

Mapping Possible Paths Towards Financial Sustainability for Digital Research Resources

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Presenting for the AgBioData Sustainability Working Group

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Charge to Sustainability Working Group

RCN Aim 4.2: Conduct a detailed analysis and modeling of sustainability solutions for representative AgBioData member databases. This includes:

- Exploration of New Funding Avenues
- Investigation of Cost Reduction Techniques
- Assessment of Policy or Procedural Revisions Pertaining to Grant Funding

Prior and Future Actions of Sustainability Working Group

- Survey of AgBioData membership regarding sustainability (2022)
- Identification of possible exemplar resources (2023)
- Invitation of selected resources for further sustainability modeling (2023)
- Identification of existing sustainability models and lessons learned (2023)
- Release white paper on sustainability for AgBioData resources (2024)

Exploration of New Funding Avenues

- Voluntary membership
- Subscription models
- Implementing fees for data deposit
- Corporate backing
- Philanthropic contributions
- 'Freemium' options
- Crowdfunding

Investigation of Cost Reduction Techniques

- Collaboration in Curation and Software Development
- Curation by the Community or Data Providers
- Utilizing Shared Infrastructures

Assessment of Policy or Procedural Revisions Pertaining to Grant Funding

- Mechanisms to Capture User Interest
- Document the Importance of the Database to Its Stakeholders
- Mechanism to Capture Citations
- Tracking the Global Core Biodata Resources

Further Recommendations

- Exploration of bundling (e.g. multiple resources or services)
- Sustainability for many projects is based on diversification and addition

Questions to consider

- Who are all the parties that determine a resource's sustainability model?
- To what extent, can you document and understand each party's requirements?
- What does success look like for each party?

Personal Reflections

- Most models rely on understanding individual users constraints, motivations, and requirements
- Many models require a willingness to develop additional skills
- Benefits include improved rationalization and scalability

Thank you!

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