



myExperiment Research Objects: Beyond Workflows and Packs

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Microsoft Research



UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton



Motivation: Scientific workflows

Coordinated **execution** of *services* and linked *resources*

Dataflow between services

Web services (SOAP, REST)

Command line tools

Scripts

User interactions

Components (*nested workflows*)

Method becomes:

Documented visually

Shareable as single definition

Reusable with new inputs

Repurposable other services

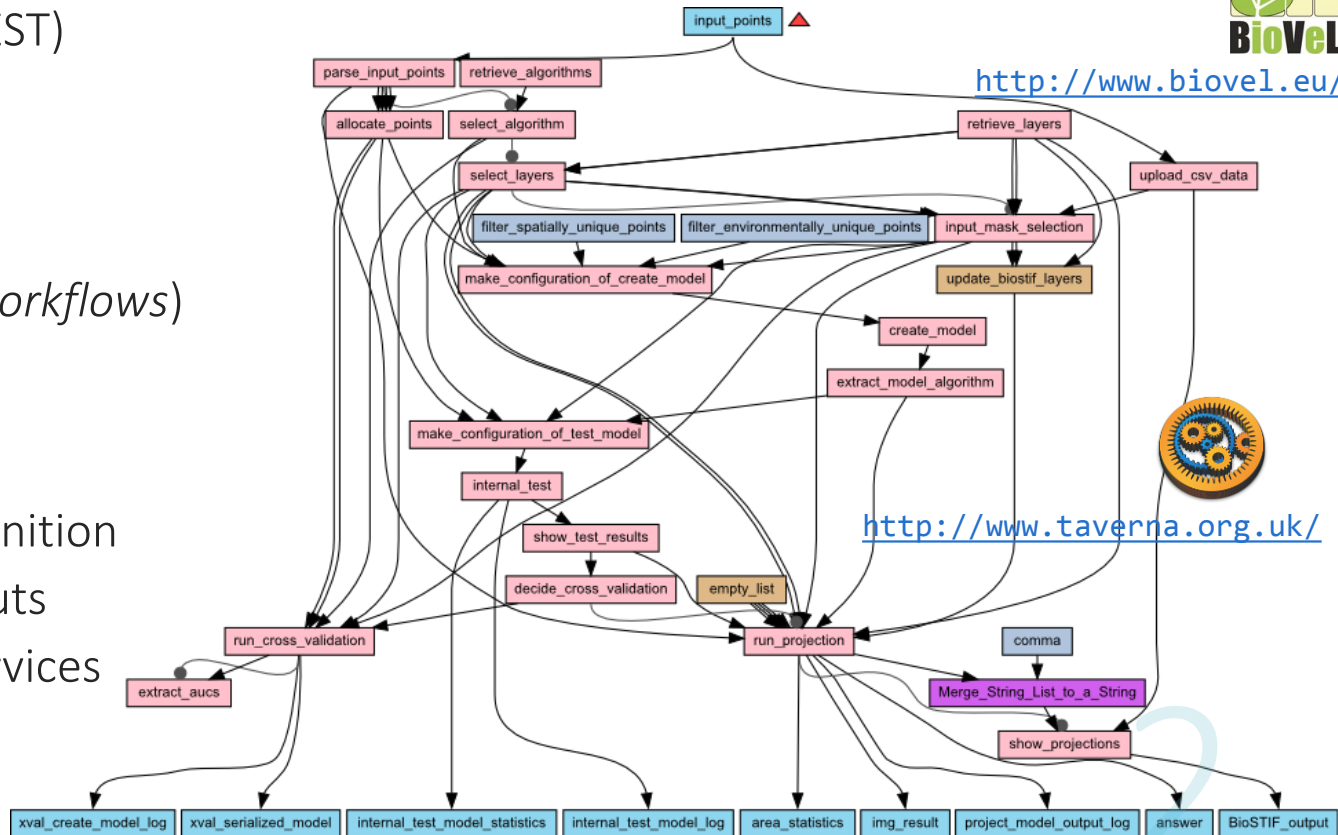
Reproducible?



<http://www.myexperiment.org/workflows/3355>



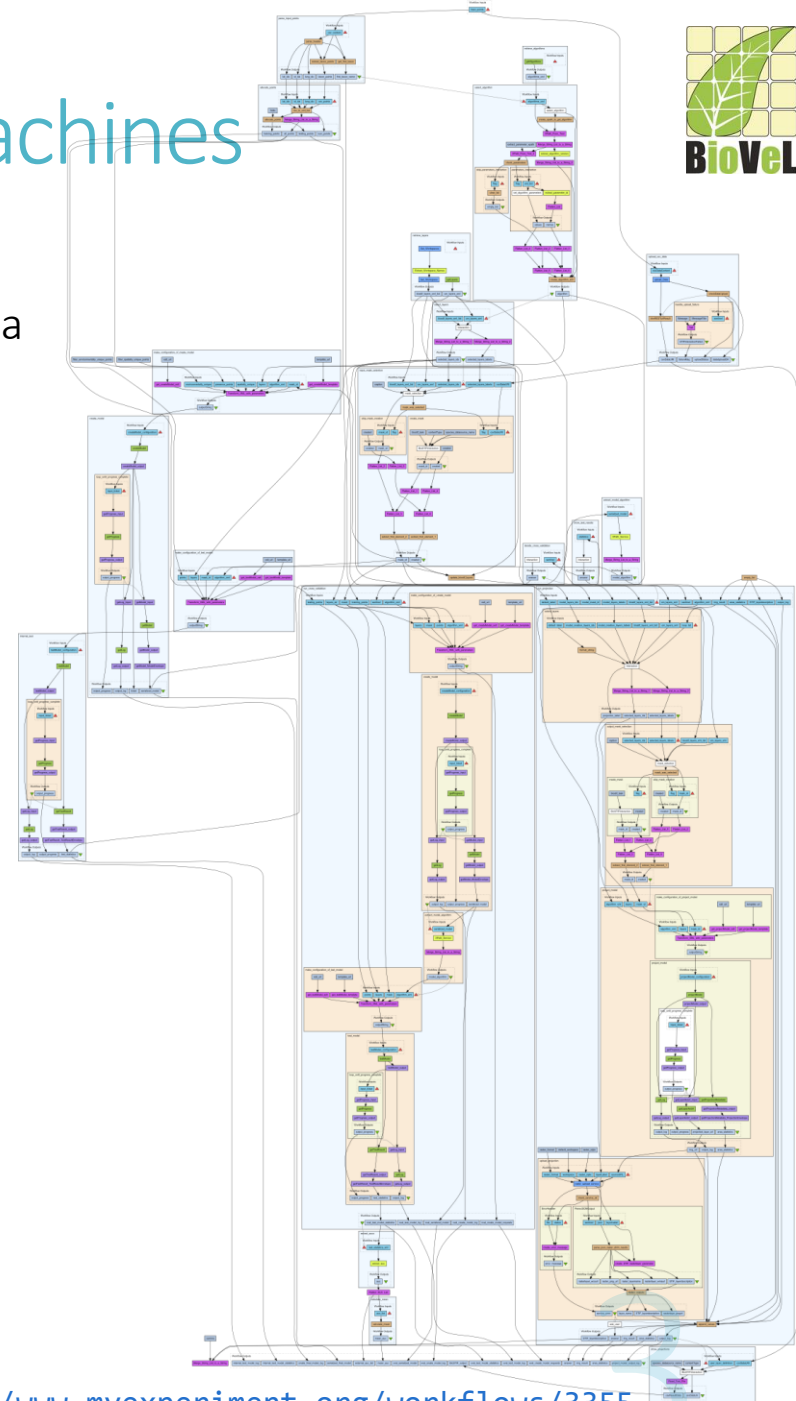
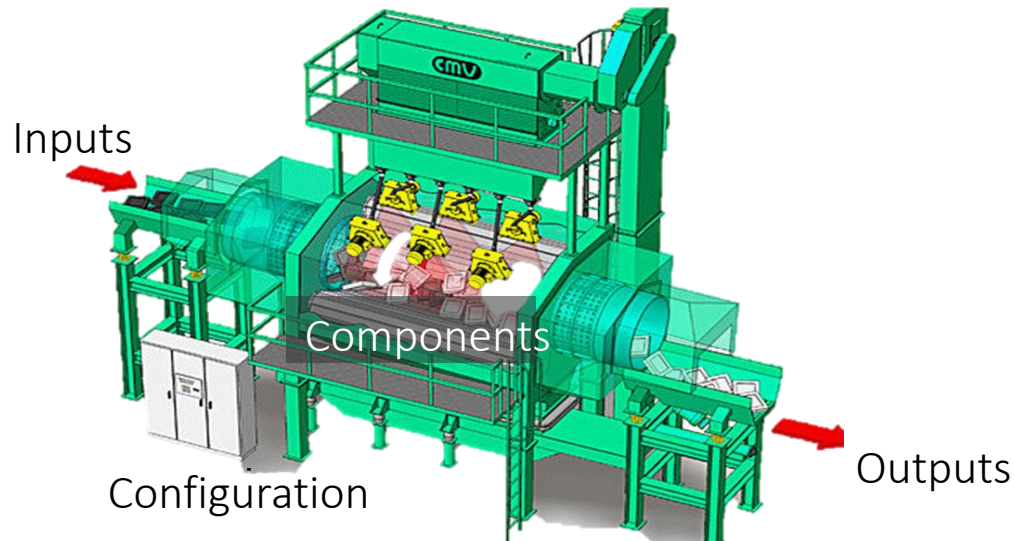
<http://www.biodel.eu/>



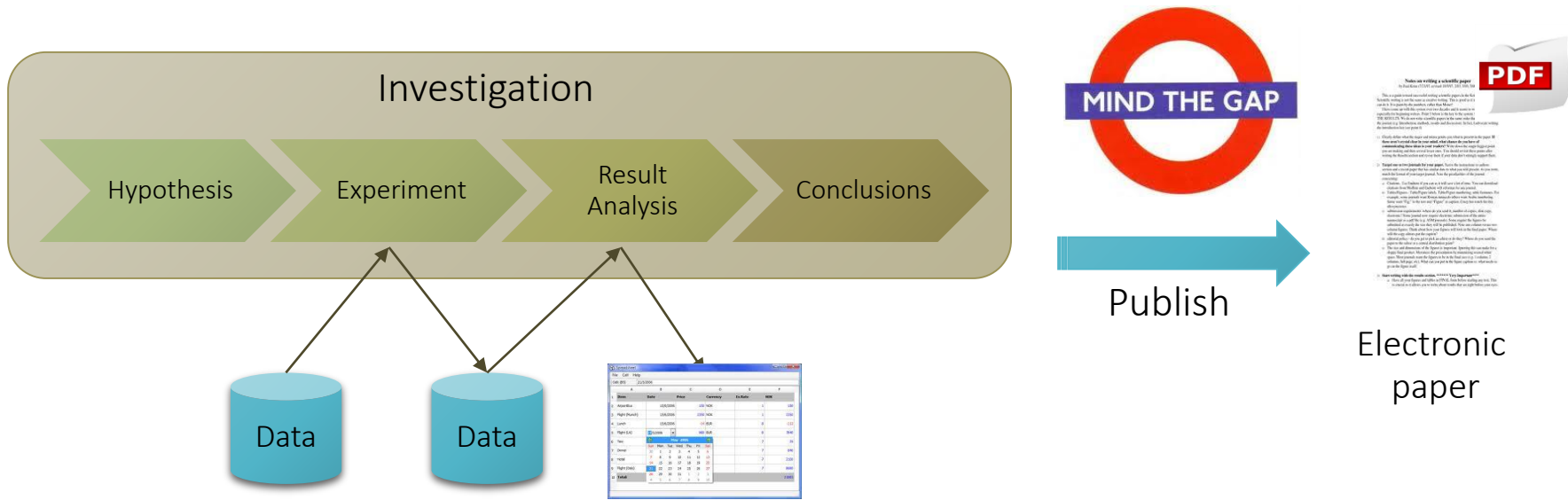
<http://www.taverna.org.uk/>

But workflows are complex machines

- Will it **still work** after a year? 10 years?
- Expanding *components*, we see a workflow involves a series of specific **tools and services** which
 - **Depend** on datasets, software libraries, other tools
 - Are often poorly **described** or **understood**
 - Over time *evolve*, **change**, *break* or are *replaced*
- **User interactions** are not reproducible
 - But can be *tracked* and *replayed*



Electronic Paper Not Enough



Open Research movement: Openly share the data of your experiments



<http://figshare.com/>



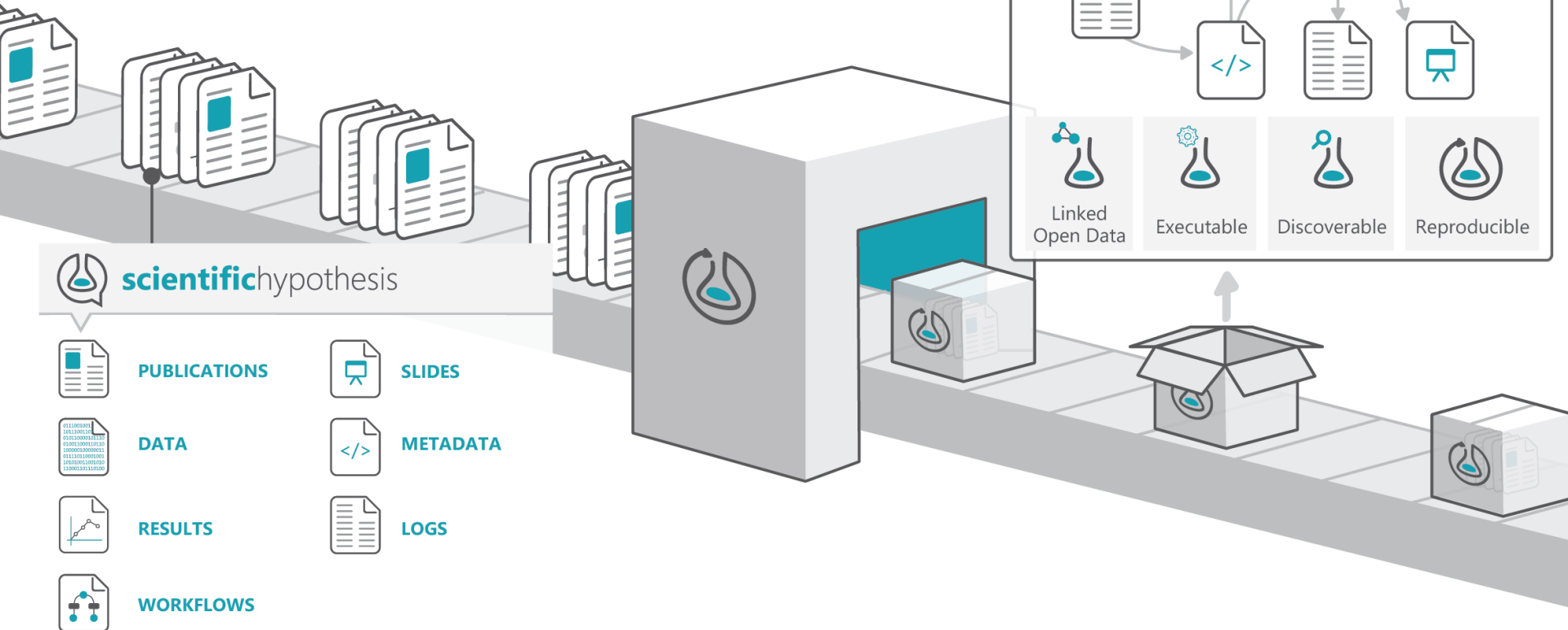
<http://datadryad.org/>



<http://www.force11.org/beyondthepdf2>

RESEARCH OBJECT (RO)

 Enabling **reproducible**, transparent research.



Research objects goal: Openly share *everything* about your experiments, including how those things are related

<http://www.researchobject.org/>

What is in a research object?

A Research Object **bundles** and **relates** digital resources of a scientific experiment or investigation:

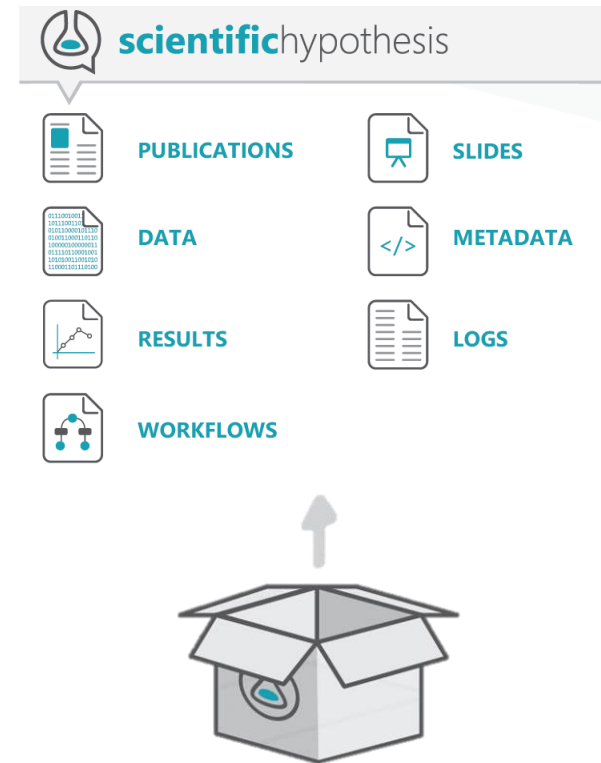
Data used and results produced in experimental study

Methods employed to produce and analyse that data

Provenance and settings for the experiments

People involved in the investigation

Annotations about these resources, that are essential to the understanding and interpretation of the scientific outcomes captured by a research object



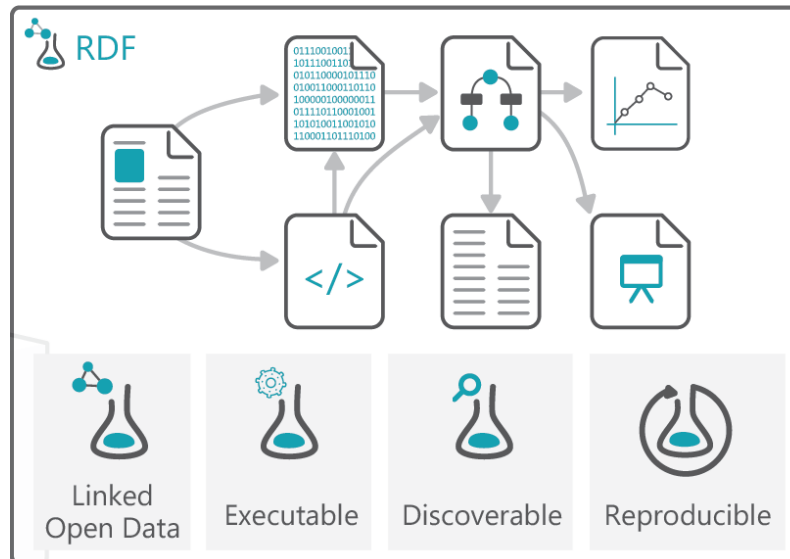
Gathering everything

Research Objects (RO) *aggregate* related resources, their *provenance* and *annotations*

Conveys “everything you need to know” about a study/experiment/analysis/dataset/workflow

Shareable, evolvable, contributable, citable

ROs have their own provenance and lifecycles



Why Research Objects?

- i. To **share** your research materials
(RO as a social object)
- ii. To facilitate **reproducibility** and **reuse** of methods
- iii. To be **recognized** and **cited**
(even for constituent resources)
- iv. To **preserve** results and **prevent decay**
*(curation of workflow definition;
using provenance for partial rerun)*

A Research object

<http://alpha.myexperiment.org/packs/387>



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All

[Home](#) > [Packs](#) > [GWAS to pathway](#)

Pack: GWAS to pathway

Created at: 08/02/13 @ 18:58:27

| [Tags \(0\)](#) | [Featured in Packs \(0\)](#) | [Favourited By \(0\)](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) |

Live view

Title: GWAS to pathway

Research object: <http://sandbox.wf4ever-project.org/rodl/ROs/Pack387/>

Description

This pack is for a workflow that finds KEGG pathways for genes from a GWAS.

Maintained by

- [Marco Roos](#)

Research overview

Creator



[Marco Roos](#)

7 items in this pack

Navigate RO

root

Wf4Ever tools

- [Browse in portal](#)
- [Analytics and Quality](#)
- [Recommendations](#)

[Prepare for publication](#)

New/Upload

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Username or Email:

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OR

Use OpenID:

(eg: name.myopenid.com)

Need an account?
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[benchmarks](#) | [bioinformatics](#) |

Hypothesis

- Hypothesis.txt

Conclusions

- conclusion.pdf

Items (7)

GWAStoPathway_Marco.t2flow (Workflow)

Hypothesis.txt (Hypothesis)

Mining_the_Kegg_path.wfbundle

conclusion.pdf (Conclusions)

datasetmarkers_hgvrs487.txt (Example inputs)

10.1038_ng.507

workflow_sketch_final.jpg (Sketch)

Relationships

datasetmarkers_hgvrs487.txt is selected as input to Mining_the_Kegg_path.wfbundle

Download

 Download Pack Items (ZIP archive)

Navigate RO

- [-] root
 - [+] biblio/
 - [+] config/
 - [+] datasets/
 - [+] workflows/

Wf4Ever tools

- Browse in portal
- Analytics and Quality
- Recommendations

Prepare for publication:

- Checklist
- Snapshot
- Archive

RO status

live

Quality Assessment of a research object

GWAS to pathway

This pack is for a workflow that finds KEGG pathways for genes from a GWAS.

✓ **Target [Pack387](#) fully satisfies checklist for ready-to-release.**

- ✓ Experiment hypothesis is present
- ✓ Workflow design sketch is present
- ✓ All workflow definitions are accessible
- ✓ All web services used by workflows are accessible
- ✓ Input data is present
- ✓ Experiment conclusions are present

[Wf4Ever project](#)

Quality Monitoring

RO Monitoring

Single evaluation

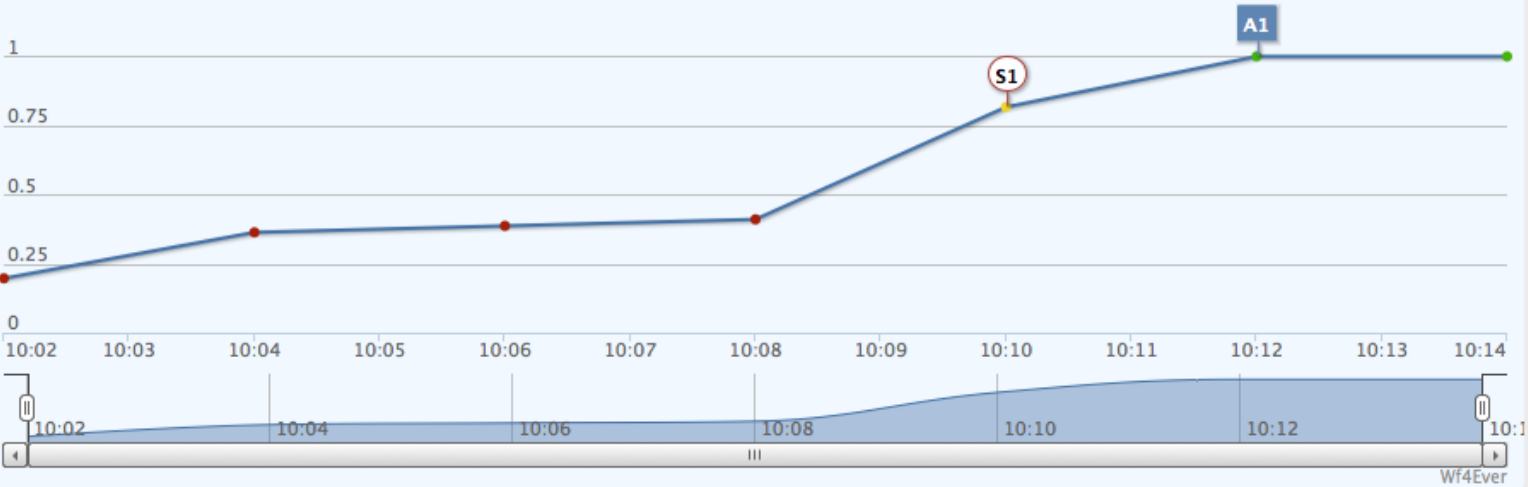
Decay Monitoring

Stability(0-1)=0.858 and Completeness(0-1)=1.0 -> Reliability(0-1)=0.858



Zoom 1m 3m 6m YTD 1y All

From Feb 13, 2013 To Feb 13, 2013



Annotations in research objects

Types: “This document contains an *hypothesis*”

Relations: “These datasets are *consumed* by that tool”

Provenance: “These results *came from* this workflow run”

Descriptions: “*Purpose* of this step is to filter out invalid data”

Comments: “This method looks useful, but how do I install it?”

Examples: “This is how you could use it”

What is provenance?



Attribution
who did it?

By **Dr Stephen Dann**
Stephen Dann + Add Contact

This photo was taken on March 22, 2009 using a Panasonic DMC-LS80.

149 views 1 comment

Date and tool
when was it made? using what?

This photo also appears in

Aggregation
what is it part of?

Fail (set)

Tags

fail

Attributes
what is it?

Additional info

Settings: 1/30 f/2.8 ISO 100 5.5 mm

License

Some rights reserved

Request to license Dr Stephen Dann's photos via Getty Images

Fail: Country of Origin Fail

Fail.

Annotations
what do others say about it?

Comments and f

DF2006 pro (48 months ago)

I love your eye for ridiculous signs!

By **Dr Stephen Dann**
licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Generic
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stephendann/3375055368/>

Licensing
can I use it?

Attribution

Who *collected* this sample? Who helped?

Which lab performed the *sequencing*?

Who did the *data analysis*?

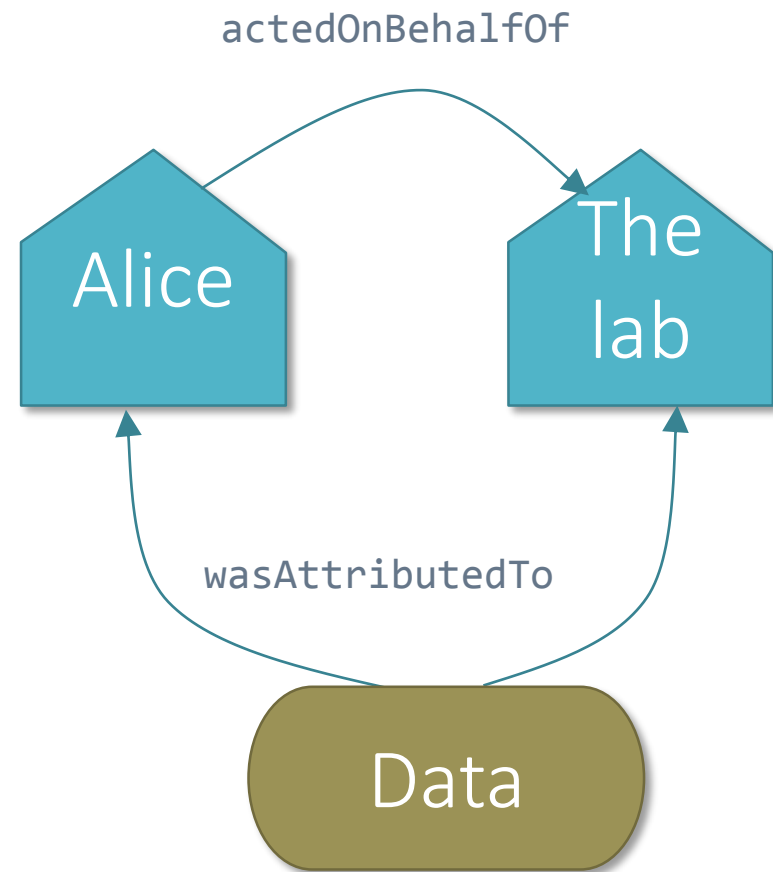
Who wrote the *analysis* workflow?

Who made the *data set* used by analysis?

Who *curated* the results?

Why do I need this?

- i. To be **recognized** for my work
- ii. Who should I give **credits** to?
- iii. Who should I **complain** to?
- iv. Can I **trust** them?
- v. Who should I make **friends** with?



Derivation

Which sample was this metagenome sequenced from?

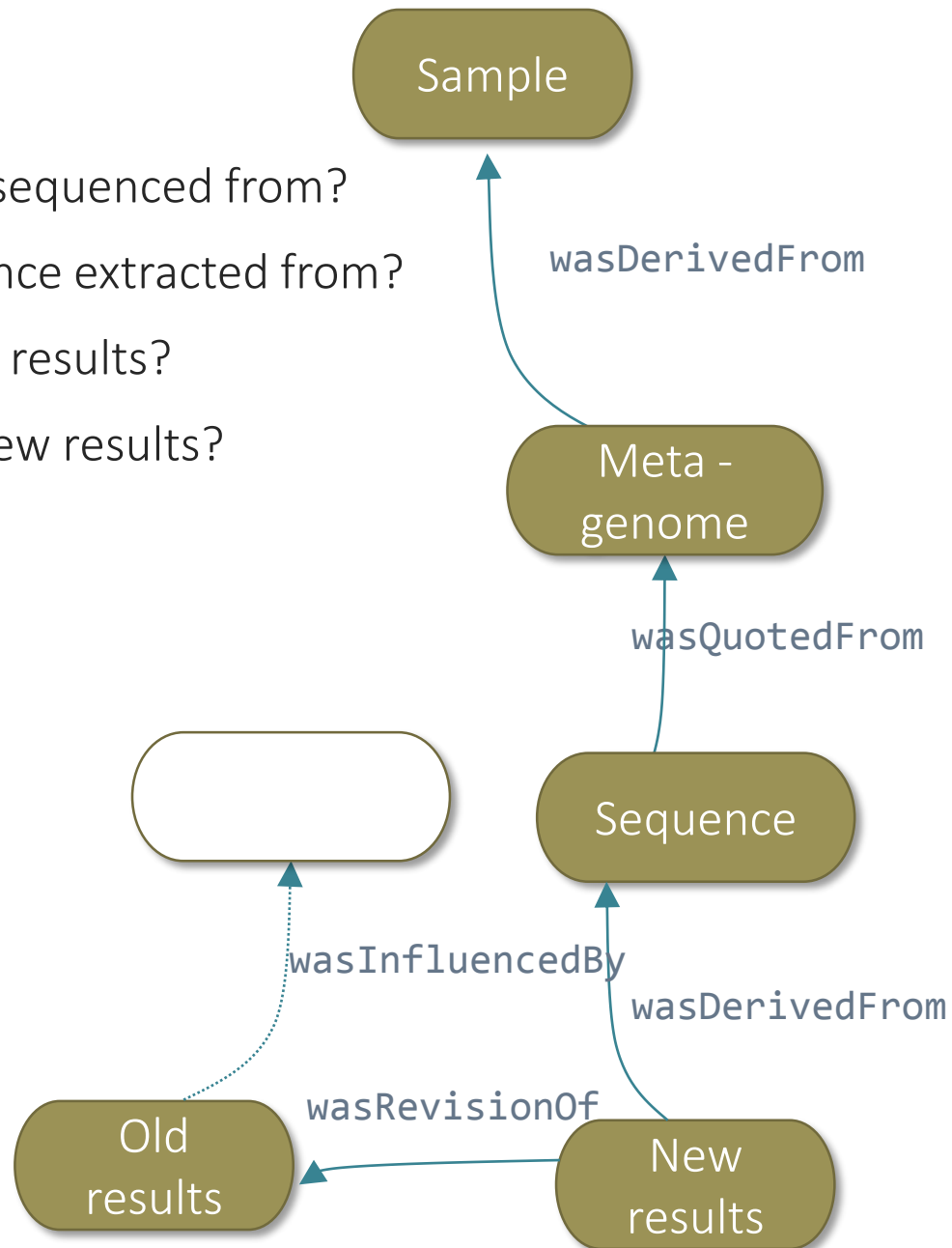
Which meta-genomes was this sequence extracted from?

Which sequence was the basis for the results?

What is the previous revision of the new results?

Why do I need this?

- i. To **verify** consistency (did I use the correct sequence?)
- ii. To find the latest **revision**
- iii. To **backtrack** where a diversion appeared after a change
- iv. To **credit** work I depend on
- v. **Auditing** and defence for peer review

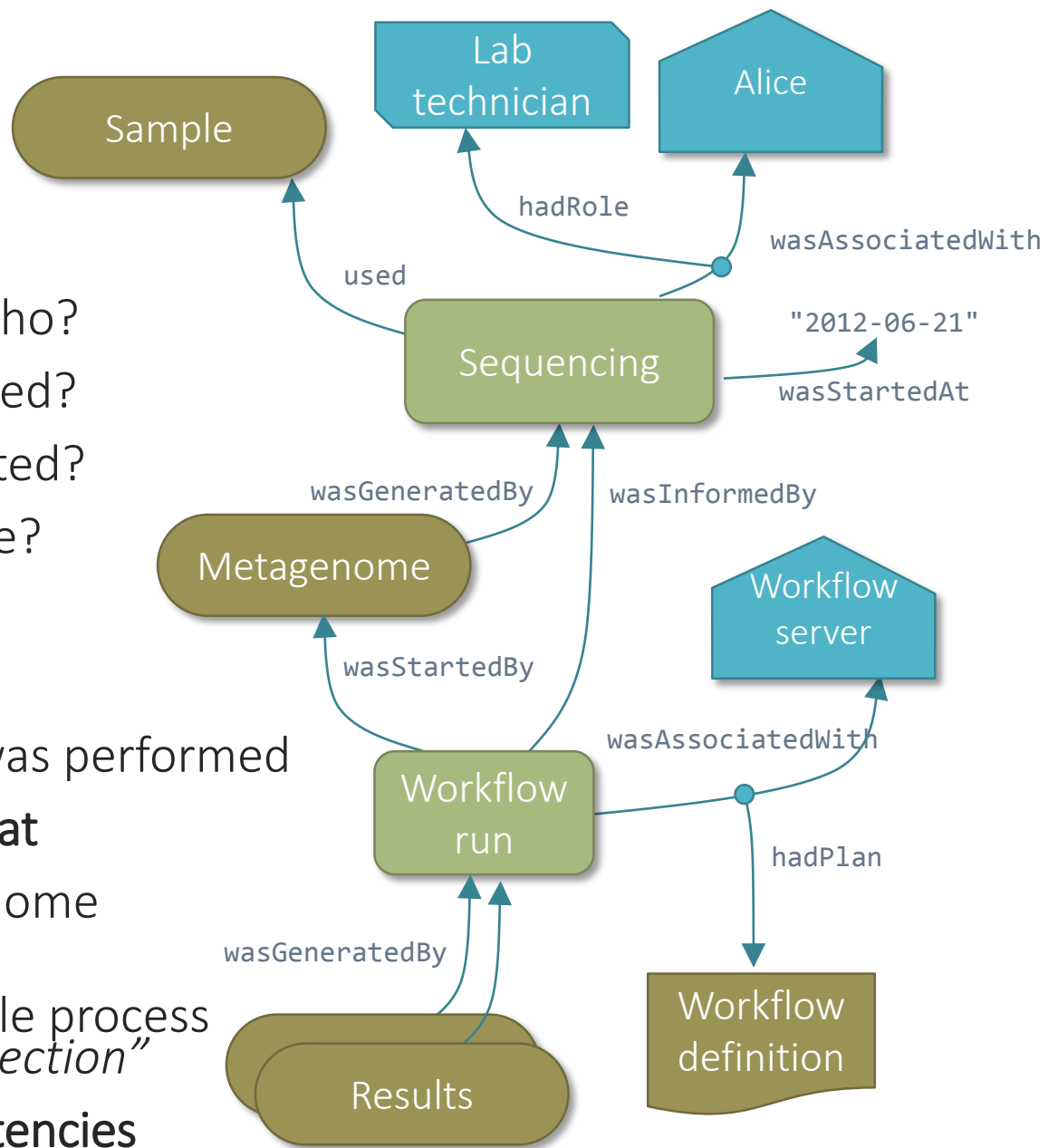


Activities

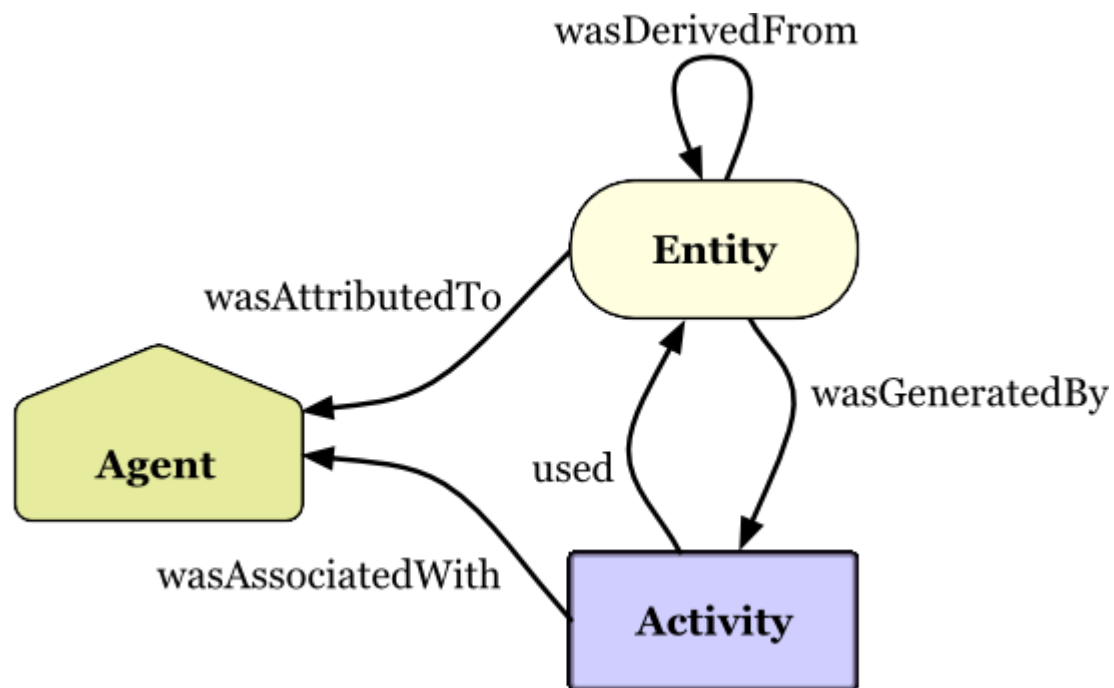
What happened? When? Who?
What was used and generated?
Why was this workflow started?
Which workflow ran? Where?

Why do I need this?

- i. To see which **analysis** was performed
- ii. To find out **who** did **what**
- iii. What was the metagenome **used** for?
- iv. To **understand** the whole process
"make me a Methods section"
- v. To track down **inconsistencies**



Core PROV model



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Provenance of what?

Who **made** the (content of) research object? Who **maintains** it?

Who **wrote** this document? Who **uploaded** it?

Which CSV was this Excel file **imported from**?

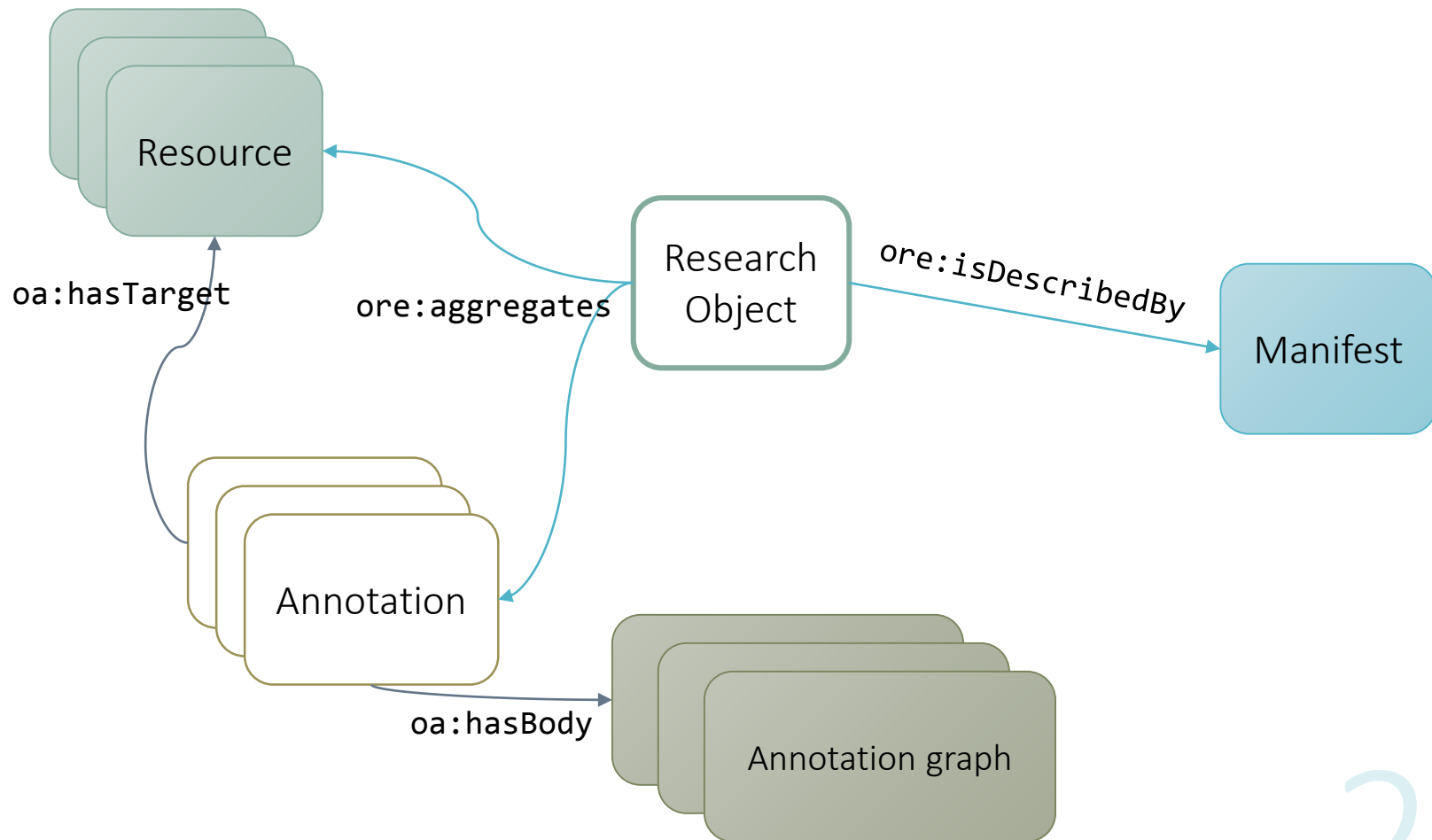
Who wrote this **description**? When? How did we get it?

What is the **state** of this RO? (Live or Published?)

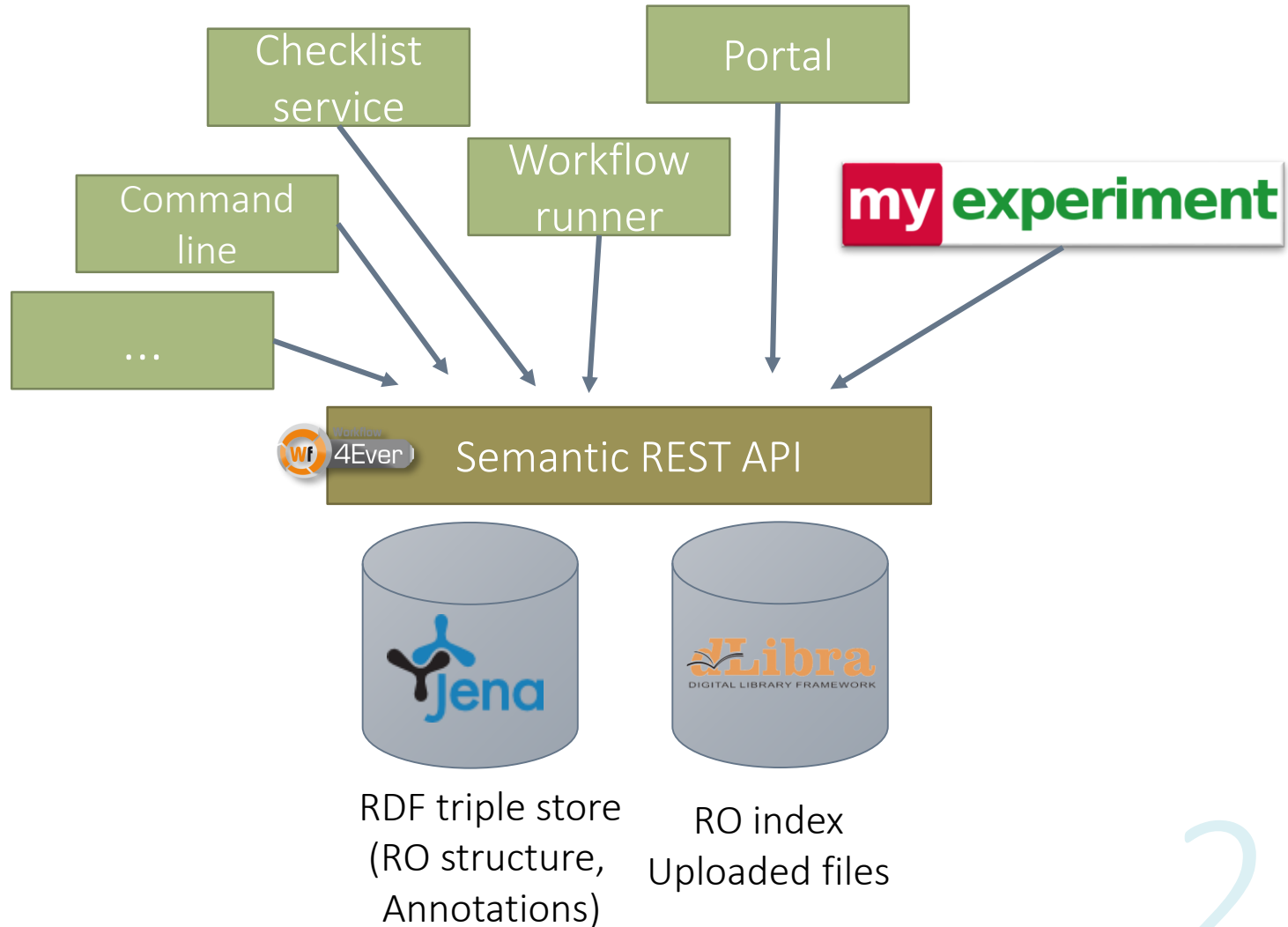
What did the research object look like before?
(**Revisions**) – are there newer versions?

Which research objects are **derived** from this RO?

Research object model at a glance



Wf4Ever architecture



Saving a research object: RO bundle

Single, **transferrable** research object

Self-contained **snapshot**

Which files in ZIP, which are URIs? (Up to user/application)

Regular **ZIP file**, explored and unpacked with standard tools

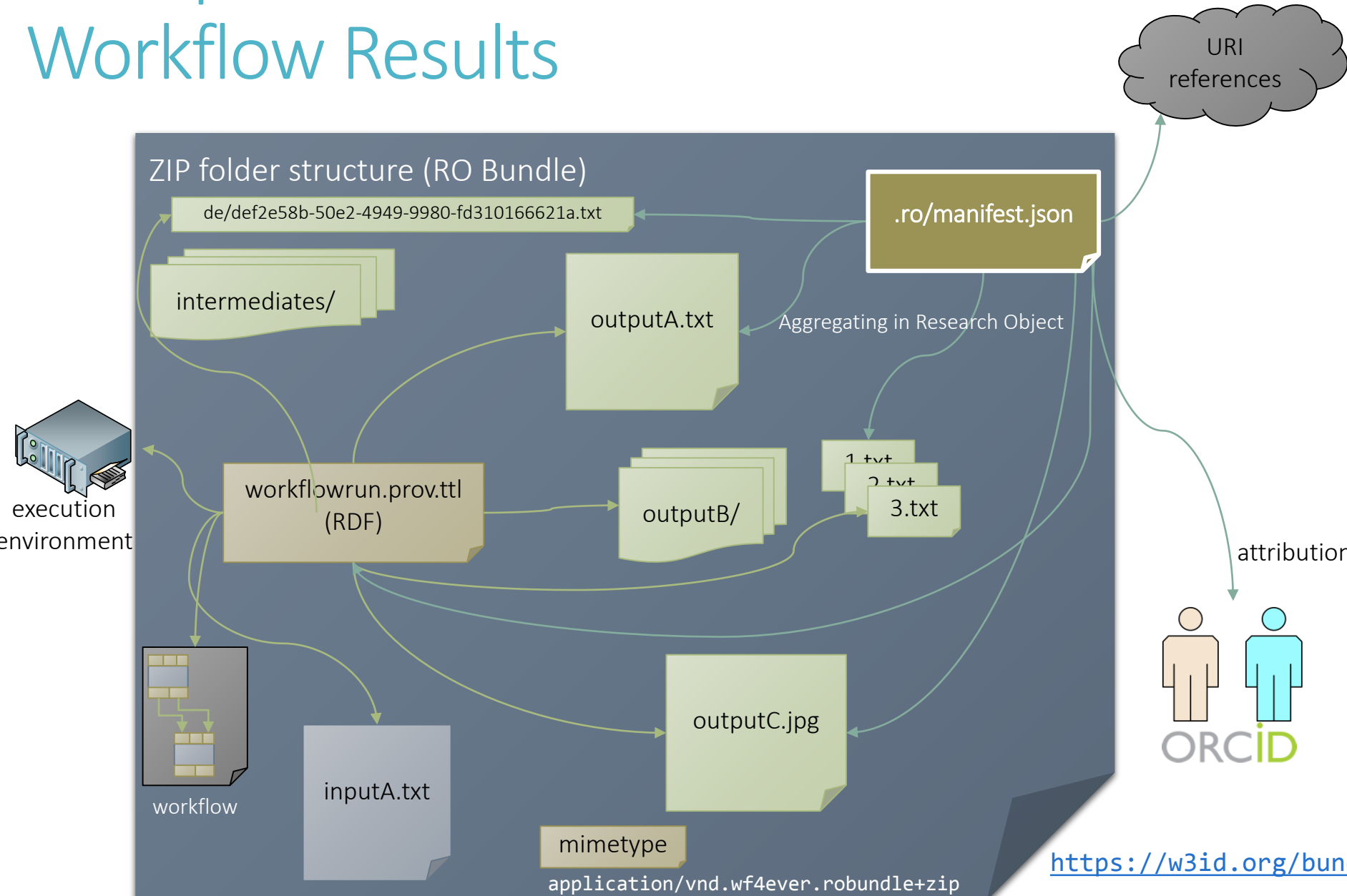
JSON manifest is programmatically accessible without RDF understanding

Works **offline** and in desktop applications – no REST API access required

Basis for RO-enabled **file formats**, e.g. Taverna run bundle

Exchanged with myExperiment and RO tools

Example RO bundle: Workflow Results



W3C community group for RO

<http://www.w3.org/community/rosc/>

Search Object for : x
www.w3.org/community/rosc/

LOG IN GET AN ACCOUNT MY ACCOUNT

W3C W3C Community and Business Groups

Search blogs

CURRENT GROUPS REPORTS ABOUT

Mailing List

Research Object for...

JOIN THIS GROUP

the reuse and exchange of the actual digital knowledge and the inspection of the reproducibility of scientific investigation results. They should consider not only the data used, methods employed to produce and analyse that data, but also the people involved in the investigation and annotations about these resources, which are essential to the understanding and interpretation of the scientific outcomes.


As outcomes from the community group we aim to facilitate the establishment of a community data model and a set of community agreements that can effectively assist the establishment of a new form of scholarly communication, that is a prominent issue of today.

This group will not publish specifications.

Reports

No reports yet published. The Chair is responsible for publishing reports. [More about publishing...](#)

Participants

 Robert Sanderson
Chair

 Sean Bechhofer
Chair

 Jun Zhao
Chair



[View all 75 Participants](#) →

Summary

Provide provenance records: Use (and extend) PROV.

Share your methods (tools, workflows), not just your data

Make research objects: Collect resources and relate them

Pick your RO integration level to adapt:

1. *Conceptual model*
2. *RO Core ontology (aggregation and annotation)*
3. *Workflow description and provenance*
4. *Wf4Ever architecture for APIs*
5. *myExperiment as user interface*