

Why Bioinformatics Training is Important

EBNet Working Group: Bioinformatics Training
for Microbial Environmental Biotechnologies

11th May

Outline of this seminar



Introduction by Working Group lead James Chong

Giacomo Peru, Ed-DaSH - The University of Edinburgh Data Science training in Health and Bioscience

Xenia Perez Sitja, DASH/ELIXIR training and the data stewardships

Emma Rand, CloudSPAN - Cloud-based High Performance Computing for SPecialised ANalyses on environmental 'omics

Sarah Forrester, Software Sustainability Institute - Developing metagenomic bioinformatics training materials

Annabel Cansdale, Why Bioinformatics training is important - An eight terabyte case study

Evelyn Greeves, FAIR- Why making data science reproducible is important

Panel with all speakers, we will have time for lots of questions so save these for this section

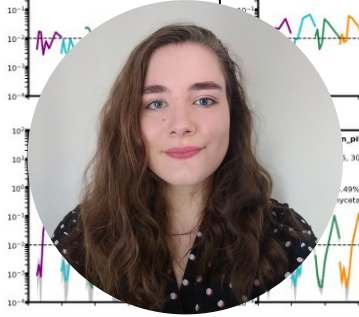
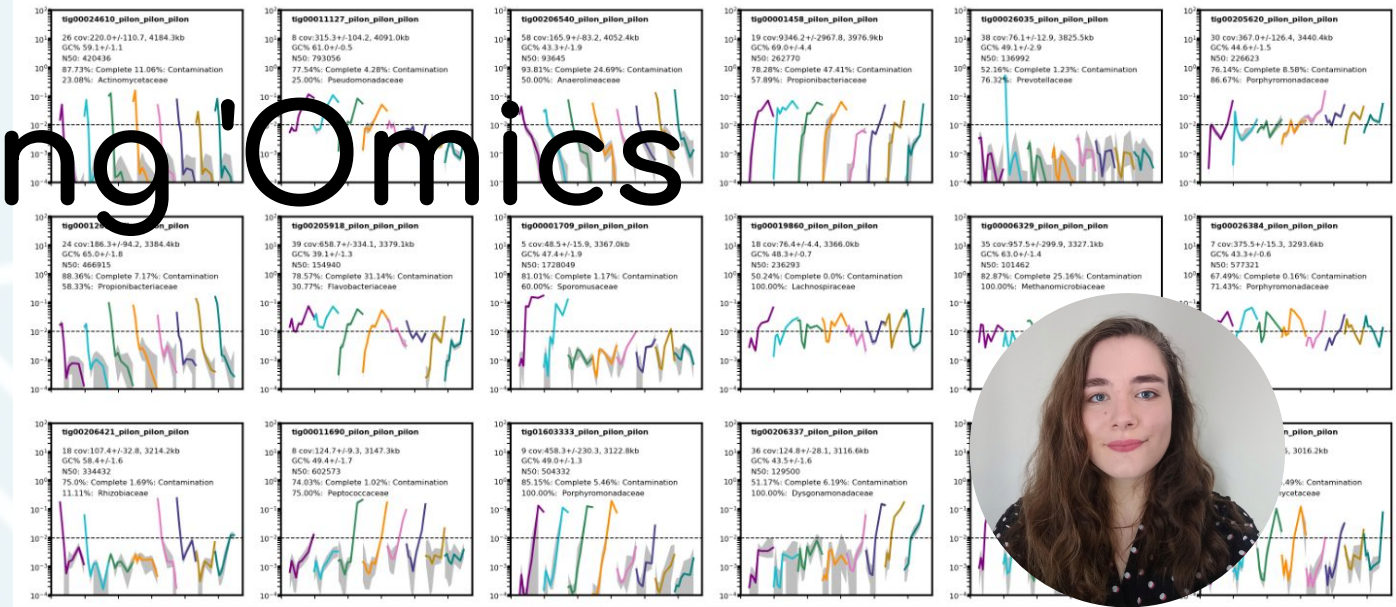
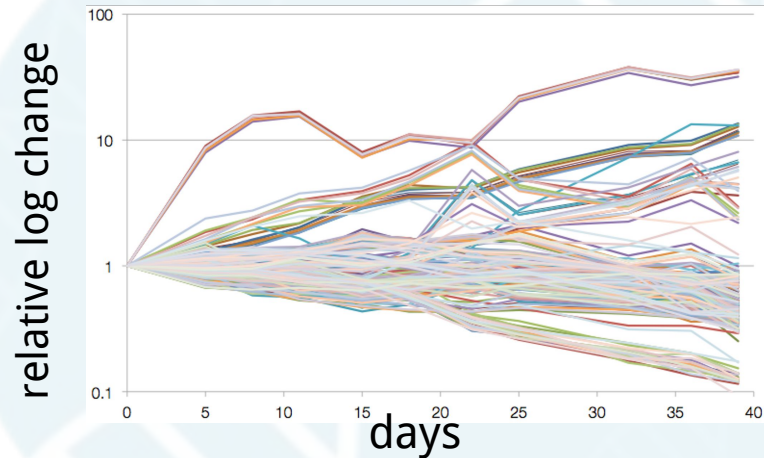
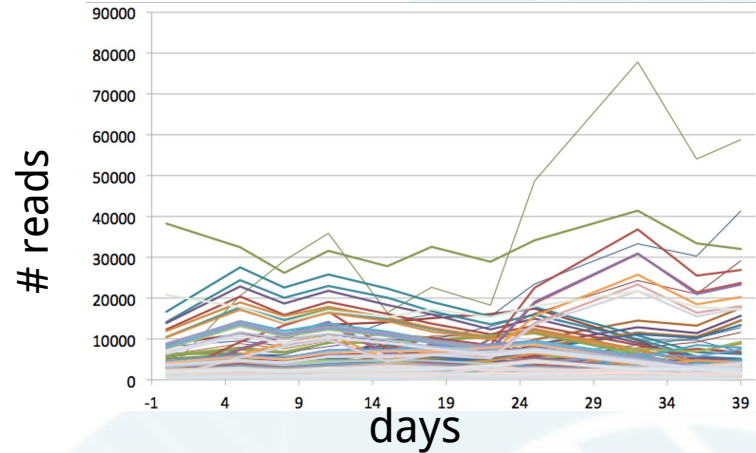


Why Bioinformatics Training is Important

James Chong



Analysing Omics

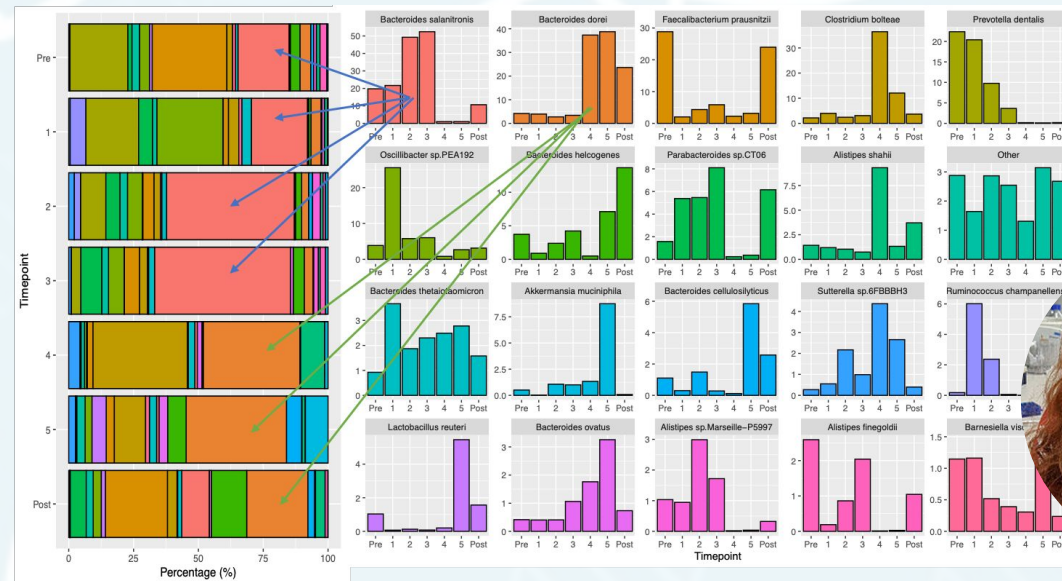


Annabel Cansdale

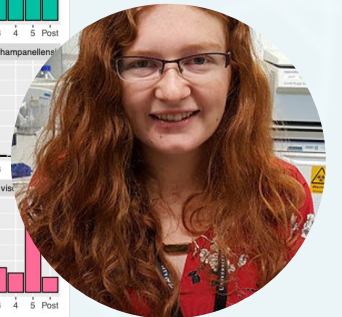
Route

IV

ORAL



Most abundant



Sarah Forrester



Challenges in Environmental 'Omics

Software

Operating system / scheduler / permissions

Hardware

CPU / GPU / RAM / storage may all be "limited"

Skills

Installing software / specifying resources /
research software support

Time

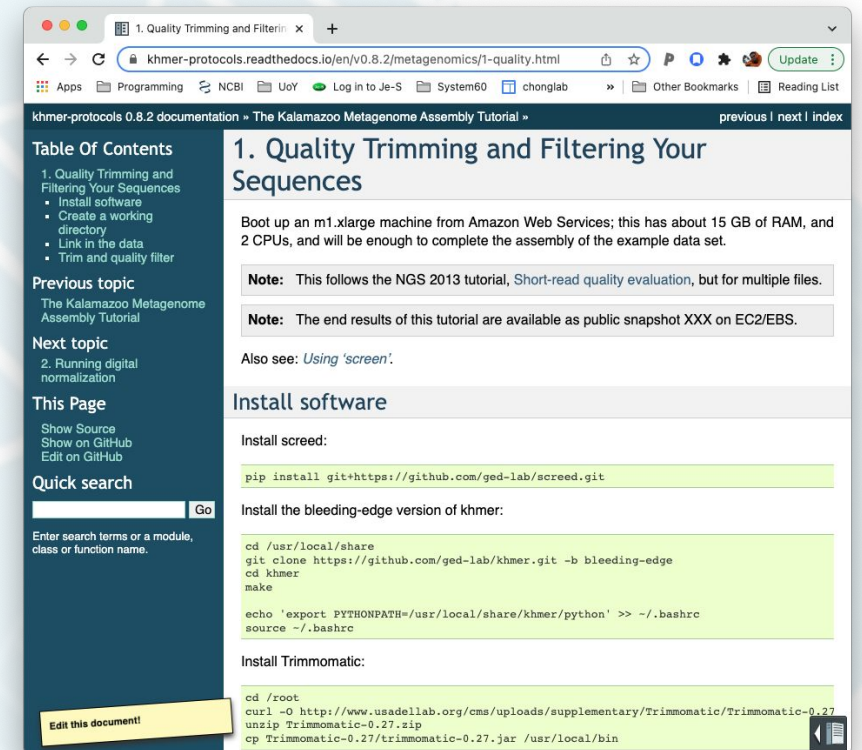
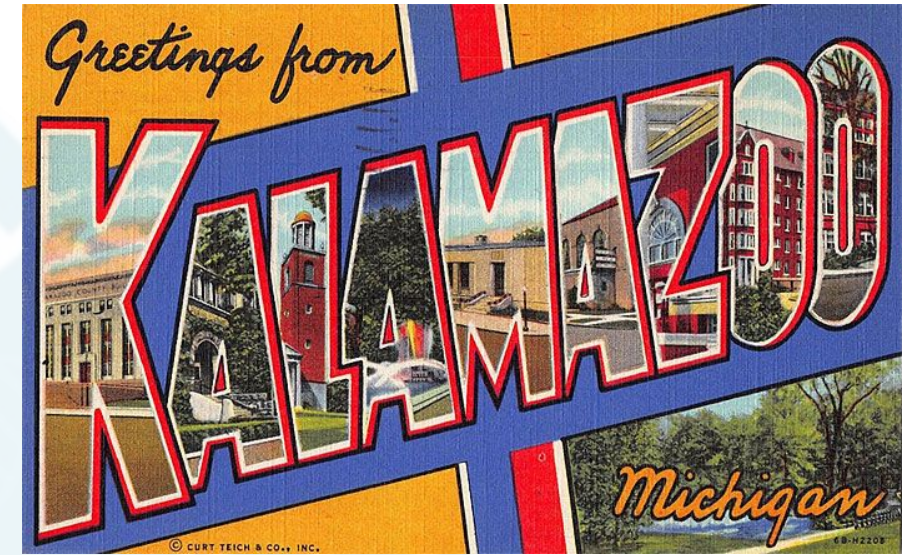
Brain time / wall time / result time



Software

The Kalamazoo Metagenome Assembly Tutorial (experience)

Operating system / permissions





Hardware

Compute resources

```
jameschong — jpjc1@login2:~ — ssh -i ~/.ssh/viking_id_rsa jpjc1@viking.york.ac.uk — 80x24
To update your account to use zsh, please run `chsh -s /bin/zsh`.
For more details, please visit https://support.apple.com/kb/HT208050.
(base) James-MacBook-Pro-2:~ jameschong$ viking
Last login: Fri Dec 17 15:12:42 2021 from 172.18.64.165
'o`
'ooo`
'oooo`
'oooo` 'o`
'oooo` 'oooo`
'oooo:oooo`
`v` -[ alces flight ]-
Welcome to viking
Flight Direct 2018.3
Based on CentOS Linux 7 (Core)
Documentation on using Viking can be found at:
https://wiki.york.ac.uk/x/e4gKDQ
This documentation is constantly being updated. Please check it first for any issues you are having.
To submit software installation requests, report any problems or issues you are having with Viking, please email: itsupport@york.ac.uk
[jpjc1@login2(viking) ~]$
```

York

N8

Archer
Bede

c2d2
YARCC
Viking

National Cloud

CLIMB
CLIMB-BIG-DATA

AWS
Google
Azure



Skills and knowledge

Research computer literacy

Unix command line

Shell scripts

Resources / queues / scratch

Package installation (Conda / Mamba / PIP / modules)

Dependencies and updates / containers

Coding (Python / Snakemake)

Biomedical pipelines

Bespoke analysis



Time

Brain time

thinking, coding, problem solving

Queue time

extends trouble-shooting,
queuing priorities

Wall time

resource quantity and availability

Result time

visualisation, interpretation,
parameter optimization

Edinburgh Data Science Training for Healthcare & Biosciences

Ed-Dash



School of Biological Sciences
School of Mathematics
College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine



Ed-DaSH Training Programme

Objective: to develop and deliver data science training using The Carpentries methodology.

Topics:

- Computational workflows: Conda, Nextflow/Snakemake
- Open science, FAIR principles, and data management:
 - Hands on Open Science, FAIR principles, and data management
- Statistics:
 - Basic and intermediate statistical skills
 - High dimensional statistics
 - Machine learning



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Computational Workflows

Introduction to Conda

https://edcarp.github.io/2022-08-31_ed-dash_conda/

Workflows with Snakemake

https://edcarp.github.io/2022-09-06_ed-dash_workflows-snakemake/

Workflows with Nextflow

https://edcarp.github.io/2022-05-31_ed-dash_workflows-nextflow/



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Stats & Machine Learning

Introduction to Statistics with R

https://edcarp.github.io/2022-05-03_ed-dash_intro-statistics/

High-Dimensional Statistics with R

https://edcarp.github.io/2022-05-17_ed-dash_high-dim-stats/

Introduction to Machine Learning with Python

https://edcarp.github.io/2022-05-24_ed-dash_machine-learning/



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**THE
CARPENTRIES**

Edinburgh Carpentries



FAIR Data Management

FAIR in (Biological) Practice

https://edcarp.github.io/2022-06-14_ed-dash_fair-bio-practice/



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School of Mathematics
College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine



**THE
CARPENTRIES**

Edinburgh Carpentries



The Carpentries

Mission: The Carpentries builds global capacity in essential data and computational skills for conducting efficient, open, and reproducible research. We train and foster an active, inclusive, diverse community of learners and instructors that promotes and models the importance of software and data in research.



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School of Mathematics
College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine



Acknowledgements

Co-Investigators

Alison Meynert, MRC Human Genetics Unit

Alex Twyford, School of Biological Sciences

Catalina Vallejos, MRC Human Genetics Unit

Edward Wallace, School of Biological Sciences

Programme Coordinator

Giacomo Peru, EPCC

Administrative & Finance Support

MRC Institute of Genetics and Cancer

Steering Group

Chair: Neil Chue Hong, Software Sustainability Institute

Nicola Cuthbert, Institute of Academic Development

Karin Halliday, Dean of Systematic Inclusion, CSE

Malcolm McLeod, Academic Lead for Research Improvement and Research Integrity

Mick Watson, Roslin Institute

Development teams

Computational workflows

Tim Booth, Edinburgh Genomics

Graeme Grimes, MRC Human Genetics Unit

Nathan Medd, Edinburgh Genomics

Flic Anderson, School of Biological Sciences

Open science, FAIR principles & data management

Andrew Millar, School of Biological Sciences

Andrew Romanowski, School of Biological Sciences

Tomasz Zielinski, School of Biological Sciences

Statistics

Ailith Ewing, MRC Human Genetics Unit

Alan O'Callaghan, MRC Human Genetics Unit

Gail Robertson, Statistical Consultancy Unit, School of Mathematics



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School of Mathematics
College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine



ELIXIR-UK DaSH: A Fellowship of Data Steward Ambassadors

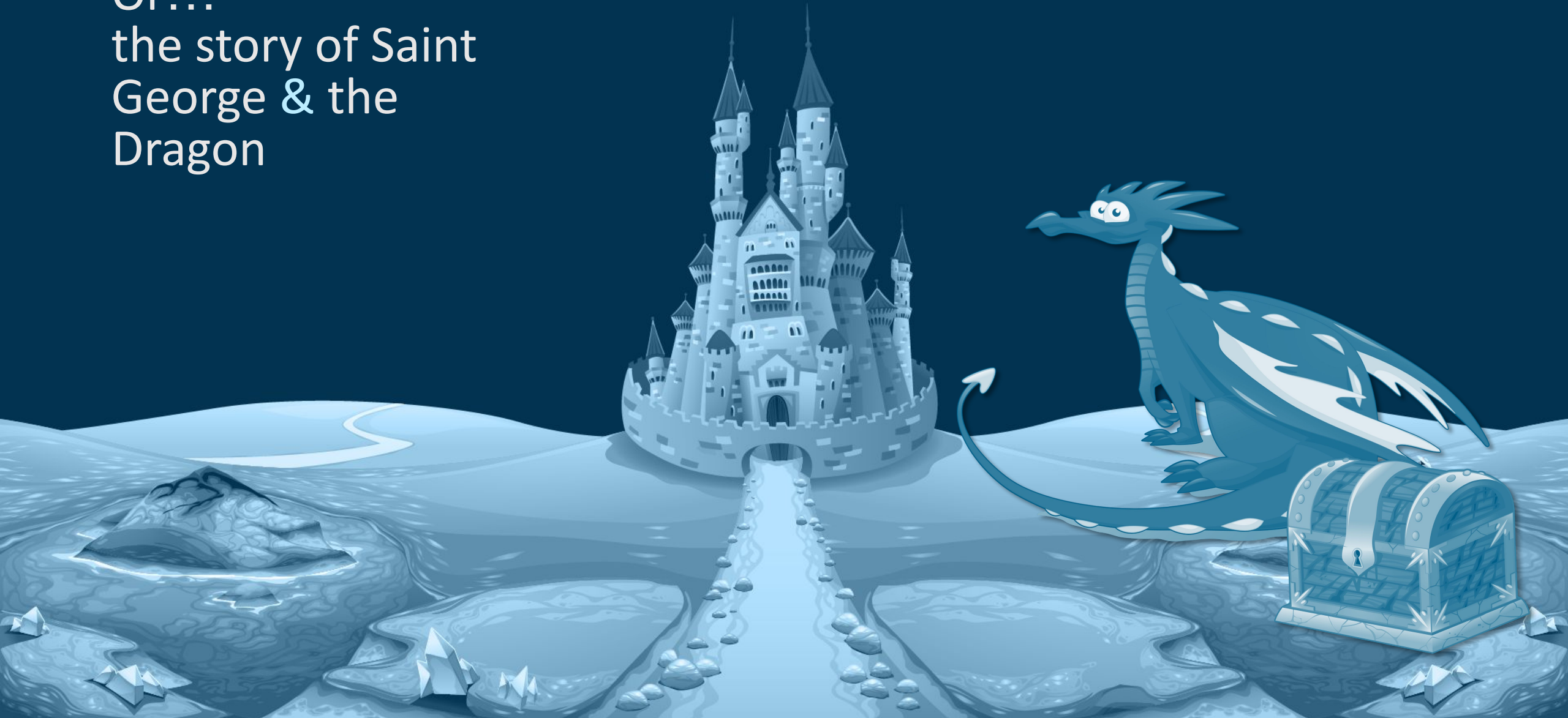
Xènia Pérez Sitjà

Data Stewardship Community Manager
Faculty of Life Sciences
Univeristy of Bradford (ELIXIR-Uk)



Funded by the ELIXIR-UK: FAIR Data
Stewardship training UKRI award
(MR/V038966/1)

Or...
the story of Saint
George & the
Dragon









Castle = your organisation



Tribute = data
Data from projects,
research...



Princess = invaluable data
We can't afford to lose



Key data

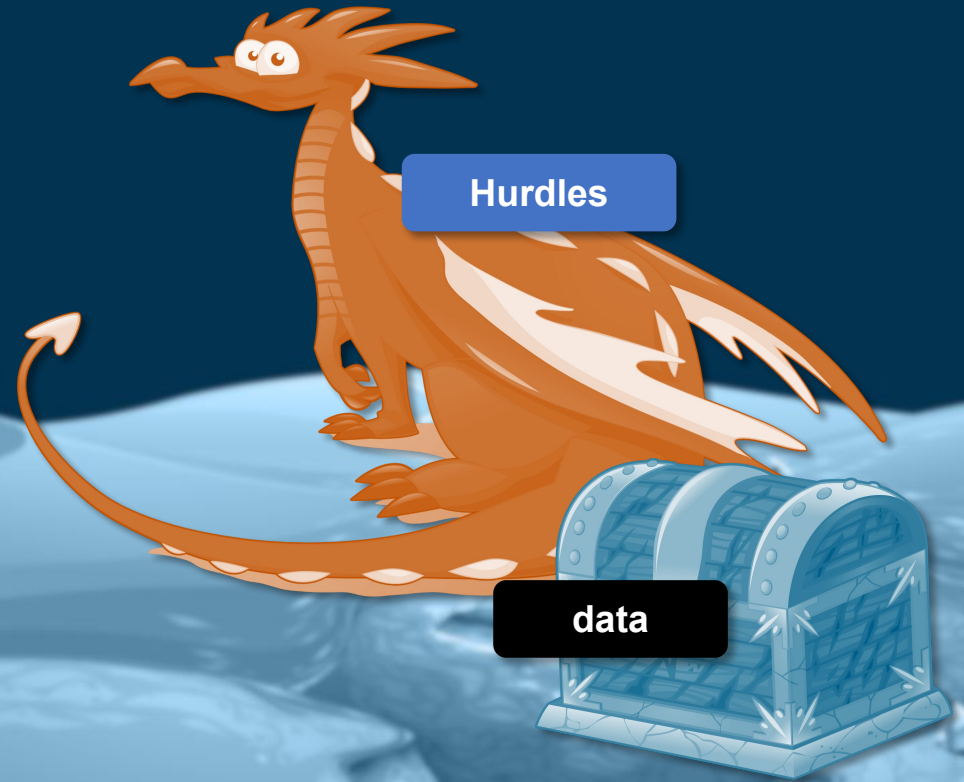
data

Dragon = hurdles

Time, funding, lack of capacity, skills, organisation...



Key data



Hurdles

data

Saint George = data stewards

Those skilled people that can kill
the dragon and take the data
back to make it reusable

Data stewards

Key data

Hurdles

data



What drives us?

A clear **purpose**: impact and efficiency of research



Data stewards



Key data



Hurdles



data

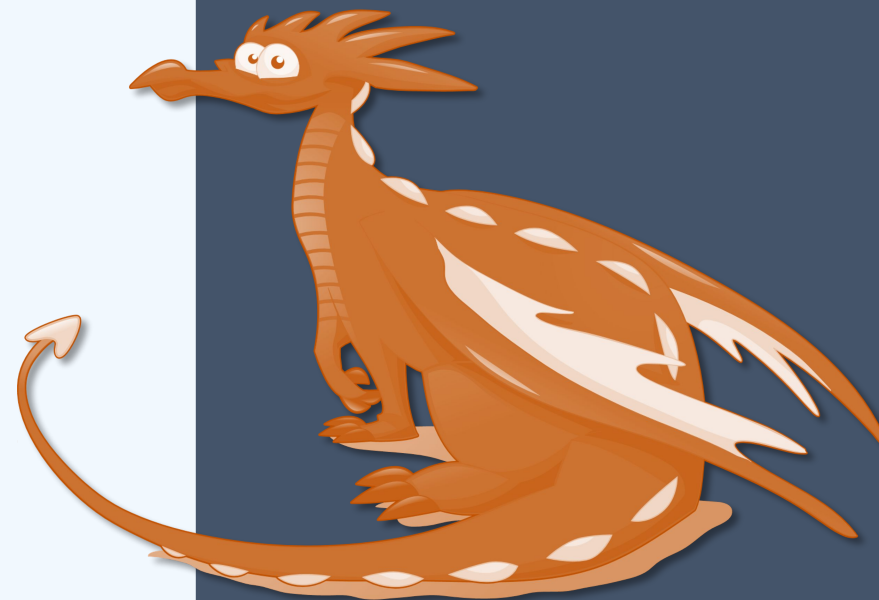
The **three** great hurdles

What is stopping you?

Time &
funding

Buy-in

Skills



The **three** great hurdles

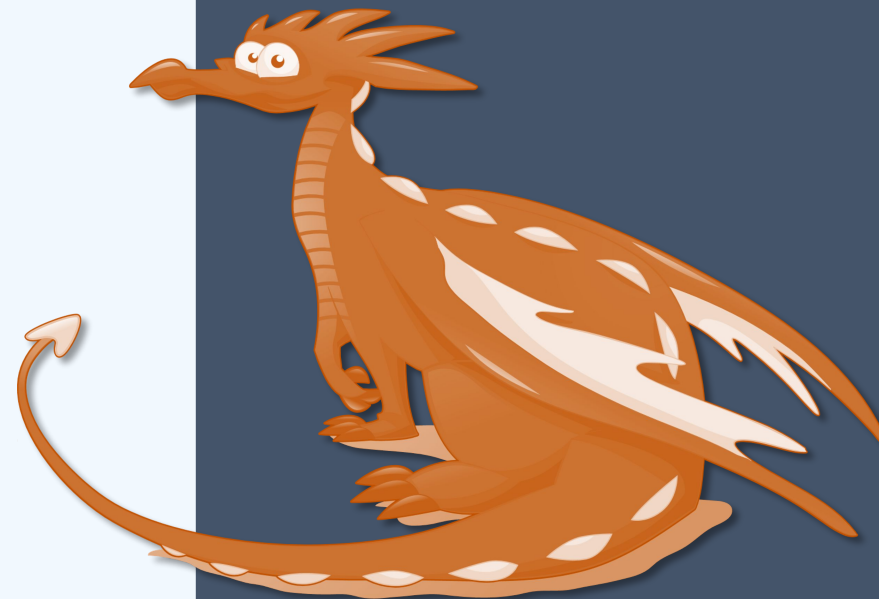
What is stopping you?

Time &
funding



Buy-in

Skills



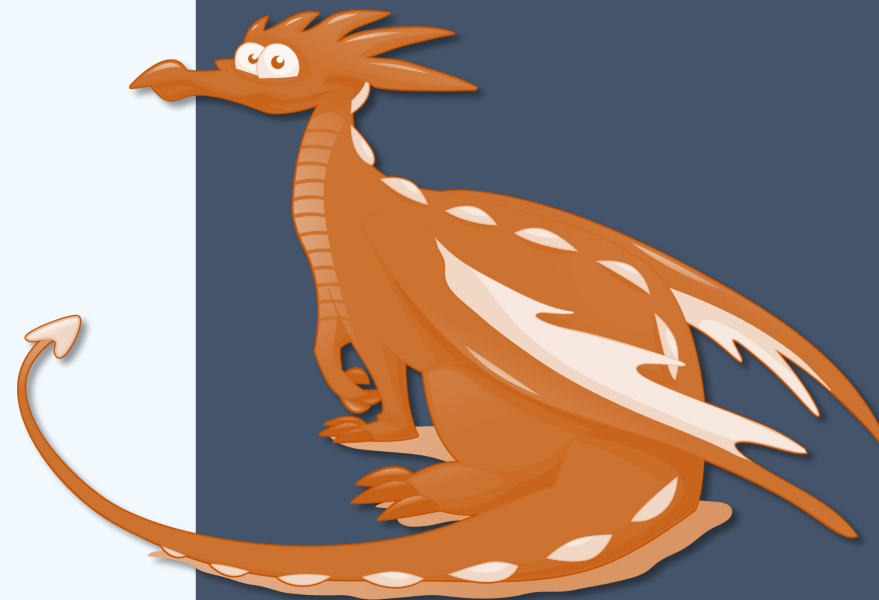
The **three** great hurdles

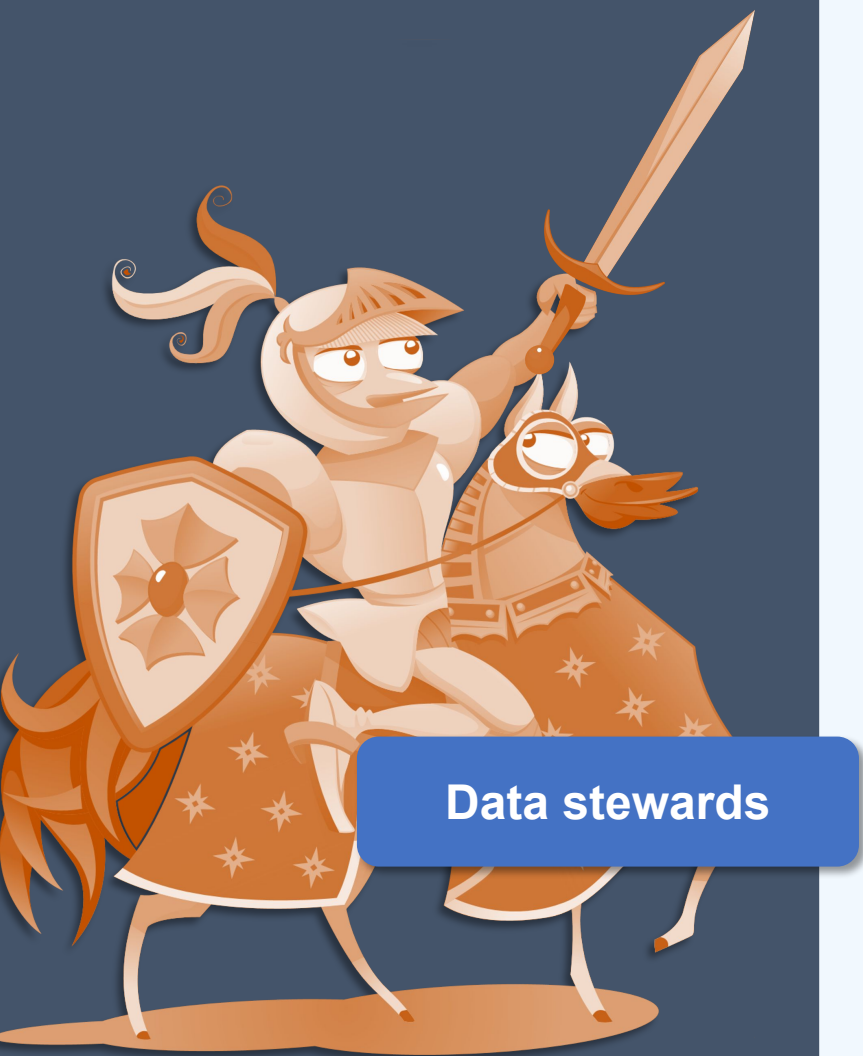
What is stopping you?

Time &
funding

Buy-in

Skills





Our innovative proposition

Come to rescue you?



Equip you, not rescue you

A Fellowship of data stewards – of ambassadors



Data stewards

Skills

Equip Data
Stewards with
training and make
them trainers

Buy-in

Target senior
leadership

Time &
funding

Honorariums for
Fellows and
expert consultants



Data stewards

Skills

Equip data
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Data stewards

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Equip data
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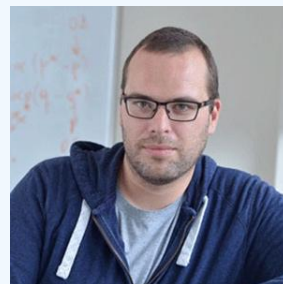
Honorariums for
Fellows and
expert consultants



The Fellows



Associate Professor
University of
Southampton



Senior Research Fellow
Oxford Brookes
University



Research Fellow
University of York



Research Associate
Alan Turing Institute

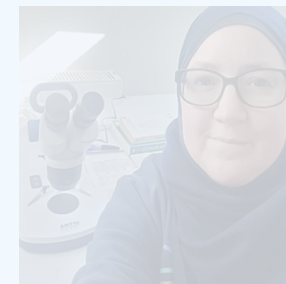
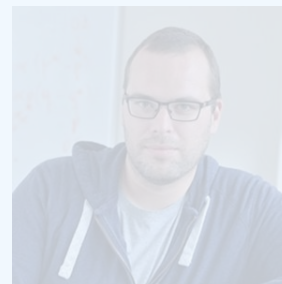


Research Fellow
University of Warwick
(Medical School)



Data stewards

The Fellows



Bioinformatician
University of York



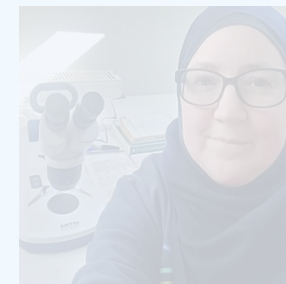
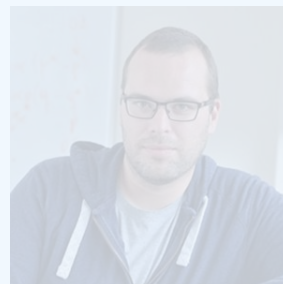
Data scientist
University of
Manchester



Research Data Manager
University of Edinburgh



The Fellows



PhD student
University of Bradford



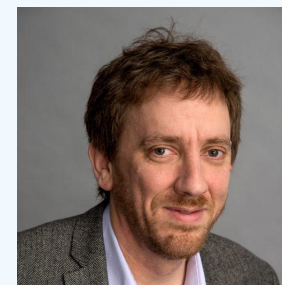
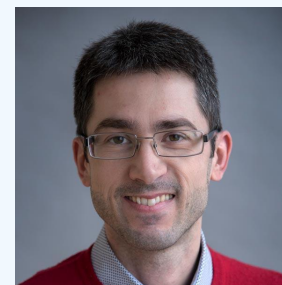
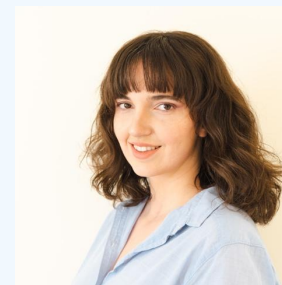
Data stewards

2nd Cohort is open now!



The **team** behind the project

The **team** behind the project



No easy way

What is realistic?



Early success
Engaged Fellows

Setback

End of the project
Fellows have completed
their tasks



Problem

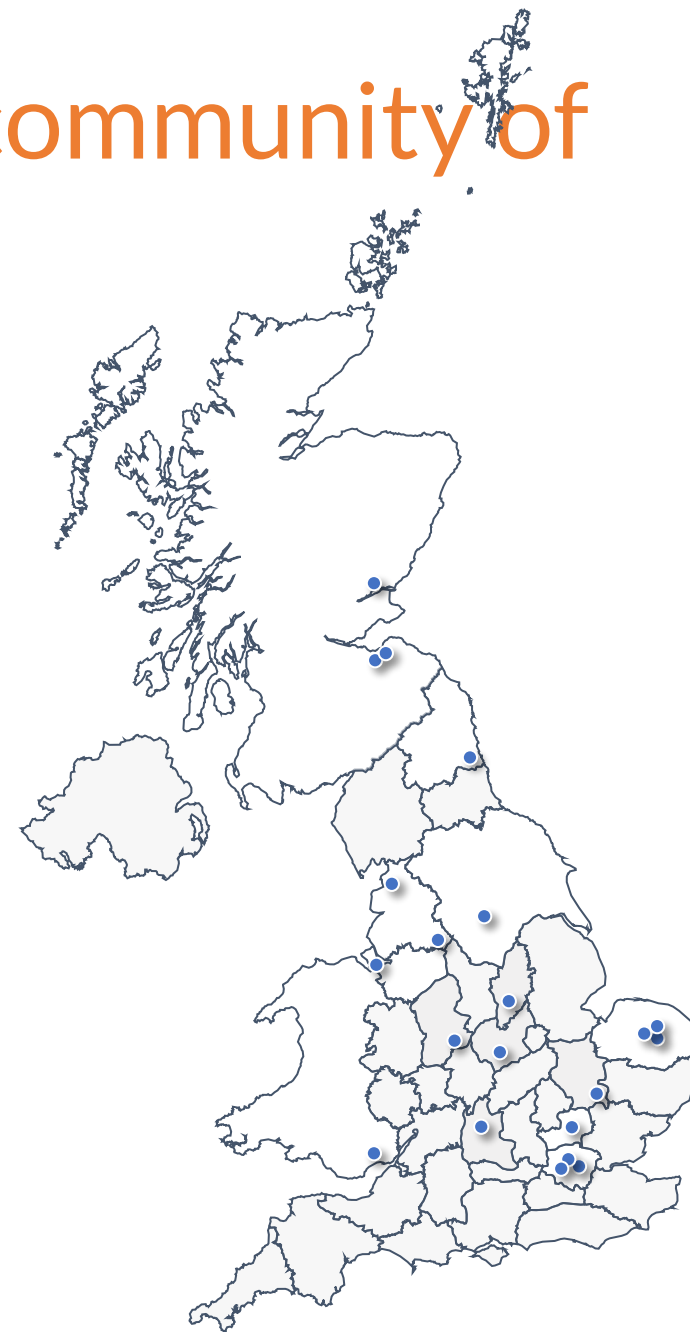
Sustainability

Part of a larger network of experts and successful communities of practice.

We've partnered with the **Sustainable Software Institute (SSI)**. A successful community of practice with 10 years of expertise.

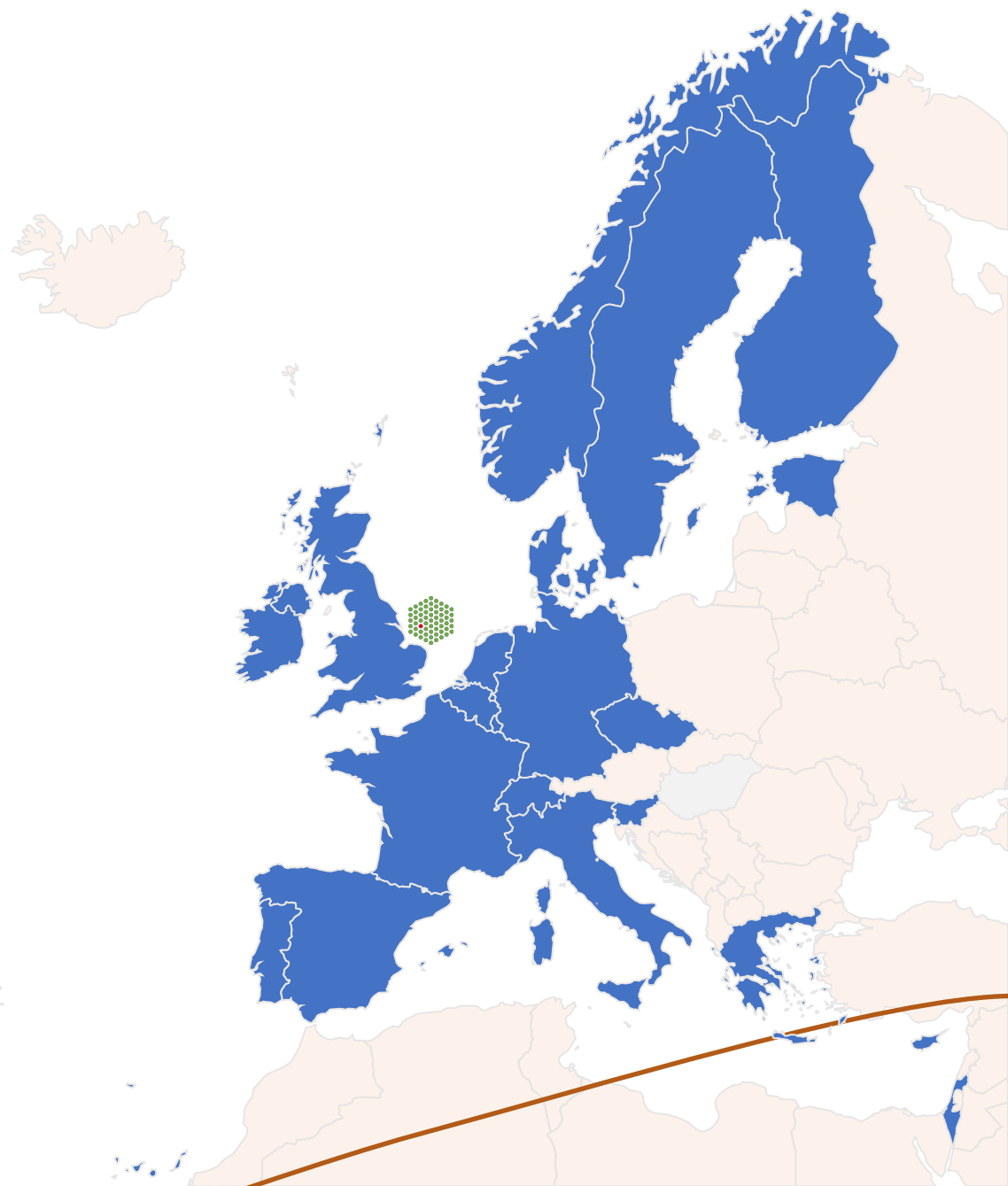
An active UK community of experts

ELIXIR-UK



Access to an even bigger ELIXIR **Europe** community

22 Countries + EMBL-EBI
elixir-europe.org



The question is not
if you get on board
but **when** and **how**

Innovator

Pioneer

Mainstreamer

Traditional



Pioneer

You can be a **pioneer with us** without the fears and risks of lost funding and time

Thanks!!!

Xènia Pérez Sitjà
Data Stewardship Community Manager

✉ x.perezsitja@bradford.ac.uk



becoming a Fellow

Application open until 10 July

elixiruknode.org/activities/elixir-dash-fellowship



Cloud-SPAN: Training Researchers in Cloud-based High Performance Computing for SPecialised ANalyses on environmental 'omics

Emma Rand & James Chong



**UK Research
and Innovation**

[MR/V038680/1](#)



**Software
Sustainability
Institute**



**UNIVERSITY
of York**



cloud-span-project@york.ac.uk



<http://cloud-span.york.ac.uk/>



[@SpanCloud](#)



Cloud-SPAN

For researchers and
Research support teams

Cloud-based, Containerised

Findable Accessible
Interoperable Reusable





What are we teaching?



Foundational — Content



Advanced



Train trainer

Genomics

Prenomics

Self assessment



What are we teaching?



Foundational



Advanced



Train trainer

Content

- Create your own AWS instance
 - Self-study courses
- Metagenomics
- Experimental design
- Scheduling, automating analyses



What are we teaching?



Foundational



Advanced



Train trainer

Content

- Documentation
- Cloud Administration
Guides for institutional
RSE, RDM or HPC Teams



How are we teaching?



In-person & online, small groups



Free, Diversity Scholarships



Code retreats



Community of practice



The team!



Sarah Forrester



Annabel Cansdale



Emma Barnes



Evelyn Greeves



Jorge Buenabad-Chávez



Sarah Dowsland



Coming next

- Prenomics November 22nd and 24th, 10:00-13:00. Online
- Genomics December 6th and 7th, 09:30-16:30 In-person at York
- Genomics by self study *Soon!*
- Create Your AWS Instance
- Code Retreats *Soon!*
- Metagenomics, Autumn - Spring 2023 TBC

<https://cloud-span.york.ac.uk/home>

Software sustainability institute Fellowship - Developing metagenomic bioinformatics training materials

Sarah Forrester

Bioinformatician/ PDRA
University of York

Software sustainability institute

Taken from the SSI website:

"Since 2010, the Software sustainability Institute has facilitated the advancement of software in research by cultivating better, more sustainable, research software to enable world-class research ("Better software, better research")

One of the ways in which they facilitate this is through their fellowship programme. Many fellowship applications involve the development of training materials

The SSI also has a partnership with The Carpentries - which has a suite of programmes for essential data management and analysis skills

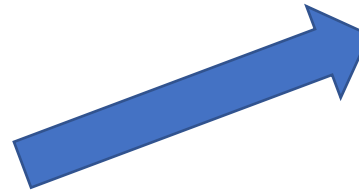
Caveat: I only became an SSI Fellow in 2022 I wouldn't consider myself a representative for the SSI - this is purely to show how the SSI fellowship has enabled me to apply my metagenomic knowledge to develop training material



What bioinformatics training will my fellowship involve

Developing metagenomics course

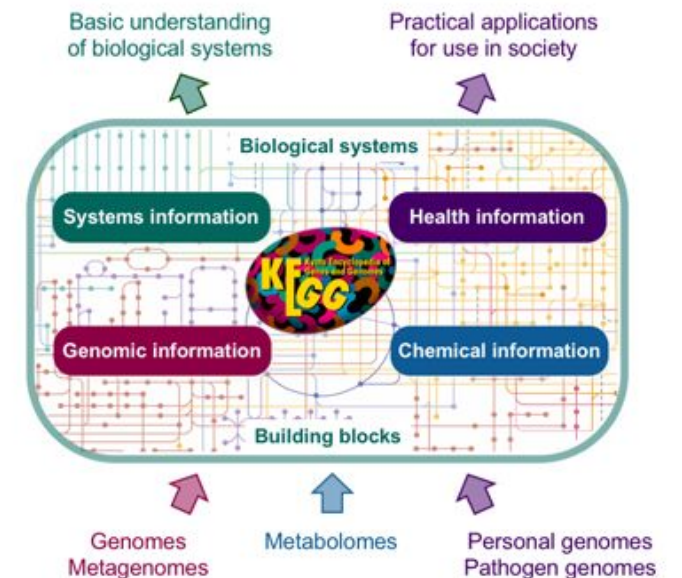
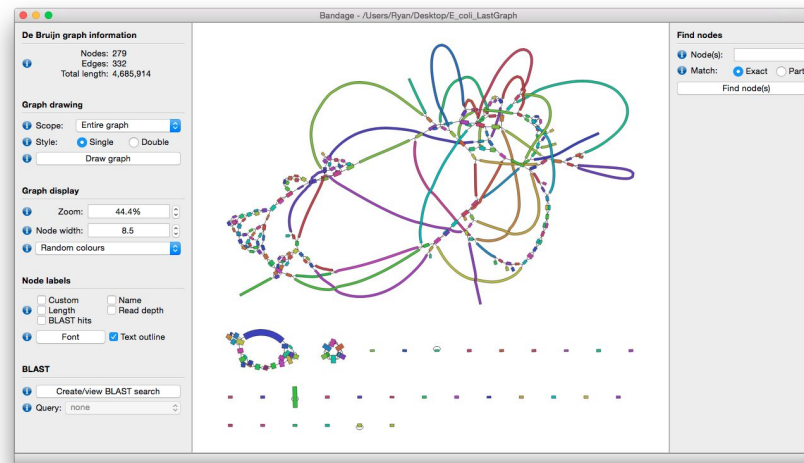
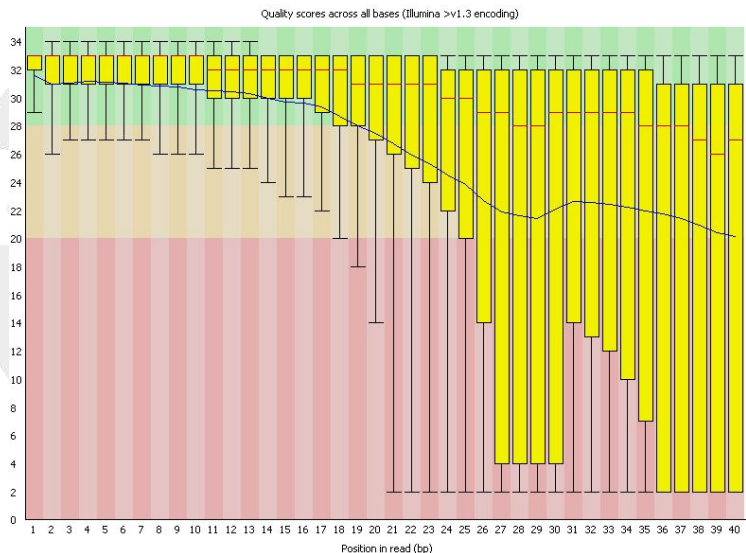
- Adapt carpentry lessons currently in the carpentries incubator
- Place for carpentry lessons that are actively being developed
- There are currently 5 "metagenomics" courses available
- 4 of these are lessons based on the intro to genomics course
 - Intro to command line
 - Intro to R
 - How to organize data
- Delivery to be done alongside CloudSPAN



introduction-to-R-for-metagenomics Public
Introduction to R for Metagenomics
Python ☆ 1 🔗 161 🕒 0 🔗 0 Updated 6 days ago
metagenomics Public
Metagenomica
Python ☆ 4 🔗 15 🕒 13 🔗 0 Updated 6 days ago
shell-metagenomics Public
Introduction to the Command Line for Metagenomics
Python ☆ 1 🔗 5 🕒 0 🔗 0 Updated 6 days ago
organization-metagenomics Public
Project Organization and Management for Metagenomics
Python ☆ 1 🔗 1 🕒 0 🔗 0 Updated 6 days ago
metagenomics-workshop Public
Metagenomics Workshop Overview
Python ☆ 1 🔗 94 🕒 0 🔗 0 Updated 6 days ago

What content are we going to cover on the course?

- QC raw data
- Generating an assembly
- QC this assembly
- Binning the assembly into MAGs (organisms)
- Identifying what is the taxonomy of these MAGs
- Functional information (what metabolisms might be present)



What bioinformatics training will my fellowship involve

Additional content:

- Long read sequencing methods (assembly and QC)
- Reduce non metagenome specific content
- Database selection and its effect on your taxonomic annotations
- How to perform these stages using AWS
- **The importance of making datasets publicly available**

Course to be delivered alongside Annabel Cansdale via CloudSPAN in Autumn - Spring 2023





UNIVERSITY
of York

EBNet: Why bioinformatics training is important

An **eight terabyte** case study

Annabel Cansdale

Bioinformatician, Chong Lab, University of York



DNA Sequencing

- It is getting faster and cheaper to generate large amounts of data
- It is especially easy to generate very large amounts of sequencing data with metagenomics!





Quick case study

- Anaerobic digestion metagenomic time-series dataset
- Combination of Nanopore and Illumina sequencing
- Received **8TB** of raw data!
- Had to think about storage and backup of this and how we would do the analysis





Computational power

The analysis of this ended up taking a lot of computational power!

Just the initial assembly/polishing used
>500GB RAM and generated
~700GB of intermediary files

```
jobid: 7
wildcards: JOBID=job_prefix_r, out_abun=top

Activating conda environment: /mnt/lustre/groups/biol
[Mon Jul 12 14:51:35 2021]
Finished job 7.
  of 10 steps (90%) done

n Jul 12 14:51:35 2021]
lrule all:
input: logs/job_prefix_all_bwa_output.txt
s.png, output/clustering/job_prefix_re
Gs.txt
d: 0

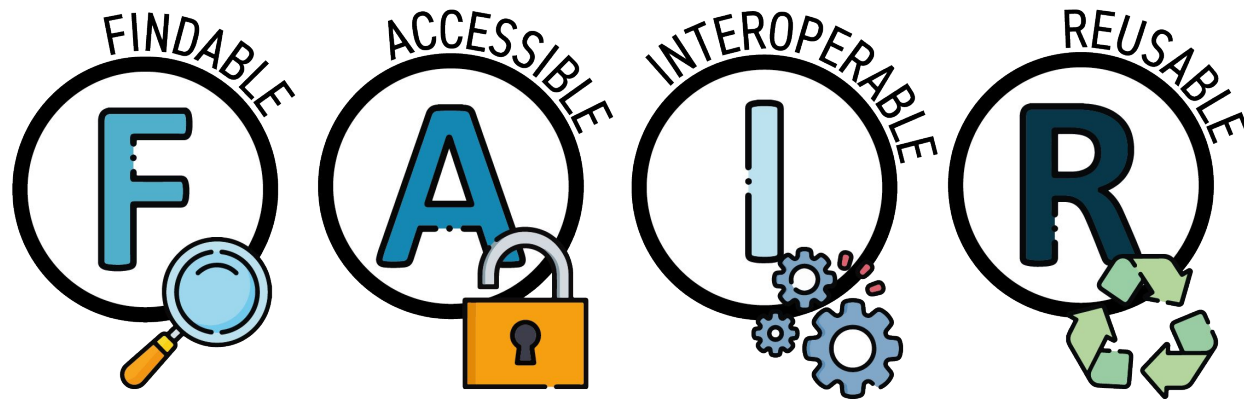
2 14:51:35 2021]
b 0.
ps (100%) done
/mnt/lustre/groups/biol/step
```

Takeaways

- This is an extreme example! but:
 - Datasets are becoming larger!
 - & We need people with the skills to be able to deal with them!
 - (P.s. don't forget about storage)
- Training early on is key so you
 - Can plan your experiments effectively
 - Don't panic when you receive large amounts of data
 - Can identify where you might get computational bottlenecks
- This is where the projects we're hearing about today come in!

FAIR – Why making data science reproducible is important

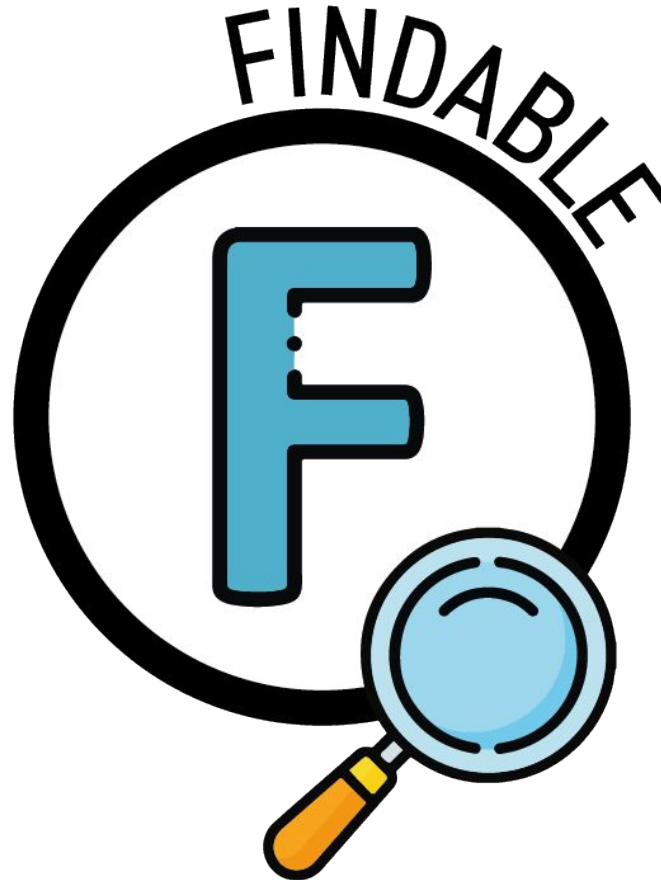
Evelyn Greeves



METADATA

Do I know what this data is?

- Metadata = data *about* data
- Gives an overview of dataset/resource
- Allows tagging, tracking and indexing in a registry



Why is it important?

People can't re-use your data if they don't know it exists or can't find it.

PERSISTENT IDENTIFIERS

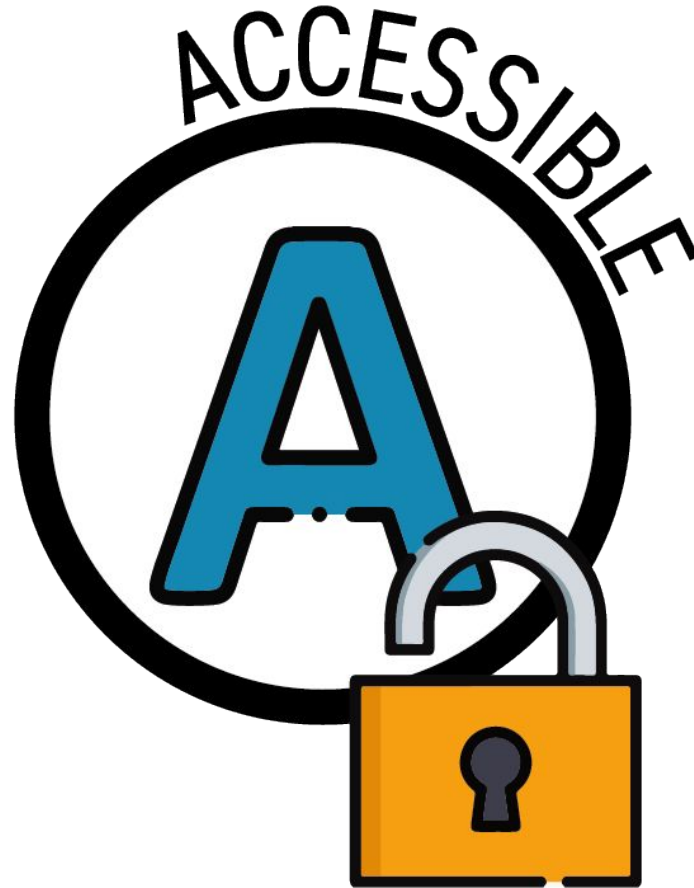
Do I know where to find it?

- e.g. DOI, ORCID iD
- Long-lasting and unique to dataset/resource
- Prevent “link rot”

RETRIEVABLE DATA

Do I know how to get the data?

- No special tools needed to get hold of the (meta)data
- Authentication and authorization may be needed to access the data itself



Why is it important?

People won't re-use your data if it isn't easy to get hold of.

PERSISTENT METADATA

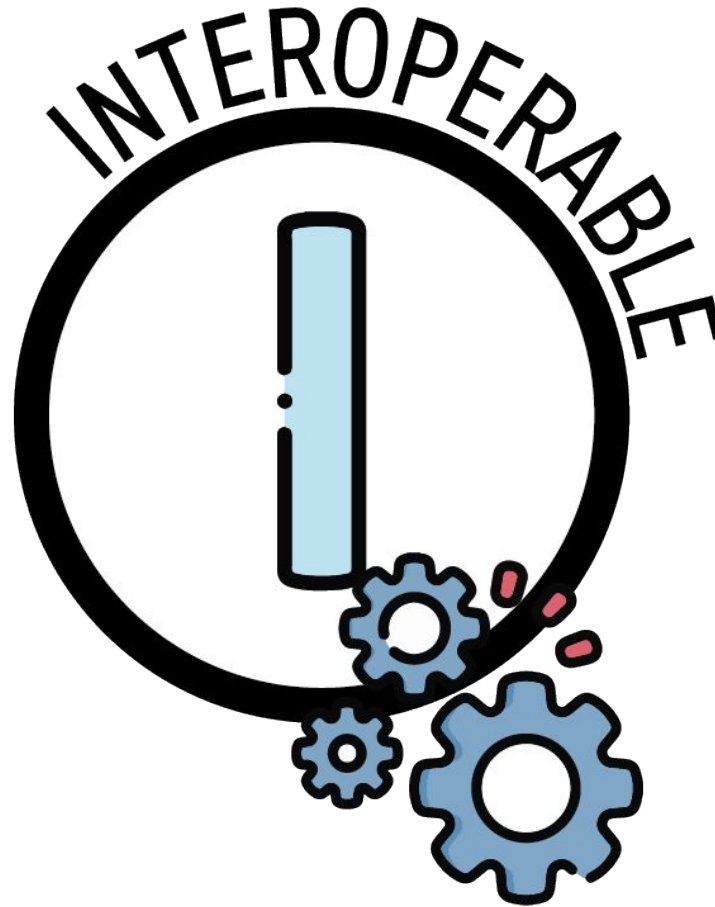
Will there be a record of the data if it disappears?

- Metadata persists after data no longer available
- Allow tracking down of those associated with original research

OPEN FORMATS

Can I open this data?

- Use standardised and open source formats
- e.g. .PPTX instead of .PPT
- Conform with field-specific standards



COMMON VOCABULARIES

Is it easy for a computer to categorise this data?

- Enable better organization of knowledge
- Conform with field-specific ontologies

Why is it important?

People can't re-use your data if they can't open it or don't know what it's about.

RICH METADATA

Do I understand this data's context?

- Tells story about context of data generation
- As much information as possible included



Why is it important?

Allows maximum benefit to be extracted from your data by helping other researchers re-use it.

USAGE LICENSES

Who can reuse this data?

- Clarify how data can be remixed and reused
- e.g. CC-BY license allows free reuse with credit

Panel discussion

What questions do you have for us?