 Which view should I use to browse BioSharing's standard, database and policy content?

8. Indicators and descriptors to help you selecting resources

8.1 What information do we house for each standard?

8.2 What information do we provide for each database?

8.3 What information do we have on data policies?

8.4 Are there indicators of the maturity status of standards and databases available?

8.5 Which databases or standards are recommended by journals, funders and other data policies?

8.6 Which databases implement which standards?

8.7 What is a Collection?

8.8 What is a Recommendation?

Using BioSharing to
explore the landscape

Finding and Accessing the data

View as TableView as Grid

Sort by

Best Match

Recommended Records

Recommended

Associated Publication?

No PublicationHas Publication

Claimed?

No MaintainerHas Maintainer

Record Status

UncertainDeprecatedIn developmentReady

Domains

Life Science515

Protein163

Genome126

Biomedical Science123

Show More

Taxonomies

All284

Homo Sapiens259

Mus Musculus109

Bacteria43

Show More

Countries

United States Of America321

United Kingdom96

France62

European Union53

Show More

Foundry Membership

OBO Foundry Member0

MBIBI Foundry Member0

Search BioSharing

Search

Standards

Databases

Policies

Collections/Recommendations

Advanced Search

Search Wizard

ask biosharing

Let us guide you to your results.

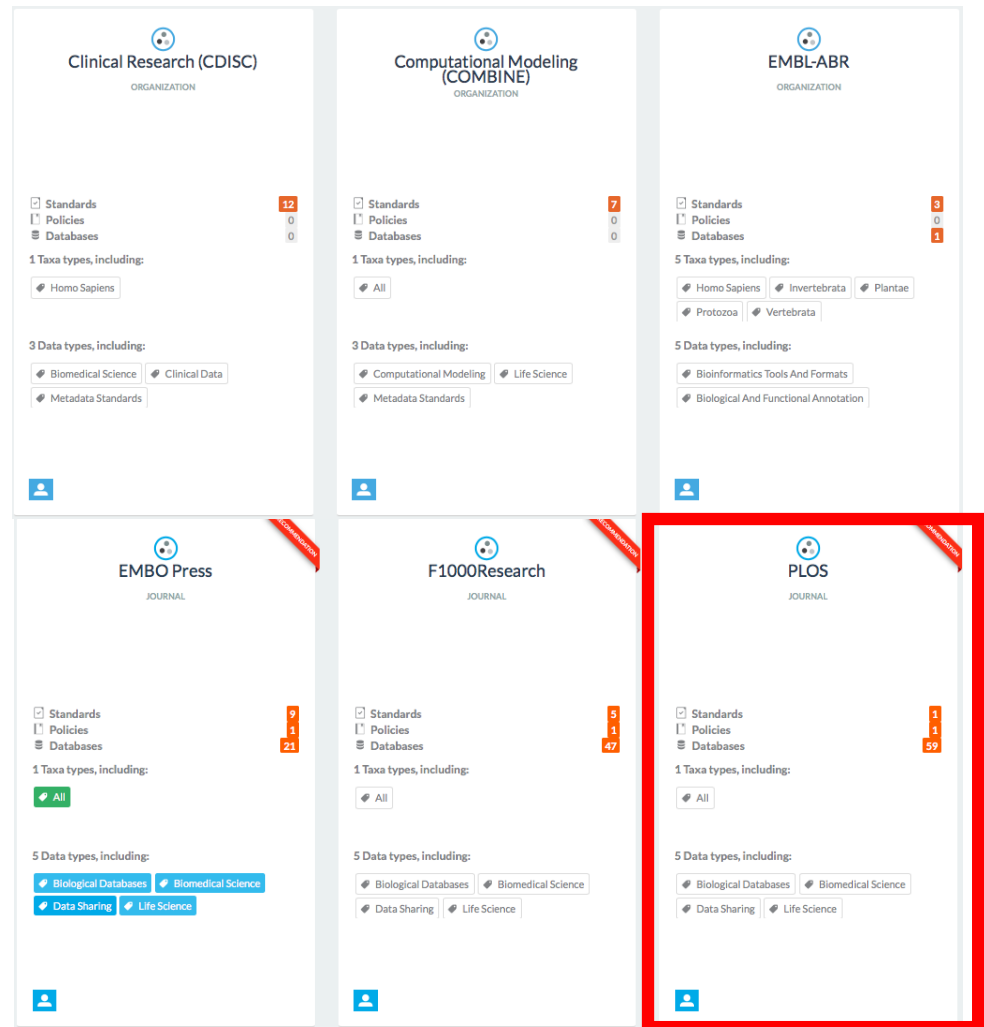
Fine grained control over your search.

Registry	Name	Abbreviation	Type	Domain	Taxonomy	Related Database	Related Standard	Related Policy	In Collection/Recommendation	Status
	Amphibian gross Anatomy Ontology	AAO	Standard			None	None	None	OBO Foundry	
	Amphibian Taxonomy Ontology	ATO	Standard			None	None	None	OBO Foundry	
	Anatomical Entity Ontology	AEO	Standard		 	None	CARO EHDAA2	None	OBO Foundry	
	Animals in Research: Reporting In Vivo Experiments	ARRIVE	Standard	 	 	None	None	BioMed Central - Minimum Standards of Reporting Checklist F1000 Research Recommended Repositories	F1000Research BioMed Central	
	Bilatera anatomy	BILA	Standard			4DXpress	None	None	OBO Foundry	
	Biological Imaging methods	FBbi	Standard	 		FlyBase The Cell: An Image Library	None	None	OBO Foundry	

Grouping the data

Collections group together one or more types of resource by domain, project or organization.

Recommendations are a core-set of resources that are selected and recommended by a funder or journal data policy.



PLOS has identified a set of established repositories and data standards, which are recognized and trusted within their respective communities, for their journals PLOS Biology, PLOS Medicine, PLOS ONE, PLOS Genetics, PLOS Computational Biology, PLOS Pathogens, and PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases. PLOS requires that authors comply with field-specific standards for preparation and recording of data and select repositories appropriate to their field, for example deposition of microarray data in ArrayExpress or GEO; deposition of gene sequences in GenBank, EMBL or DDBJ; and deposition of ecological data in Dryad. Authors are encouraged to select repositories that meet accepted criteria as trustworthy digital repositories.

This record is maintained by: [eganley](#) , [PLOSData](#)

This recommendation is taken from the following policy:
[PLOS Recommended Data Repositories](#).

Record updated: Aug. 18, 2016, 11:28 a.m. by [The BioSharing Team](#).

[Homepage](#) [Reference](#)

Taxonomic range

[All](#)

Scope and data types

[Biological Databases](#) [Biomedical Science](#) [Data Sharing](#) [Life Science](#) [Metadata Standards](#)

[View as Graph on Preview Server \(BETA\)](#)

[View as Grid](#) [View as Table](#)

Sort by
[Best Match](#)

Recommended Records
[Recommended](#)

Associated Publication?
[No Publication](#) [Has Publication](#)


Claimed?
[No Maintainer](#) [Has Maintainer](#)

Record Status
[Uncertain](#) [Deprecated](#) [In developme](#) [Ready](#)

Standard Type

Showing records 1 - 50 of 62.

« 1 2 »



ArrayExpress
DATABASE


☒ Standards 6

☐ Publications 2

☐ In Collections 1

☐ Recommended 6

1 Taxa types, including:



BioGRID
Biological General Repository for Interaction Datasets
DATABASE


☒ Standards 3

☐ Publications 1

☐ In Collections 3

☐ Recommended 2

3 Taxa types, including:



BMRB
Biological Magnetic Resonance Databank
DATABASE

☒ Standards 3

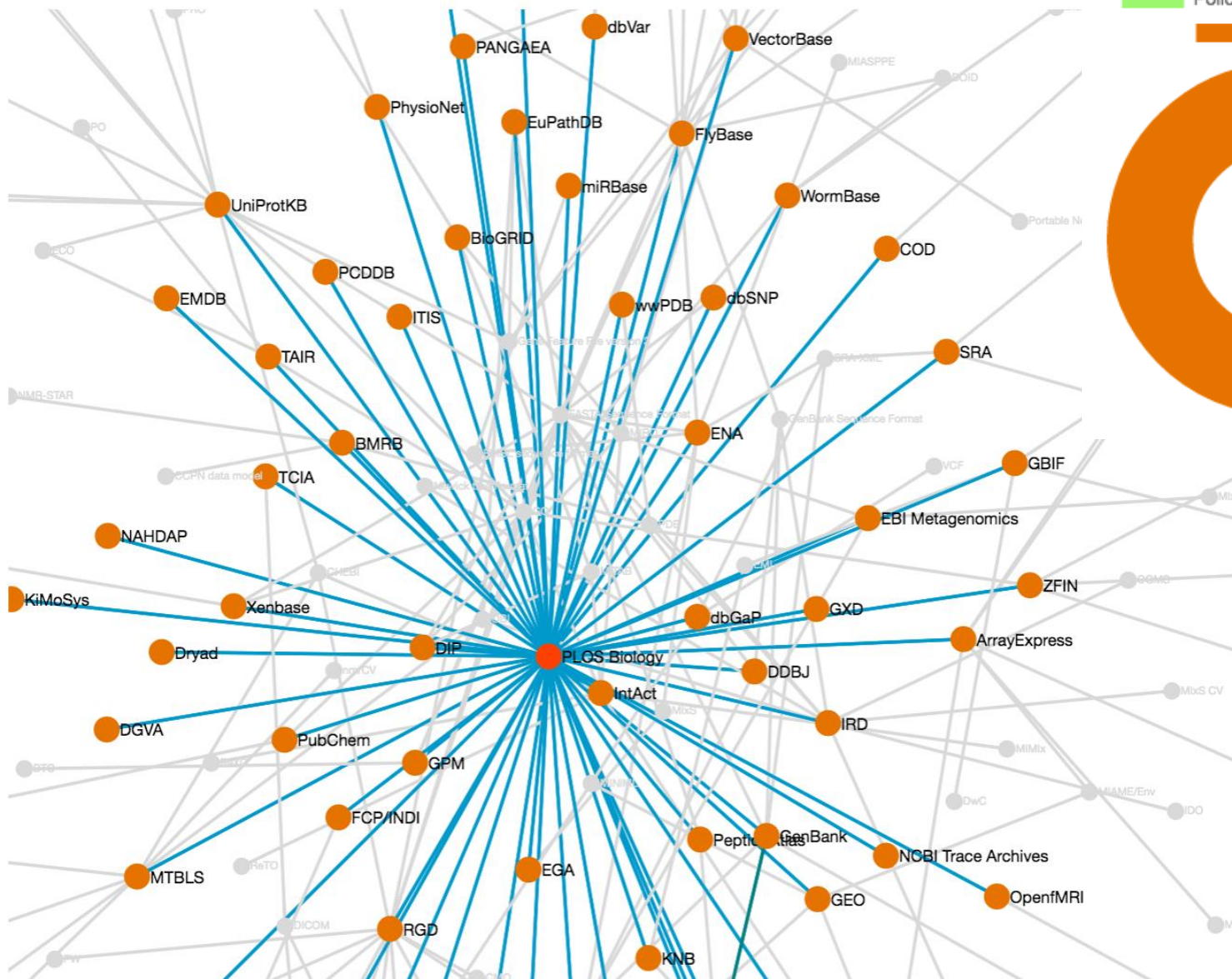
☐ Publications 2

☐ In Collections 1

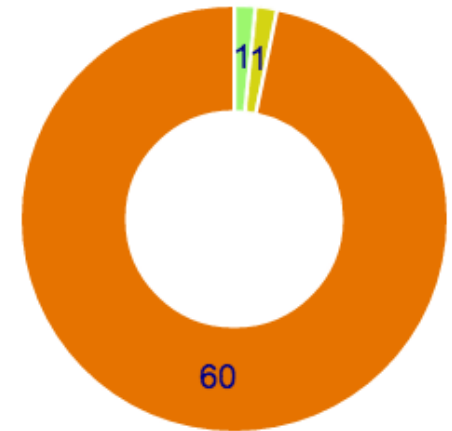
☐ Recommended 2

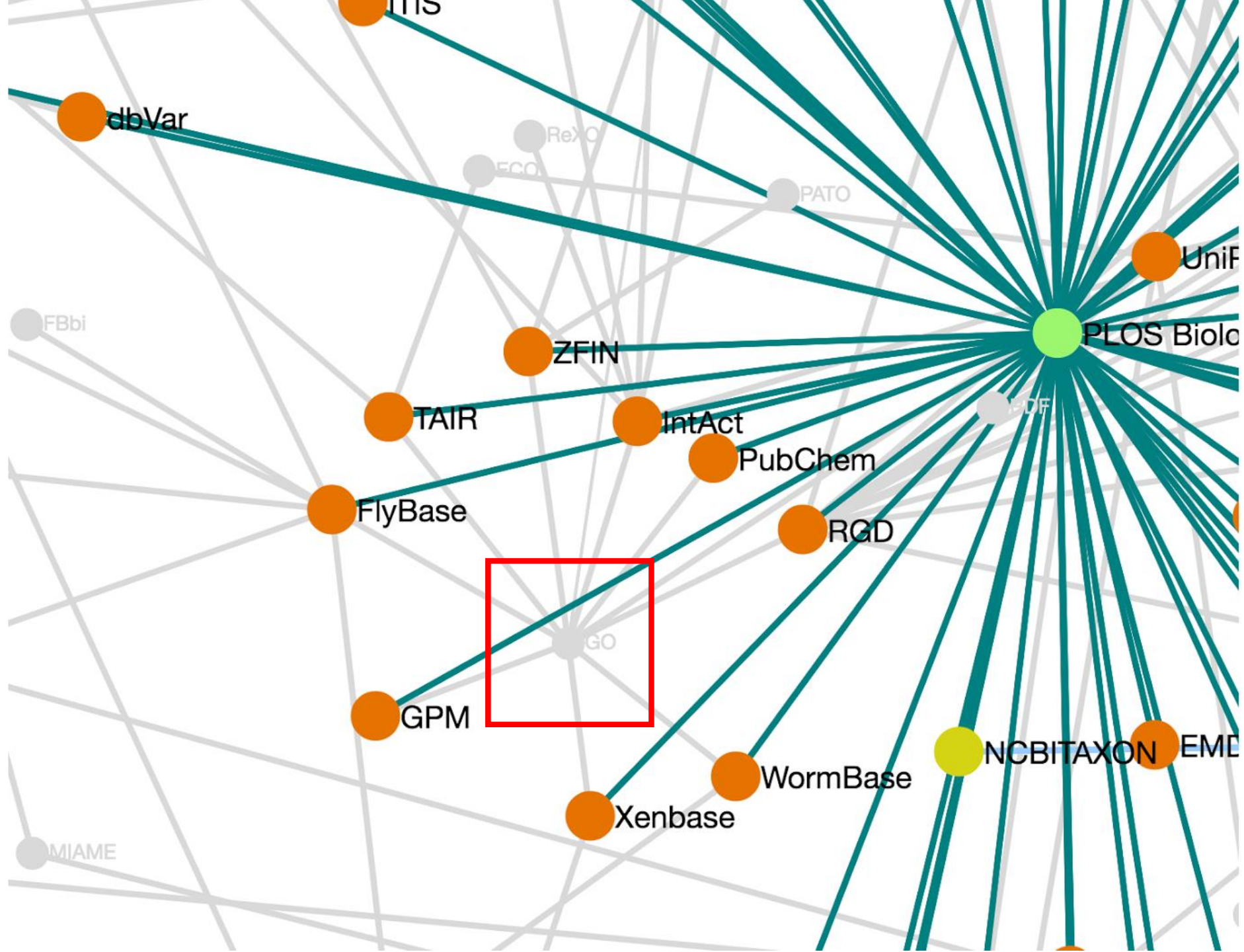
1 Taxa types, including:

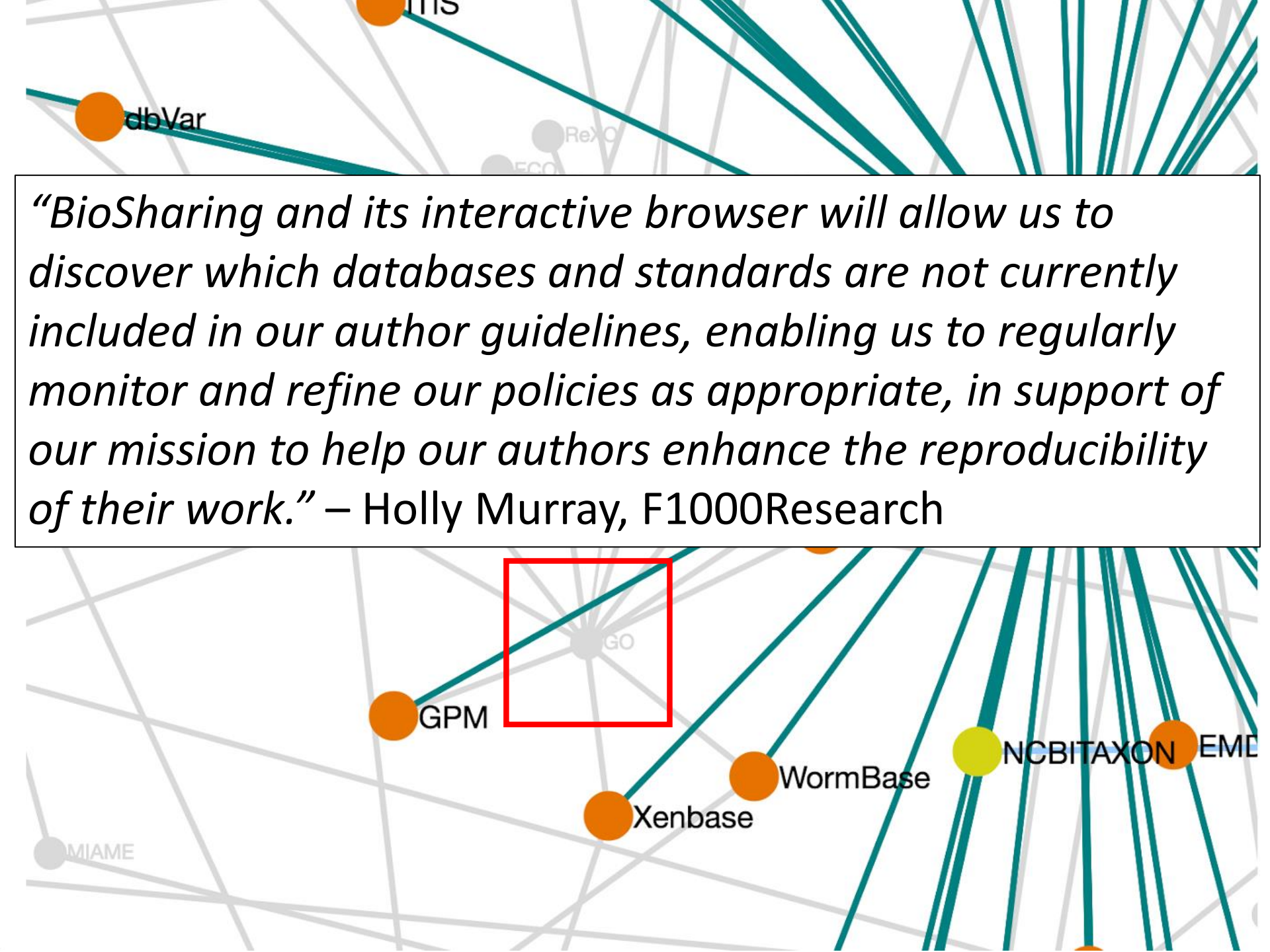
☒ Database ☒ Policy ☒ Standard



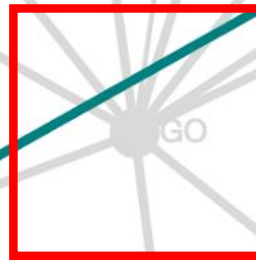
■ Policies
 ■ Standards
 ■ Databases



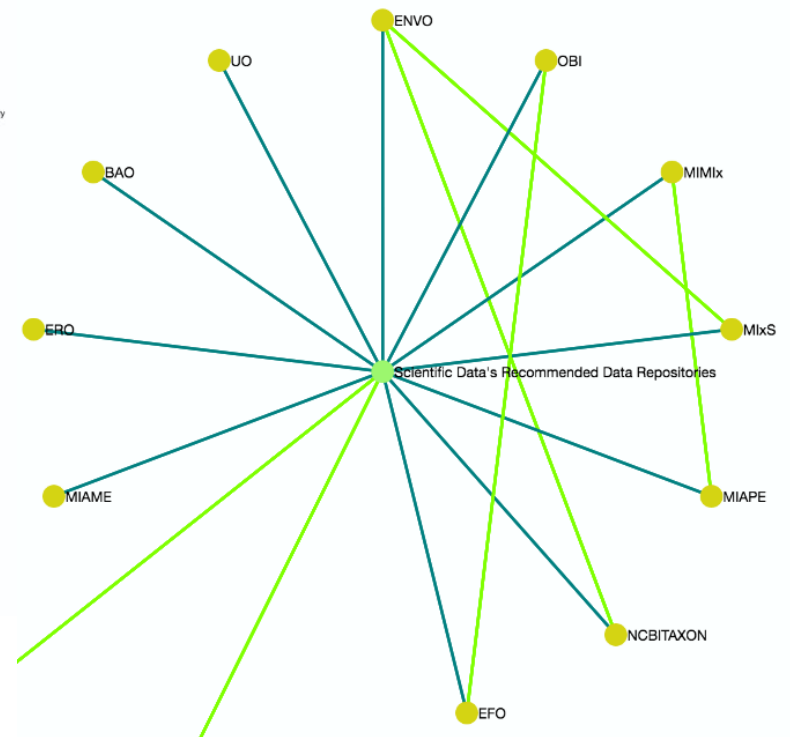
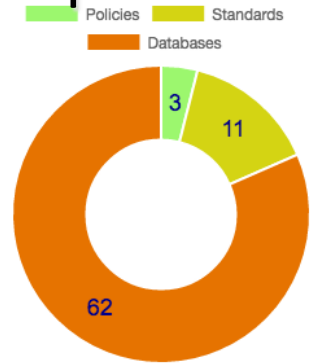
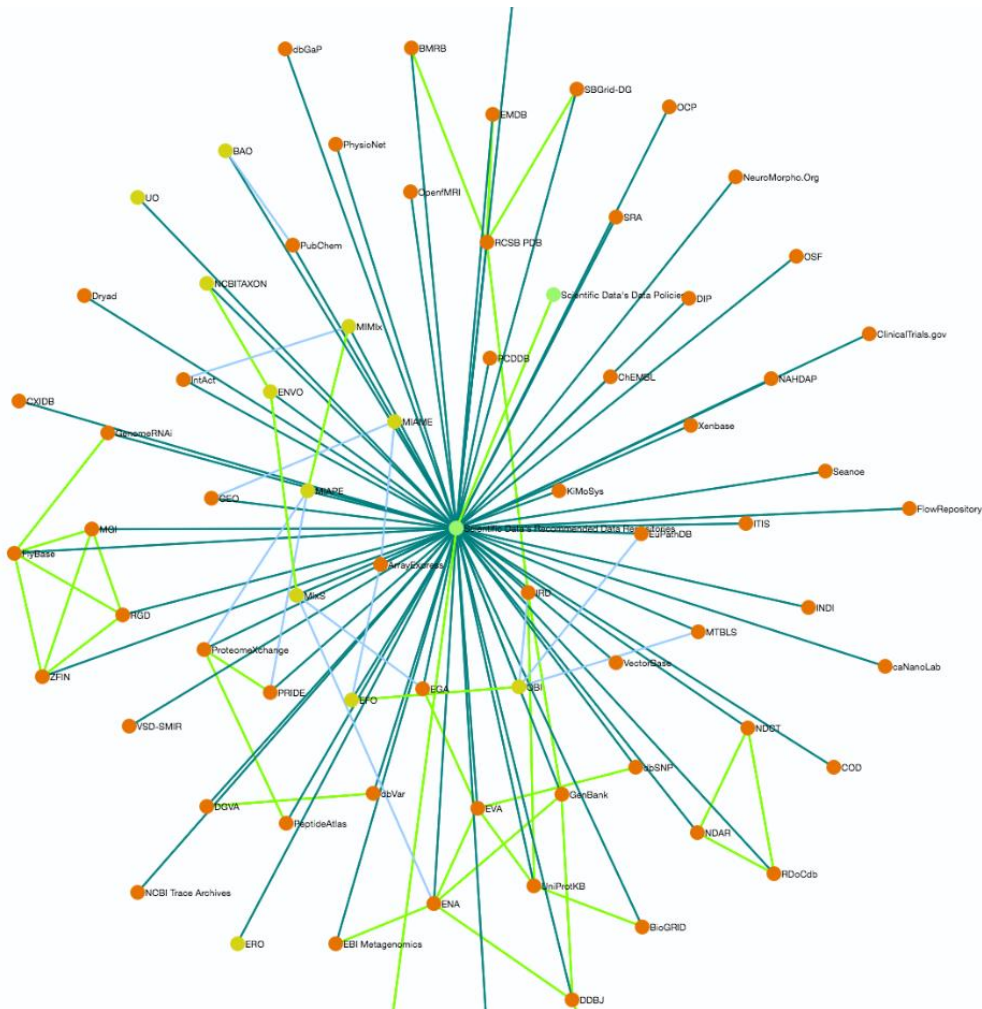


A network diagram with nodes and edges. Nodes are represented by circles of various colors (orange, grey, yellow) and are labeled with database or standard names. Edges are represented by lines of varying thicknesses (teal, grey) connecting the nodes. The network is dense, with many connections between nodes.

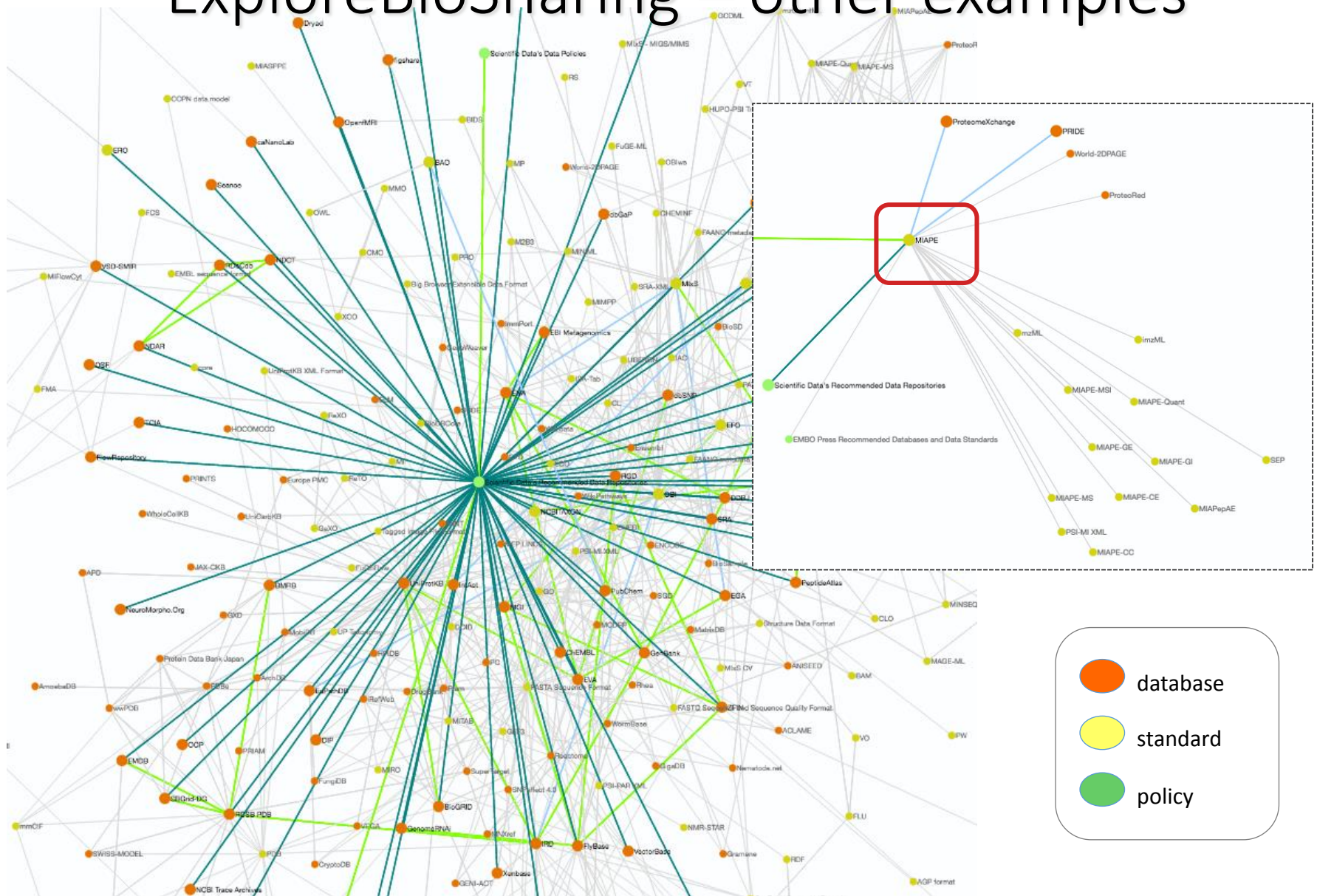
“BioSharing and its interactive browser will allow us to discover which databases and standards are not currently included in our author guidelines, enabling us to regularly monitor and refine our policies as appropriate, in support of our mission to help our authors enhance the reproducibility of their work.” – Holly Murray, F1000Research



ExploreBioSharing – other examples



ExploreBioSharing – other examples



What we do

Inform – what's out there, which databases use which standards. *Map the landscape.*

Educate – what databases are recommended by your funder, or journal of choice, which standards should you be using, which standards and databases should you recommend? *Explore the landscape.*

Adopters/users of BioSharing

Infrastructure:

Standard developing communities:



Cell Migration Standardization organisation



Journal Publishers:



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Projects/programmes:

Institutional RDM services:



STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Ongoing engagements

- Database metadata -  Integbio Database Catalog
- Funders -   
- Journal Publishers - 
- Societies – 
- Infrastructure – 
- FAIRDOM Collection 

Come and talk to us!

Advisory Board

- **Susanna-Assunta Sansone** (University of Oxford, NPG Scientific Data), *Operational Team Lead and Co-Chair of the RDA/Force11 WG*
- **Emma Ganley** (PLOS) Co-chair
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- **Jennifer Lin** (CrossRef)
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- **Gabriella Rustici** (ELIXIR UK Node Industry Training Sector Lead, University of Cambridge, UK)
- **Helena Cousijn** (Elsevier)
- **Jonathan Tedds** (Ubiquity Press Open Health Data journal; University of Leicester, UK)
- **Jessica Tenenbaum** (Duke University, USA; Chair Elect for the American Medical Informatics Association's Genomics WG)
- **Todd Vision** (UNC Chapel Hill & NESCent, USA; Dryad)
- **Michael Witt** (re3data; Purdue University Libraries)

Operational Team



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Contract Biocurator



Melanie Adekale
Contract Biocurator

Team is funded by



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Thank – you!

- Add/link your standard to BioSharing
- Add/link your database
- Use us to inform your data policy (and add/link your policy)
- Make a collection or recommendation for your group/society

<https://biosharing.org>

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