

Support for Data Resources in the Biosciences

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Bioinformatics and Biological Resources Fund (BBR)

Purpose: 'to provide proper support for resources such as databases, genetic resources and culture collections which require long term maintenance and curation'

This support includes:

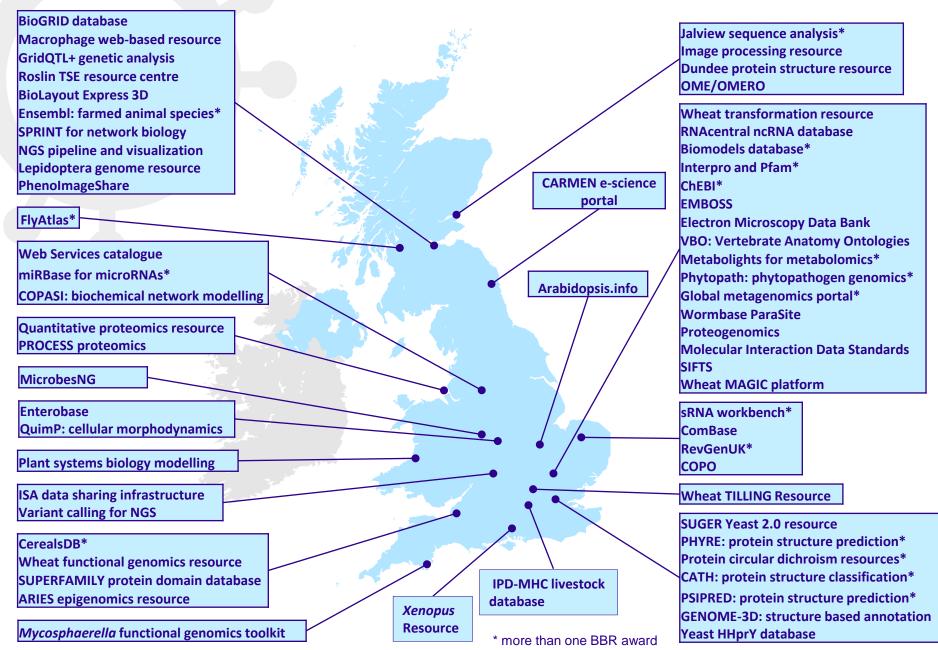
- high quality bioinformatics and biological resources
- establishment, maintenance and enhancement
 - Establishment and maintenance of a new resource
 - Maturation and subsequent maintenance of a project-based resource into a community-based one
 - Development and subsequent maintenance of an existing community resource to increase its relevance to a broader user group
 - Interfacing and integrating resources to better meet user need
- longer-term funding and a (relatively) stable environment for resource development and provision



Bioinformatics and Biological Resources Fund (BBR)

- Annual call since 2007, budget ~£6M pa, ~85 projects
- Wide range of underpinning and strategic resources supported, including UK participation in international projects
 - *Must have broad community support and user-base*
 - Must be an 'active' resource
 - Renewals allowed: tension between new vs renewals
 - Community decides
- Key role in enabling community data sharing efforts and supporting BBSRC's data sharing policy
- Broad impacts including highly cited publications
- Highly regarded by the research community and highlighted twice in Nature "as a good funding model for development and sustainability of resources and informatics tools."

BBR Fund projects: 2007-2014



International Funding for Resources:

Opportunities

- Value in international funding of data resources
 - Many resources are international by their nature
 - Share expertise, resources, cost and risk
- Can be achieved by bi- or multi-lateral funding agreements
- BBSRC has participated in many internationally funded programmes including
 - Subscription models
 - Pro rata partnerships
 - 'Lead agency' agreements



International Funding for Resources: Challenges

- International agreements on mechanisms
- Size of user bases in individual countries
- Scientific priority differences
- Remit questions across funder organisations

