Linking collections to
related resources:
Multi-scale, multi-dimensional, multidisciplinary collaborative research
in biodiversity. Is this
a "Big Data" paradigm?

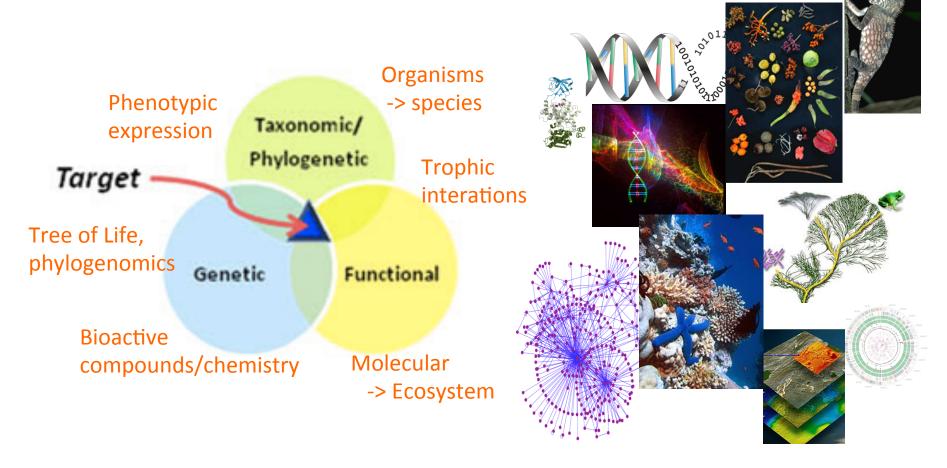
Reed Beaman, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

27 March 2014

Integrative Biodiversity: It's about the science questions

US NSF Dimensions of Biodiversity program)

Interaction at the intersection of taxonomic, genetic, functional domains



Biodiversity Research

Geospatial layers (WorldClim, remote sensing data, etc.)

Ecological data (physiology, morphology, etc.)

Georeferenced collections data (iDigBio, GBIF, etc.)

Genetic data (GenBank)

Increasingly interdisciplinary

Ecological data

Niche modeling

Regional Phylogeny

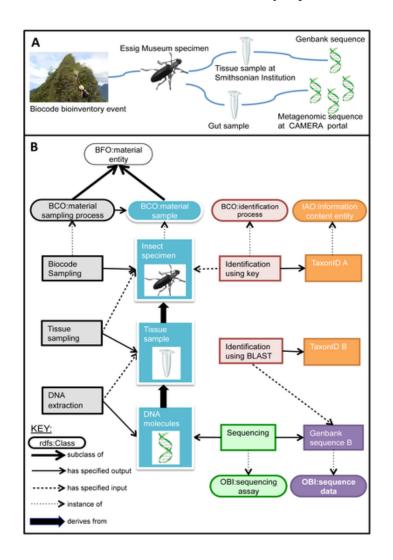
Phylogenetic and functional traits analyses

- Potential adaptation to climate change
- Future changes
- Ecological drivers of change
- Phylogenetic distribution
- Phylogenetic uniqueness
- Evolutionary signal to response to climate change
- Phylogenetic signal
- Phylogenetic communities
- Trait evolution
- Response of traits to historical changes

Figure 3. Linking samples and derivatives from the Moorea Biocode project.

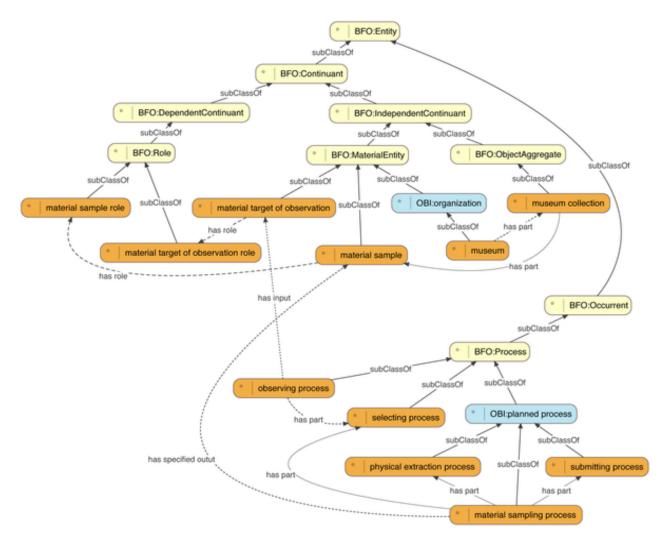
BiSciCol (Biological Science Collections Tracker) use case:

Every specimen links to a multitude of parent and derivative data. Users of biodiversity data need to be able to *easily and quickly* see these relationships



Citation: Walls RL, Deck J, Guralnick R, Baskauf S, Beaman R, et al. (2014) Semantics in Support of Biodiversity Knowledge Discovery: An Introduction to the Biological Collections Ontology and Related Ontologies. PLoS ONE 9(3): e89606. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0089606 http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0089606

Figure 2. Core terms of the Biological Collections Ontology (BCO) and their relations to upper ontologies.



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GUID Land

From the iDigBio MISC-Authority-File-Working-Group

AlternativePersonGUID

AuthorityListGUID

AuthorOfTaxonGUID

CentroidGeoreferencedByGUID

CollectingEventAttributeID

CollectingEventGUID

CollectingProtocolReferenceGUID

CollectingTripID

CollectionAlternativeGUID

CollectionCuratorGUID

CollectionDirectorGUID

CollectionGUID

CollectionManagerGUID

CollectionObjectCollectorGUID

CollectionObjectDeterminerGUID

CollectionObjectGUID

CollectionTechnitianGUID

CollectorGUID

CurrentGeographyGUID

CurrentNameGUID

DisciplineID

EventGeographyGUID

ExpertInTaxonGUID

GeographyGUID

GeologyGUID

GeoreferenceProtocolGUID

GeoreferencesGeoreferencedByGUID

HigherCollectionGUID

HigherGeographyGUID

HigherGeologyGUID

HigherTaxonGUID

HostForColletionObjectGUID

HostForTaxonGUID

HostsOnCollectionObjectGUID

HostsOnTaxonGUID

HybridParent1GUID

HybridParent2GUID

iDigBioProviderGUID

iDigBioPublisherGUID

IGSN

InstitutionGUID

MediaGUID

NamePublishedInGUID

PersonGUID

ProjectGUID

ProviderCreatedByGUID

ProviderCreatedByGUID

ProviderModifiedByGUID

ProviderModifiedByGUID

SpecimensGUID

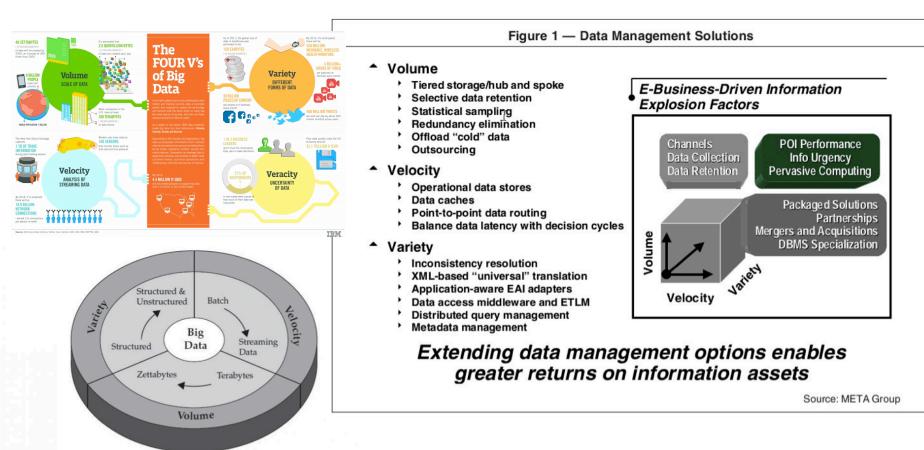
SynonymTaxonGUID

TaxonNameGUID

Big data is a given for genomics, high throughput sequencing, analysis, and visualization

What about all the other data that *relates* to genetic and genomic data?

The 3 or 4 Vs of Big Data



"Big data is data that's an order of magnitude bigger than you're accustomed to, Grasshopper." Doug Laney, Gartner

Figure 1-1 IBM characterizes Big Data by its volume, velocity, and variety—or simply, V3.

4Vs for Biodiversity Big data

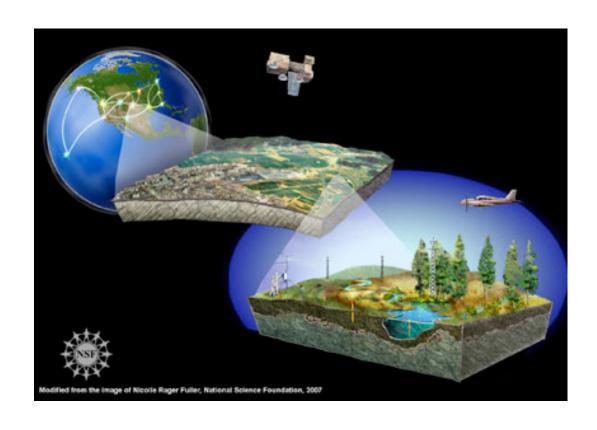
- Volume: billion or more specimens, 2-10 million species (excluding microbial), 10 billion plus related edges
- Velocity: Snail's pace? 250 year long-tail legacy of taxonomic data -> rapid digitization <-> large scale genomic sequencing
- Variety: Occurrences, sequences, morphological, geospatial; structured and unstructured
- Veracity: Very challenging to validate?

The "Big" in Ecological Big Data

The defining aspect of ecological Big Data is not raw size but another dimension:

complexity.

Dave Schimel, (former) NEON Chief Scientist



 The expeditions of Cook, Darwin, Wallace, Beccari, and others were the moonshots of the 18th and 19th centuries.









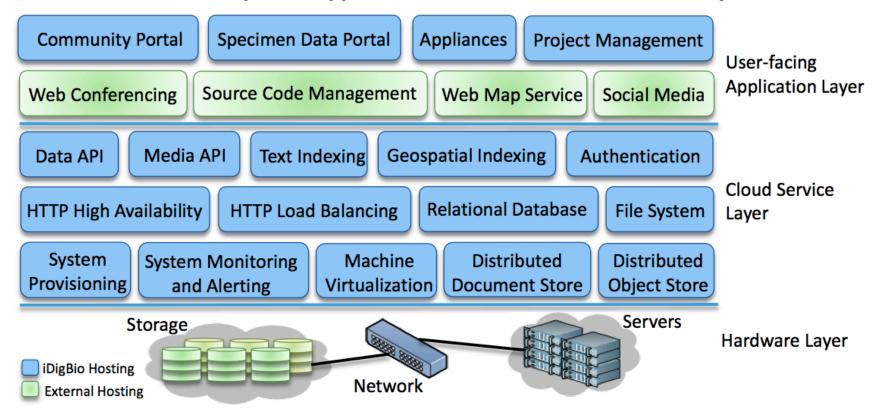
- Taxonomic classification dating to Linnaeus, and more recently phylogenetic systematics are a treasure trove of data, which we can now leverage in a big data paradigm.
- As is local, indigenous knowledge of natural systems going even further back in time.

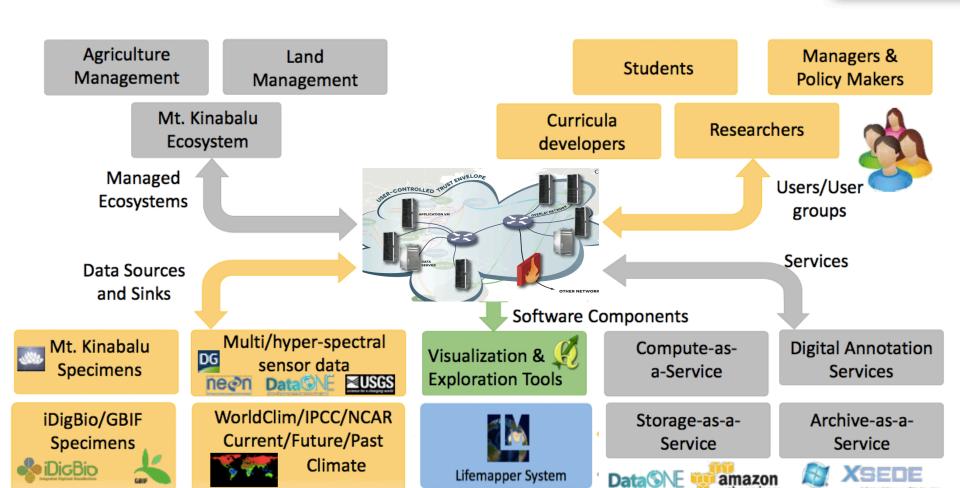
4Cs of Biodiversity Big Data

- Complexity: scale, interactions (e.g., food webs) between individuals, populations, species, environments (cf. story lines)
- Collaboration: International and multidisciplinary
- Crowd-sourcing: Increasing as a solution to digitization
- Completeness: Will we always be 10% complete, and can we validate and create the linkages?

iDigBio Cyberinfrastructure

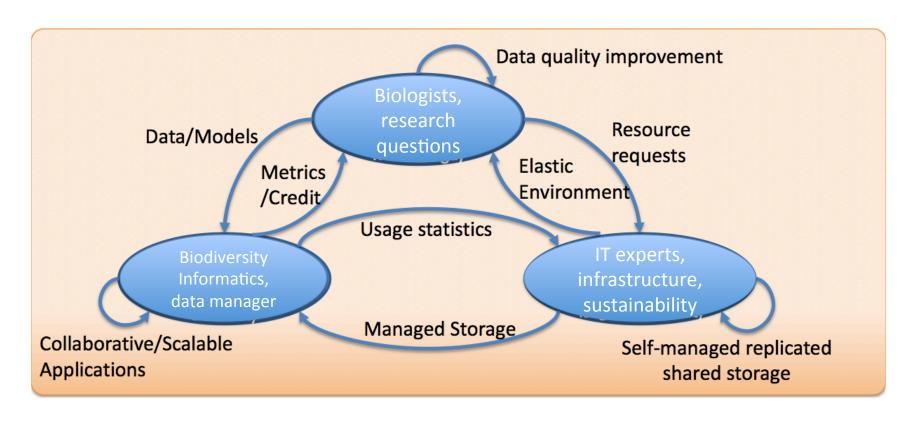
- Developed in consultation with stakeholders
- Implementation determined internally
- Feedback on prototypes solicited from community





Windows Azure

Socio-technical challenges and feedback



Modified from Fortes et al.