Levels of structure to Standard Operating Procedures:
1) Free text (present day)
2) A structured form/template in a static file
3) Entered directly into data fields in an application

Possible methods to distribute Standard Operating Procedures:
1) Peer review journals
2) As a downloadable PDF file
3) Through a service that uses a Digital Object identifier

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 their 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 platforms, analysis, 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 Procedures (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 OBIR.

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

Andrew W. Breychat, Kelly B. Engel, Andrea Kelly, Ian Fore, Helen Moore, Mark Lim.

1 Sapient, 2 Preferred Staffing Group, 3 Rose Li and Associates 4 National Cancer Institute, Center for Bioinformatics and Information Technology, 5 National Cancer Institute, Office of Biorepositories and Biospecimen Research, 6 American Association for the Advancement of Science

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.

http://biospecimens.cancer.gov/brd
biospecimens@mail.nih.gov