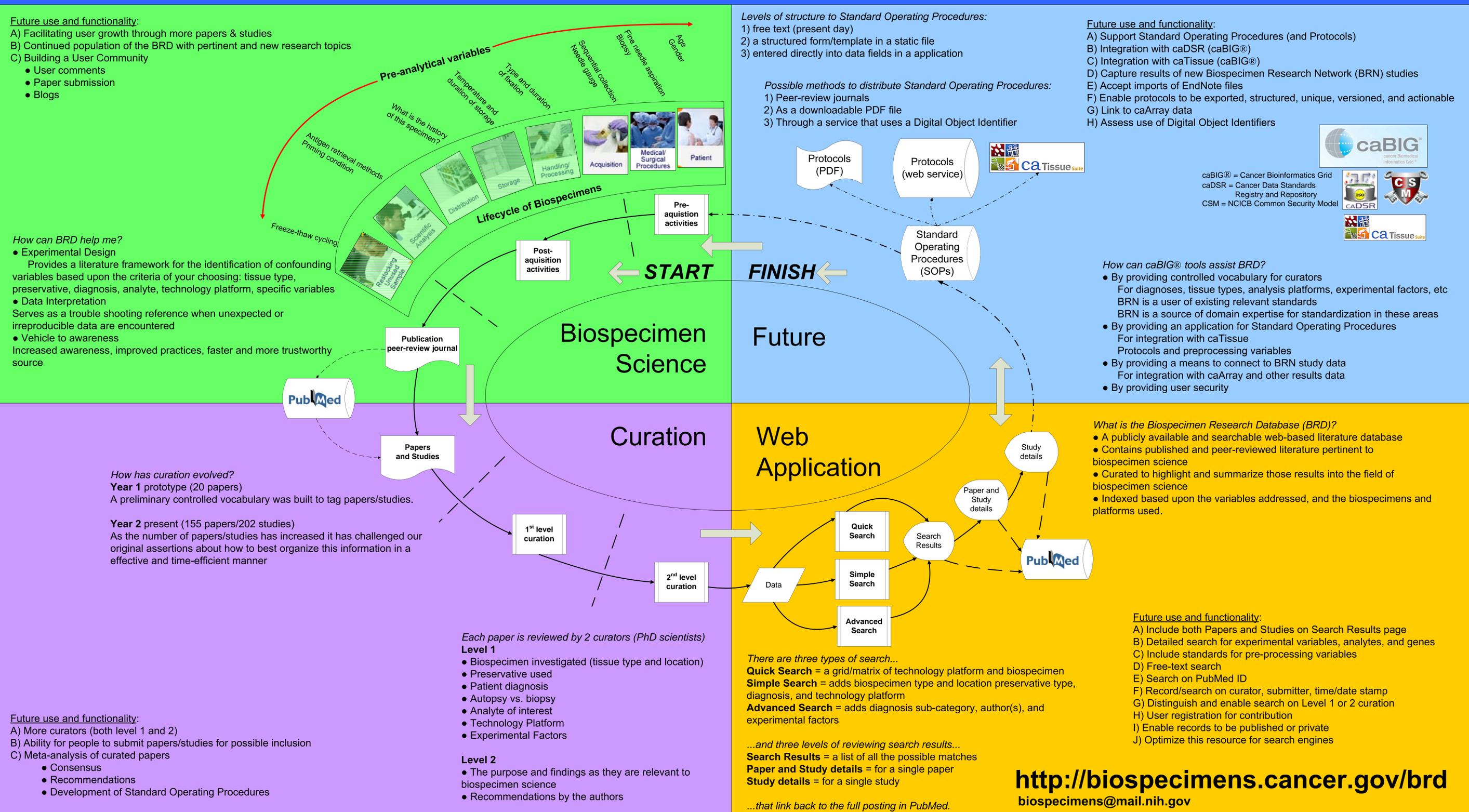


THE BIOSPECIMEN RESEARCH DATABASE: A COLLABORATION TO PRODUCE CURATED SEARCHABLE PROTOCOLS

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Abstract: The Biospecimen Research Database (BRD) is designed to address the problem of no reliable means to find well vetted, sufficiently expressed experimental protocols for creating biospecimens. This affects researchers in terms of the time to search for and find a relevant protocol to utilize. If one is not found then additional time and effort is required to develop their protocol. The impact of a solution would be to expedite scientific research. The ideal solution would be to provide a searchable, well-documented means to prepare a repeatable and consistent biospecimen through a curated protocol.

The BRD addresses this need by promoting the idea that data about biospecimen protocols should be structured in a way to allow easy search and use. Papers and studies are curated to identify technology platform, analyte, and biospecimen location. As the curated quantities that represent best practices increases the BRD will become a preferred starting point to find well annotated protocols. This will give rise to Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs) built from the meta-analysis of biospecimen protocols. By posting published SOPs in the BRD and making them searchable entities with the characteristics of being digitally unique, versioned, able to be referenced, and portable the BRD will fulfill part of the mission of the OBBR.

The BRD is the product of a unique cross disciplinary team (bioinformatics, biospecimen science, curation, and web publishing). To date we have convened biospecimen science subject matter experts and NCI stakeholders in a series of user group workshops to develop requirements. We examined biospecimen resources and examples of scientific collaboration using web systems. We increased the number of papers and studies from our original prototype and started establishing best practices for curation. We will present our accomplishments from the past year and seek input from the wider community represented by the BRN Symposium.