



Science & Technology  
Facilities Council

# Core semantic model for generic research activity

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Digital Libraries: Advanced Methods and Technologies,  
Digital Collections. Yaroslavl, Russia, October 14-17, 2013



# STFC

Funds and operates large scale instruments for the UK and visitor researchers in:

- physics, astronomy
- chemistry, materials
- biology, medicine



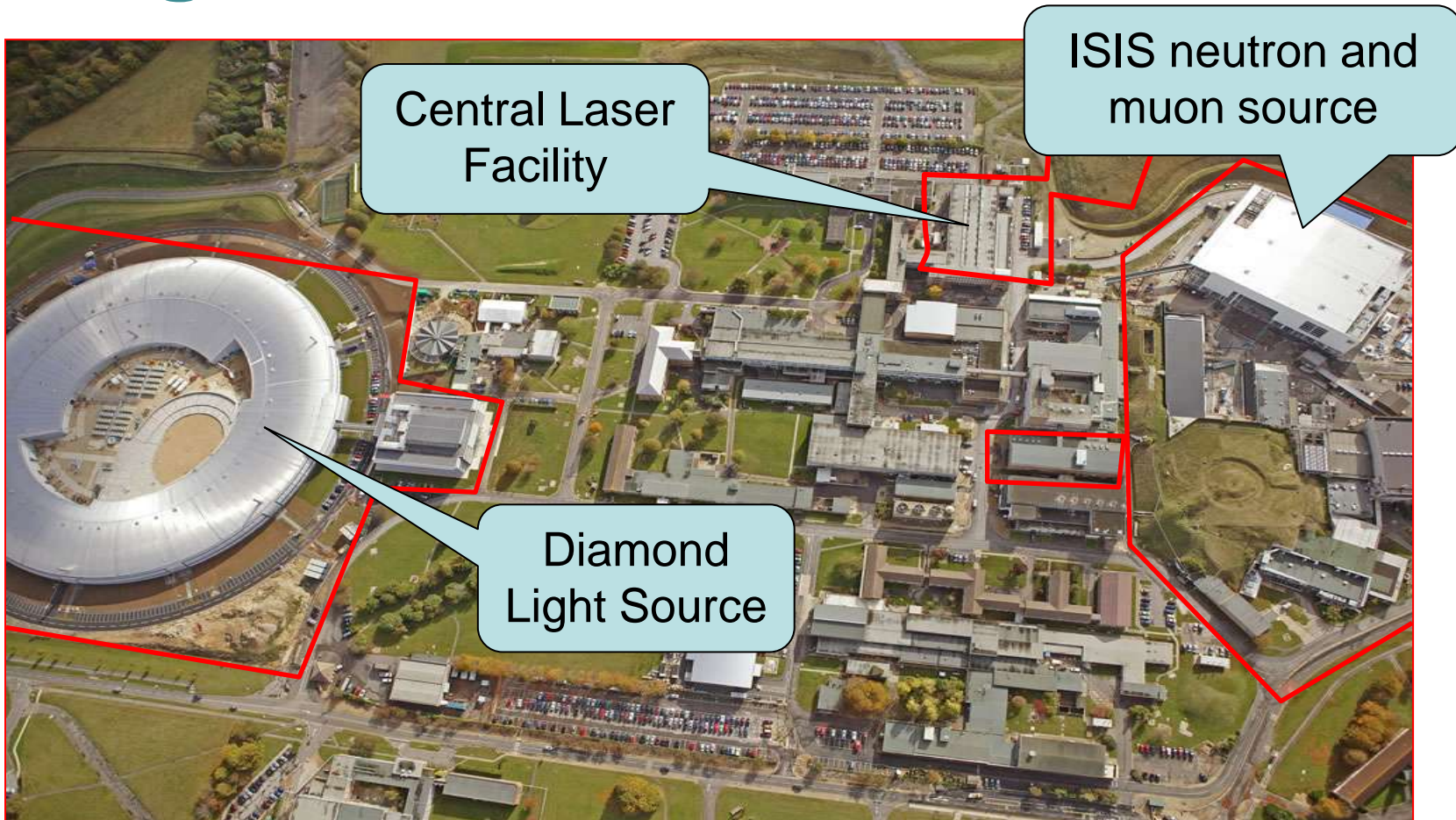
Scientific Computing develops and operates computing infrastructure:

- High Performance Computing
- Petabyte data store
- CERN LHC Tier 1 hub

also conducts applied research  
and does software development



# Big Facilities for Small Science







# PaNdata projects



## PaNdata Europe

2010 – 2011

Preparation: common policies and standards

<http://pan-data.eu/pandata/?q=PaNdataEurope>

## PaNdata ODI

2011 – 2014

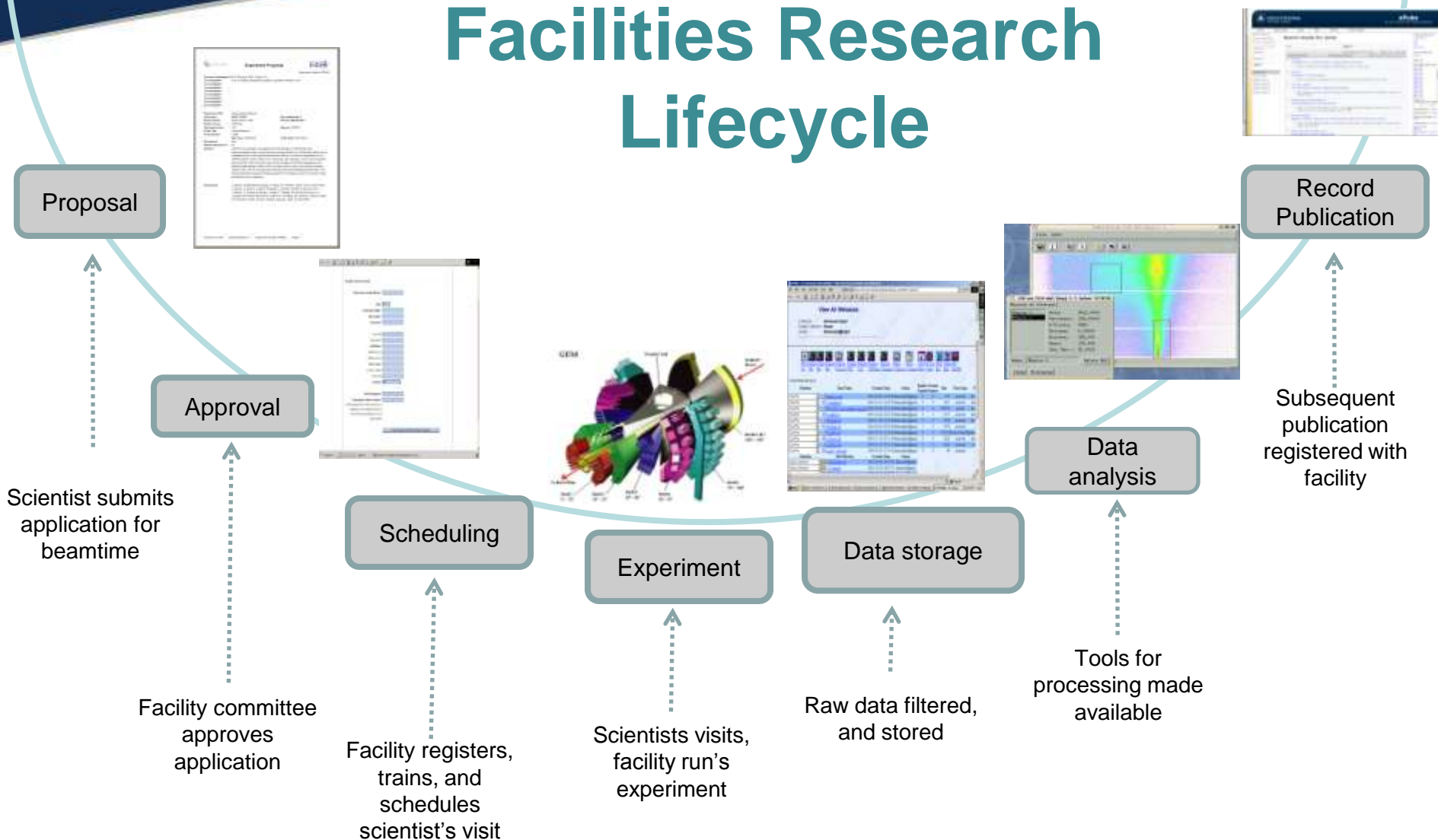
Implementation: delivering new infrastructure

<http://pan-data.eu/pandata/?q=ODIWP>





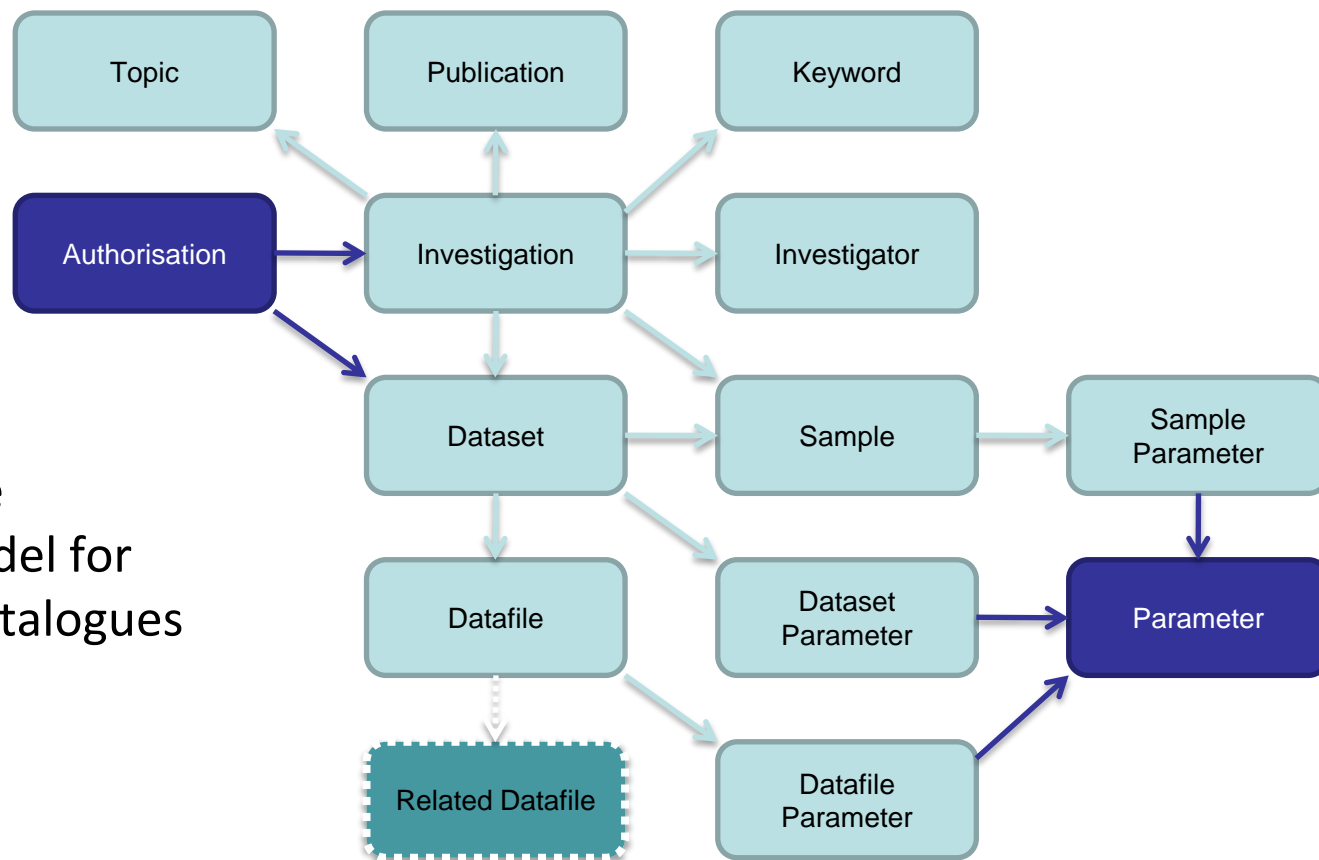
# Facilities Research Lifecycle



Data catalogue software: <http://code.google.com/p/icatproject/>



# CSMD: Core Scientific MetaData Model

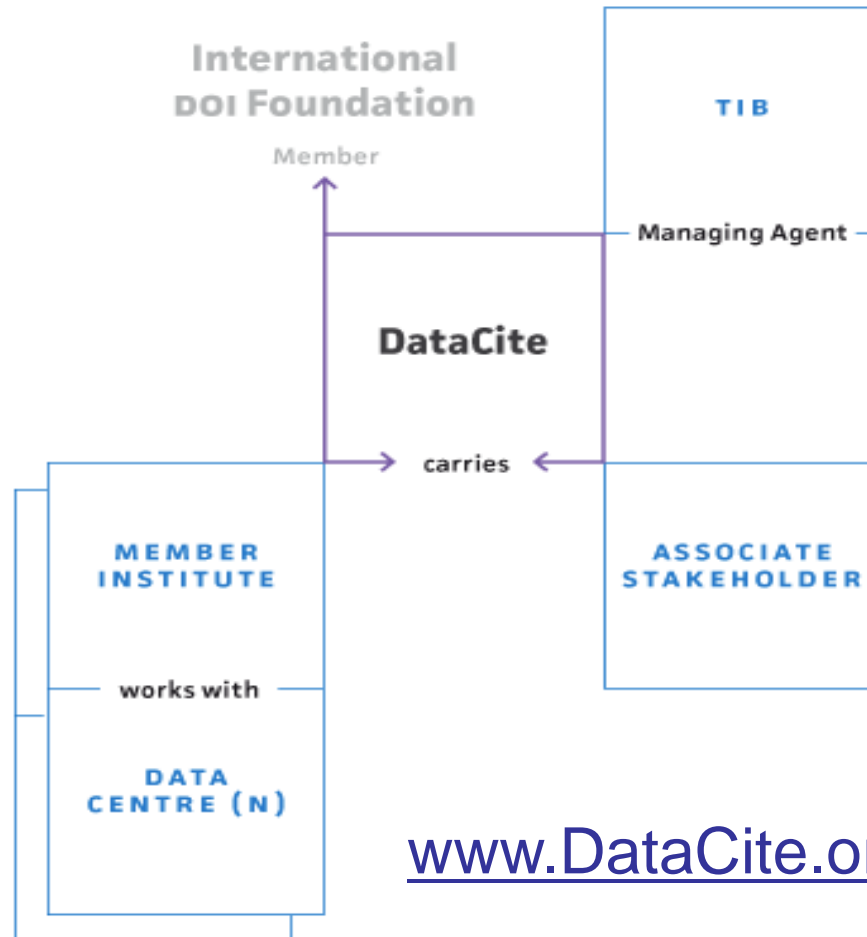


CSMD forms the  
information model for  
facilities data catalogues



# We joined DataCite

Much cheaper  
DOIs than  
directly from  
DOI Foundation



[www.DataCite.org](http://www.DataCite.org)



# Is it really about data?

## Our DOIs landing pages are in fact for Investigations (Experiments)

Red is for “data” notion, and green is for “investigation”



Data collected on the  
GEM instrument  
at the ISIS facility

### ISIS Data

RB920025.

Investigation title: Crystal and magnetic structures of  $\text{EuWO}_{1+x}\text{N}_{2-x}$ .

Creator: Kusmartseva, A

Creator: Rodgers, J A

Creator: Attfield, J P

DOI: 10.5286/ISIS.E.24071239

Date of Experiment: Tue Aug 04 14:38:23 BST 2009

Publisher: STFC ISIS Facility

Data format: RAW/Nexus

Select the data format above to find out more about it.

### Data Citation

The recommended format for citing this dataset in a research publication is as:  
[author], [date], [title], [publisher], [doi]

For Example:

Kusmartseva, A. et al; (2009): 920025, STFC ISIS Facility, doi:10.5286/ISIS.E.24071239

### Abstract

Eu<sup>2+</sup> d<sup>0</sup>- transition metal perovskites are of interest as potential multiferroics when undoped, or as CMR materials.  $\text{EuWO}_{1+x}\text{N}_{2-x}$  is a new magnetoresistive material and exists over a broad range of  $x = -0.2$  to  $0.5$ . It has a ferromagnetic ordering transition at  $T_C = 12$  K. Neutron diffraction is needed to determine the I112/m monoclinic superstructure evidenced by TEM that arises from O/N ordering and octahedral tilting, and the magnetic order. This may include a coexistence of antiferromagnetic/ ferromagnetic orders (as found in a previous GEM study of the analogue  $\text{EuNbO}_2\text{N}$ ). 2 days on GEM are needed to study 2 samples with different  $x$  values (one stoichiometric  $x = 0$ , the other highly doped  $x = 0.5$ ) because of high absorption by Eu.







# We are not alone in DataCite “abuse”

Search

[Options](#)

*Help and search tips*

## Enhanced corrosion protection by microstructural control of aluminium brazing sheet

### Attachments

[FARID\\_NOROUZI\\_AFSHAR.THESIS.pdf](#) (32.0 MB)



Cite or link this publication as: [doi:10.4233/uuid:b7113b48-08aa-41a1-871b-bf5248fbf5db](https://doi.org/10.4233/uuid:b7113b48-08aa-41a1-871b-bf5248fbf5db)

← DataCite DOI

Author: *Norouzi Afshar, F.*

Promotor: *De Wit, J.H.W. · Terryn, H.*

Faculty: *Mechanical, Maritime and Materials Engineering*

Department: *Materials Science & Engineering*

Type: *Dissertation*

Date: *2013-08-30*

ISBN: *9789077172933*

Keywords: *aluminium brazing sheet · accelerated corrosion test ·  
microstructural characterization · electrochemical characterization ·  
heat treatment*



**We used to think our metadata  
is for “data” but in fact, quite  
often it is for “activity”,  
e.g. Experiment or Study**



# Research activity is not restricted to Experiment or Study and can be a part of a longer “value chain”

DDI record for social  
science Study decomposed

Archives:

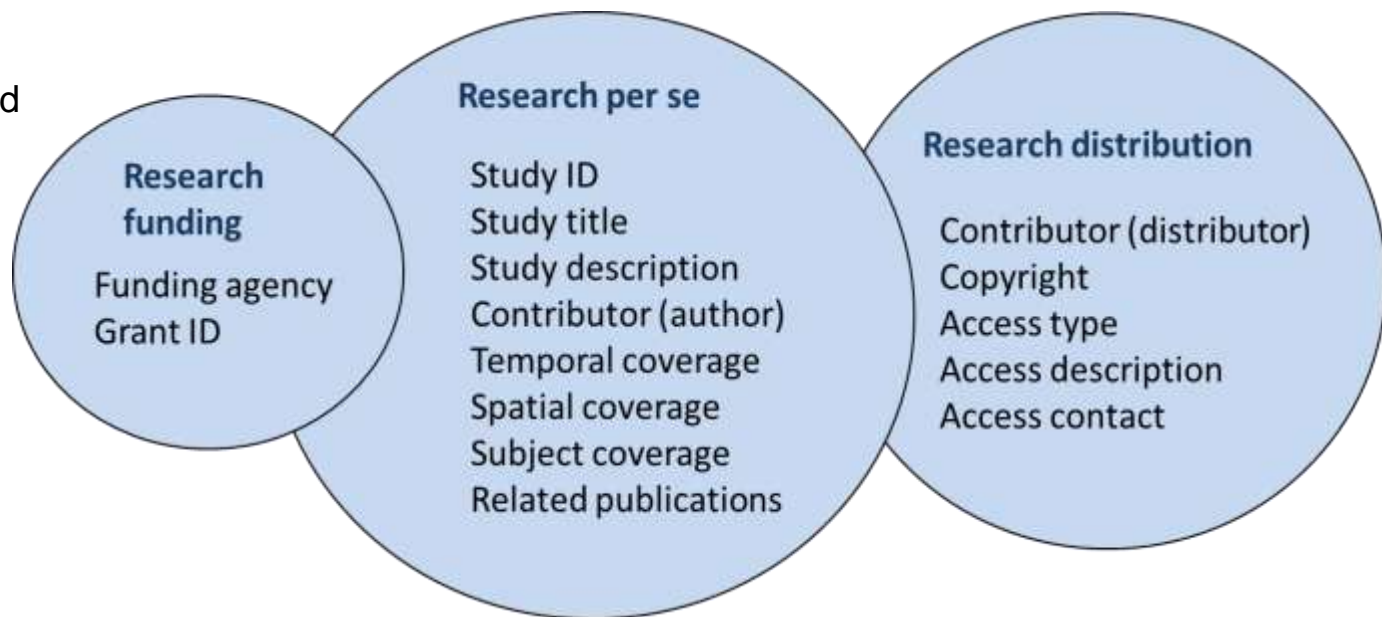
[www.data-archive.ac.uk](http://www.data-archive.ac.uk)

[www.gesis.org](http://www.gesis.org)

and many more

DDI portal:

[www.ddialliance.org](http://www.ddialliance.org)



An Infrastructure for Open, Linked Governmental Data Provision  
towards Research Communities and Citizens

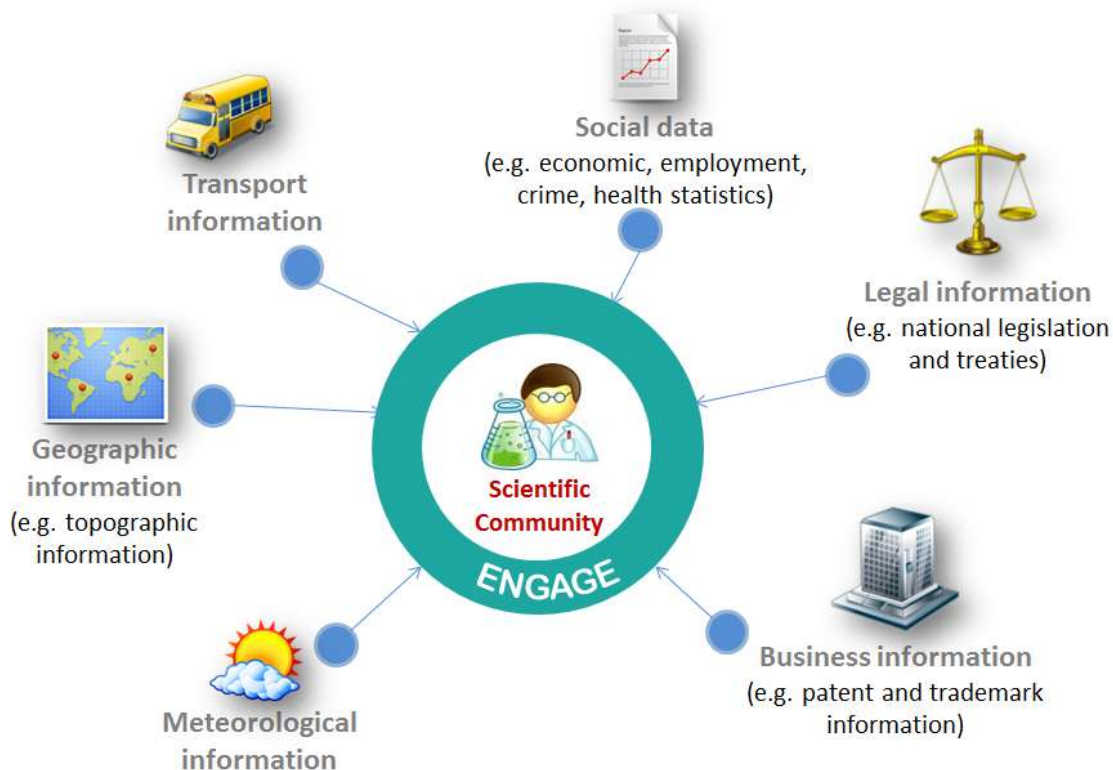


Project: [www.engage-project.eu](http://www.engage-project.eu)

Platform: [www.engagedata.eu](http://www.engagedata.eu)



# ENGAGE vision: promotion of Open Data to Linked Open Data through collaborative data curation





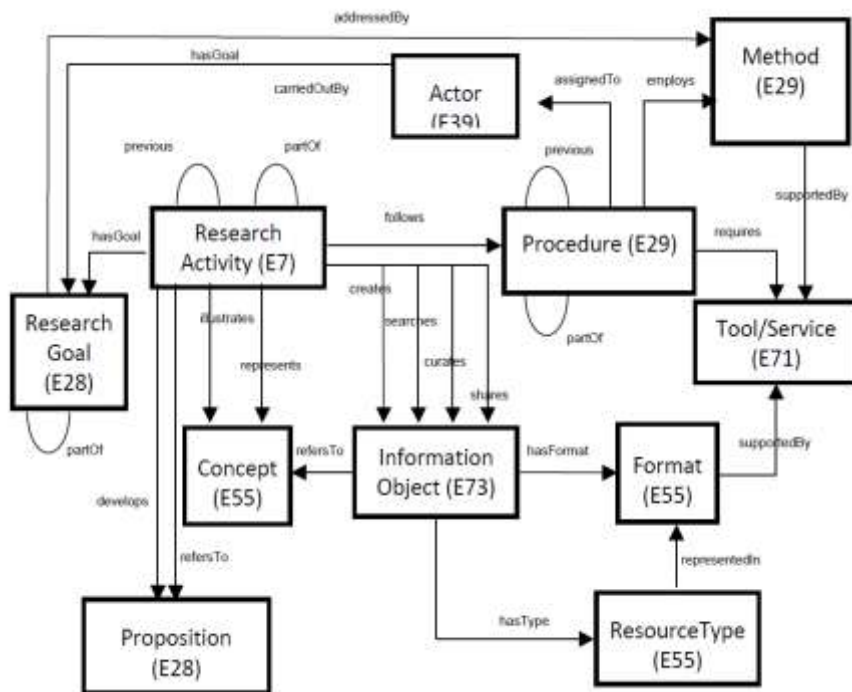


# To make research data linkable, we need to reasonably model research activity

- Keep the model generic enough
- Keep it simple for better adoption and “opportunistic” application
- Aim it not at humans only but at machines / software agents, too

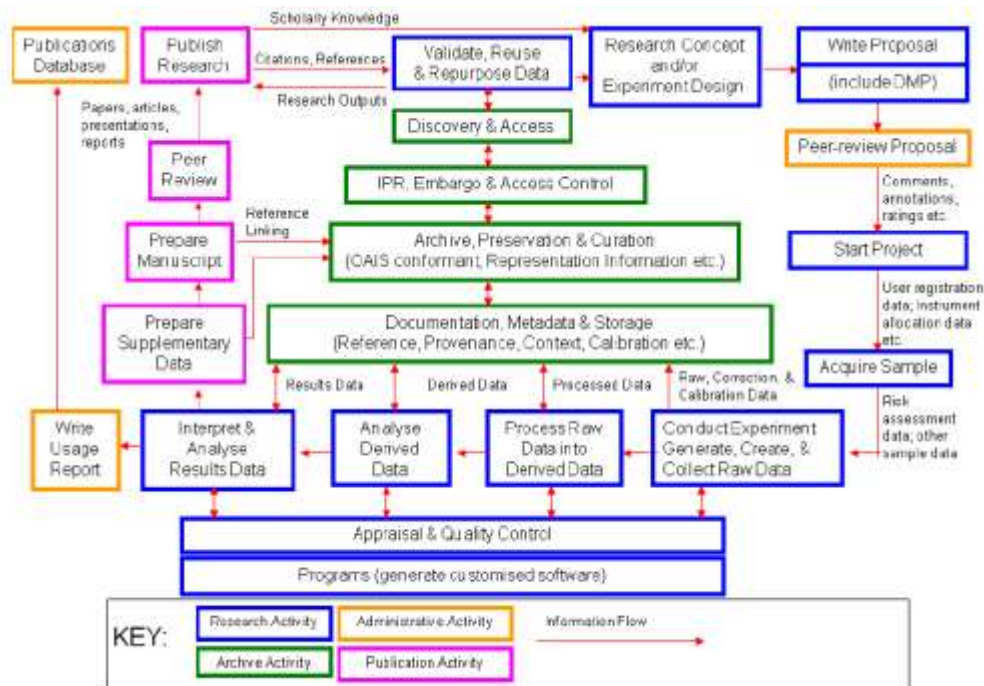
# Do we have reasonable research activity models?

## DARIAH Scholarly Research Activity



[www.dariah.eu](http://www.dariah.eu)

## I2S2 Scientific Research Activity Lifecycle



[www.ukoln.ac.uk/projects/I2S2/](http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/projects/I2S2/)

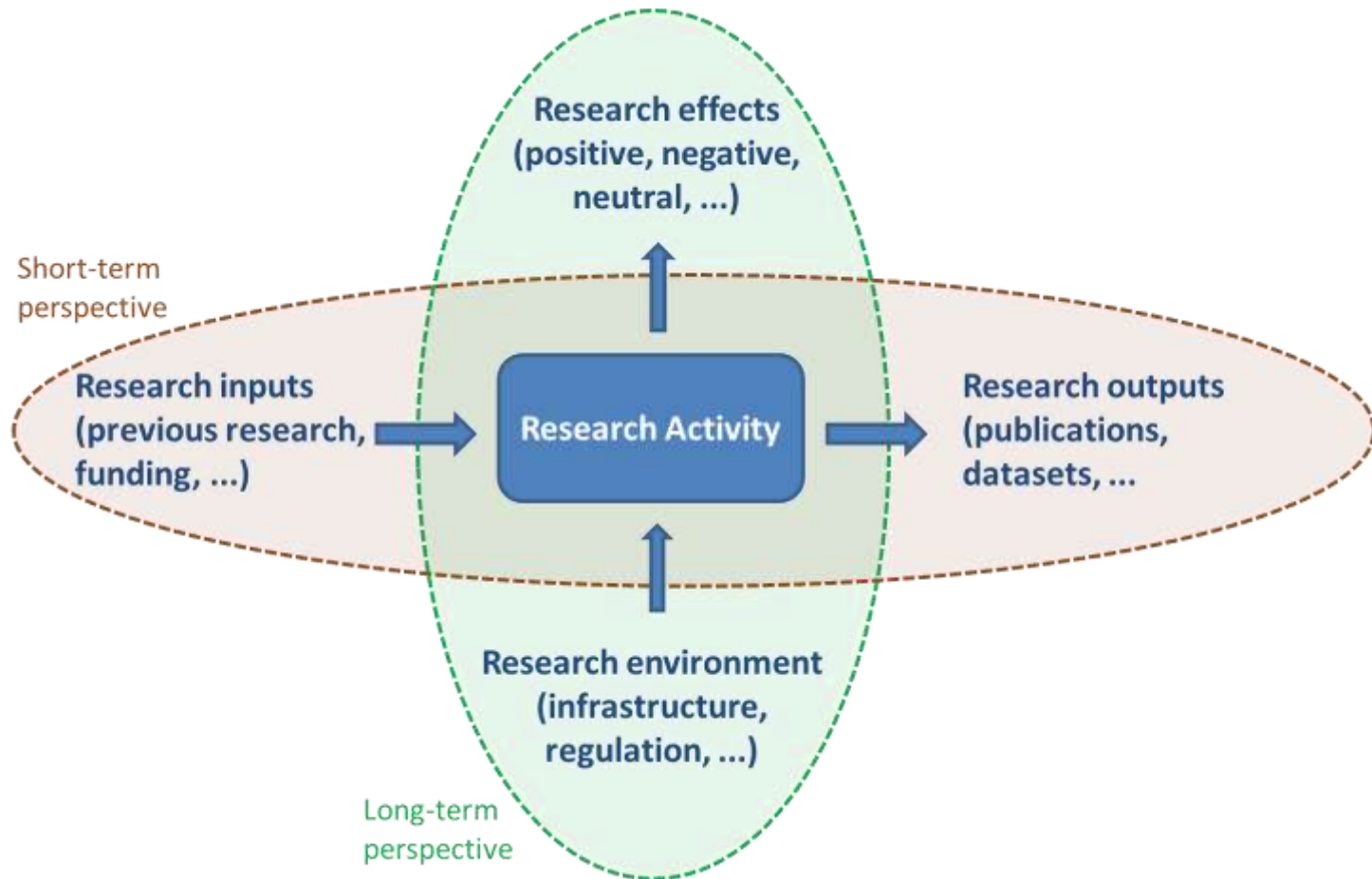


# Concerns about existing research activity models

- Domain-specific
- Elements seem well defined but are open to different interpretations
- Are not “Linked Data ready”
- Overdone to be easily adopted and consistently used



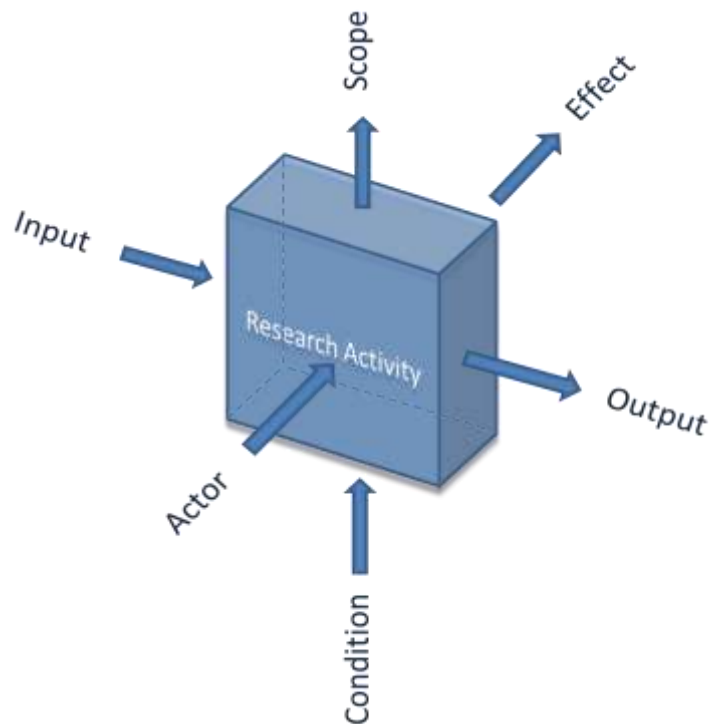
## Possible response: offering a (simple) generic research activity model suitable for adoption by different stakeholders







# Research activity cell

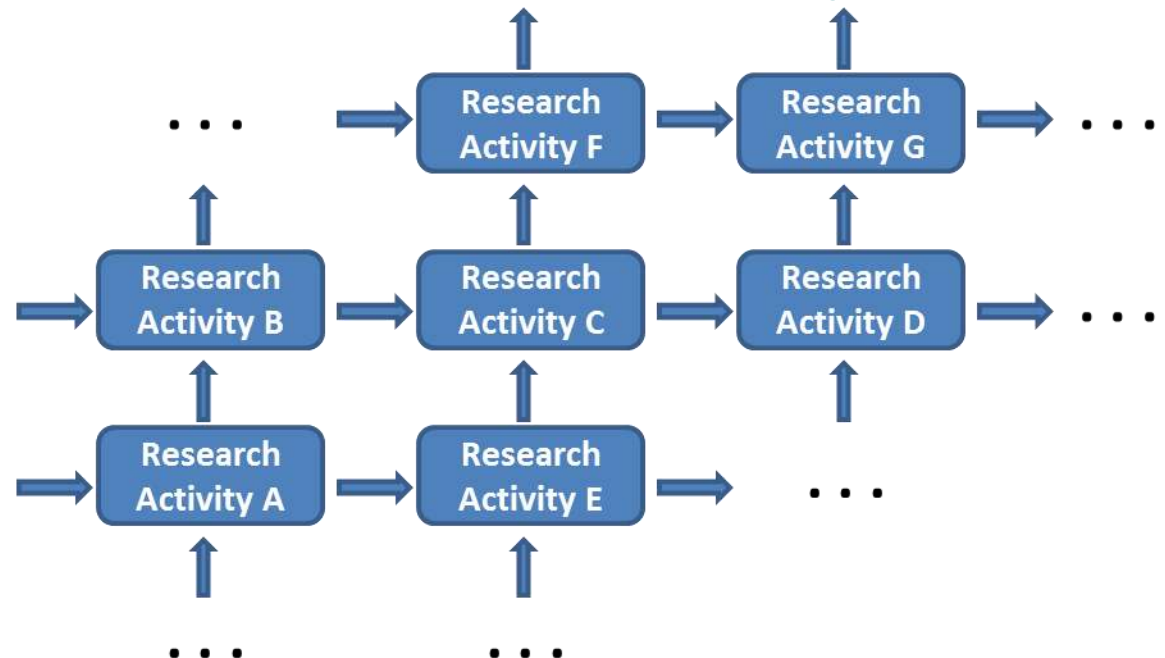


Aspect	Description	Examples	
		Research per se	Research data analysis
Input	Something that is taken in or operated on by Activity	Previous research	Raw data
Output	Something that is intentionally produced by Activity	Raw data	Derived (analyzed) data
Scope	Something that Activity is aimed at or deals with	Sample properties	One or more experiments
Condition	Something that affects or supports Activity, or gives it a specific context	Scientific instrument	IT environment
Actor	Something or somebody who participates in Activity	Investigator	Data analyst
Effect	Something that is a consequence of Activity	Environment pollution	New software module



What we (different stakeholders of the research lifecycle) actually want to monitor and exploit is “research value chains”,  
to ensure the golden-eggs-laying goose of research is productive =  
brings enough eggs for everyone involved.

Research activity cells combined in “grid” should result in better  
research navigation and research contextualization for everyone involved





# RDFS Plus representation (see in paper) and model extensions

```
@prefix rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>.
```

```
@prefix rm: <http://example.org/stuff/ResearchModel#>.
```

```
# For Conditions
```

```
rm:Regulation rdfs:subClassOf rm:Condition .
```

```
rm:DataManagementPolicy rdfs:subClassOf rm:Regulation .
```

```
# For Output
```

```
rm:Publication rdfs:subClassOf rm:Output .
```

```
rm:Dataset rdfs:subClassOf rm:Output .
```

```
# For Scope
```

```
rm:ExperimentalTechnique rdfs:subClassOf rm:Scope .
```

```
rm:SubjectCoverage rdfs:subClassOf rm:Scope .
```

```
# For properties
```

```
rm:activity_location rdfs:subPropertyOf rm:hasScope .
```

```
rm:activity_subject rdfs:subPropertyOf rm:hasScope .
```



# SPARQL queries in support of use cases

@prefix rdfs: <http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#>.

@prefix rm: <http://example.org/stuff/ResearchModel#>.

# How much research output, and how much of each type is out there:

```
SELECT ?output_type (COUNT(?output) as ?total)
```

```
WHERE {?output_type rdfs:subClassOf rm:Output .
```

```
    ?output a ?output_type .
```

```
}
```

```
GROUP BY ?output_type
```

# Discover the chains of interrelated activities:

```
SELECT ?previous_activity ?current_activity
```

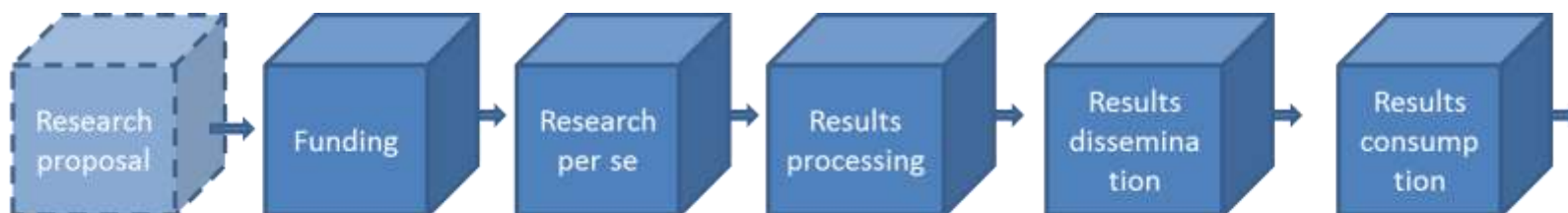
```
WHERE {?previous_activity rm:hasOutput ?output .
```

```
    ?output am:inputFor ?current_activity .}
```





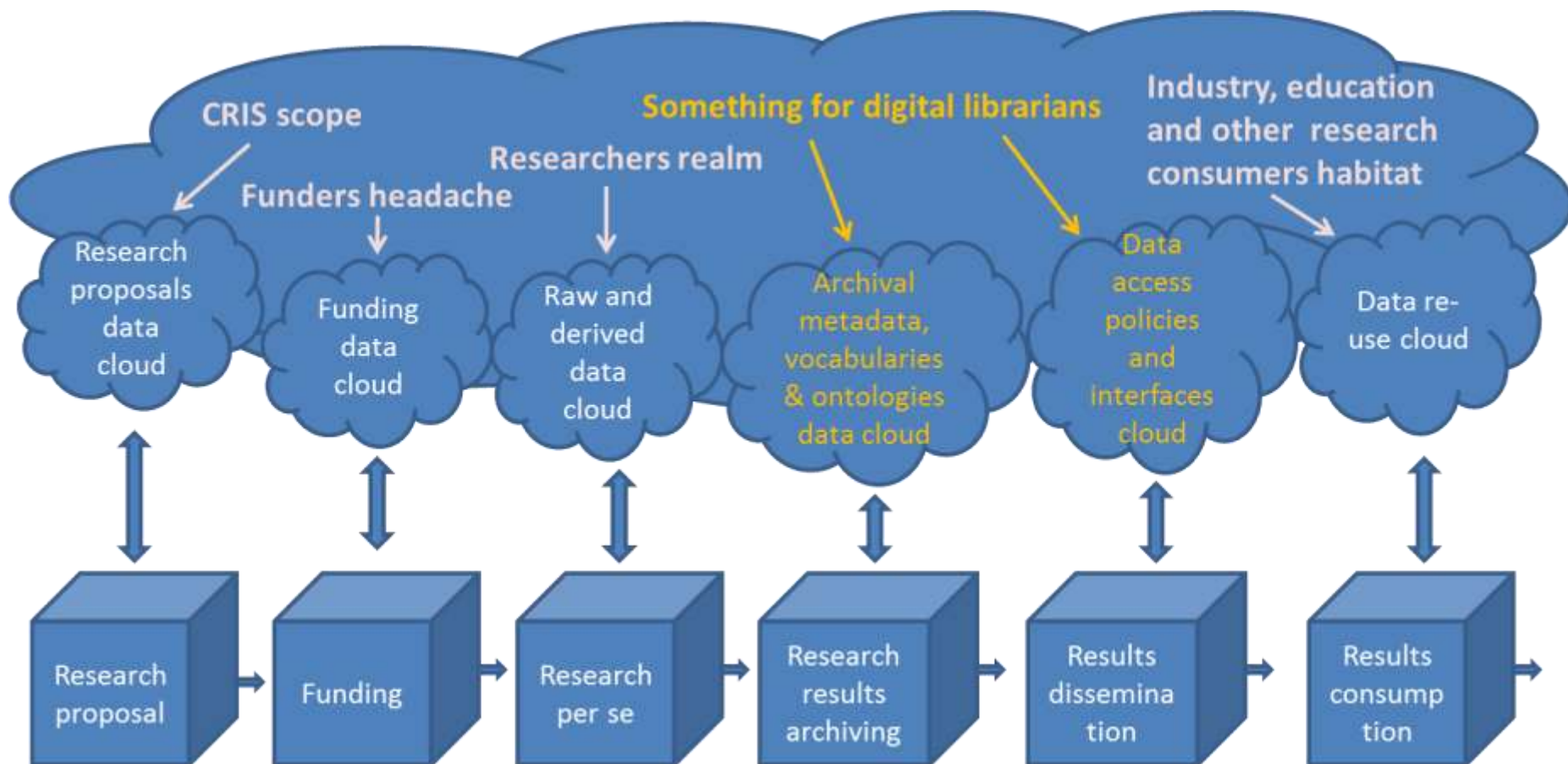
# Possible application: research provenance



RA model class	Funding	Research per se	Results processing	Results dissemination	Results consumption
Input	Research proposal	Award (grant)	Dataset	DDI record	DDI record or its manifestation
Output	Award (grant)	Dataset	DDI record	Web service	Feedback
Actor	Researcher candidate	Contributor (author)	Data archive	Dissemination service	Web service user
Effect	Researcher's department budget	Whatever is claimed in proposal	Economical effect of processing	Economical effect of distribution	Impact on further research
Condition	Funding body rules & regs	Microdata regulation	Data processing guidelines	Data access regulation	Research purpose statement
Scope	Certain branch of science	Certain geolocations	National research	International research	Certain HASSET keywords



# Collaborative curation of research data in “cloud of clouds”





# The model selling points ☺

- Small
- Extendable
- Allows widely adopted RDFS Plus manifestation
- (Right) balance between simplicity and expressivity
- (Right) balance between modeller's freedom and results interpretability



# Use cases for applying the model

- Research provenance, navigation and contextualization
- Semantic analysis and annotation of domain-specific metadata (DDI, CSMD, ...)
- Distributed discovery, curation, and re-use of the research information
- Long-term digital preservation



# Thank you!

