

Metadata Models for Experimental Science Data Management

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Interest Group

Task lead, NA on metadata standardisation,
NFFA-Europe



Science & Technology
Facilities Council

Large-Scale Analytic Facilities

Key challenges of the 21st century

- energy, global climate, health and security
- study matter at the scales

– from single atoms (10^{-10} m) to living cells (10^{-6} m) to whole systems (10^{-3} - 1 m)

High resolution “microscopes” → intense beams of particles → Specialist sources



Requires large scale research infrastructures that are beyond the capability of any single university or research group



Diamond

Photons (X-Rays) “see” electric charge – high atomic number nuclei



ISIS

Neutrons “see” nucleons – including hydrogen atoms

Experimental Method

- Fundamental in science
 - *The defining feature*
- Experimental methodology
 - A Subject of study
 - Controlled environmental conditions
 - Vary chosen parameters
 - Measure and take data
 - Analysis to interpret data
 - Compare with hypothesis (model)
- Data alone is useless
 - With some simple descriptive metadata
- Need full-context of the experiment
 - Restartability
 - Validation
 - Reproducibility



The science we do - Structure of materials



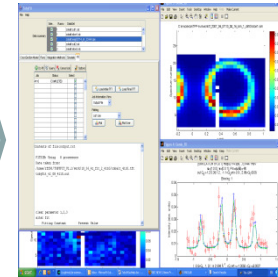
Visit facility on
research campus



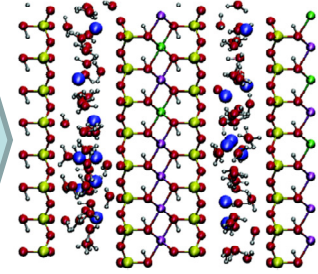
Place sample in
beam



Diffraction pattern
from sample



Fitting experimental
data to model



Structure of cholesterol
in crude oil

- A particular view on what an “experiment” is
 - Structural determination of materials
 - Possibly multiple runs, multiple techniques
 - Compared and contrast with computational models
 - Increasingly dynamics
 - May be used in a wider context
 - E.g. Drug candidates
- May differ from other views of experiments
 - Observations and measurements
 - Longitudinal studies
 - Etc
- But a “useful” subclass
 - And may be generalisable (?)



Data Management Systems

ICAT Data Management Suite

Integrated data management pipelines

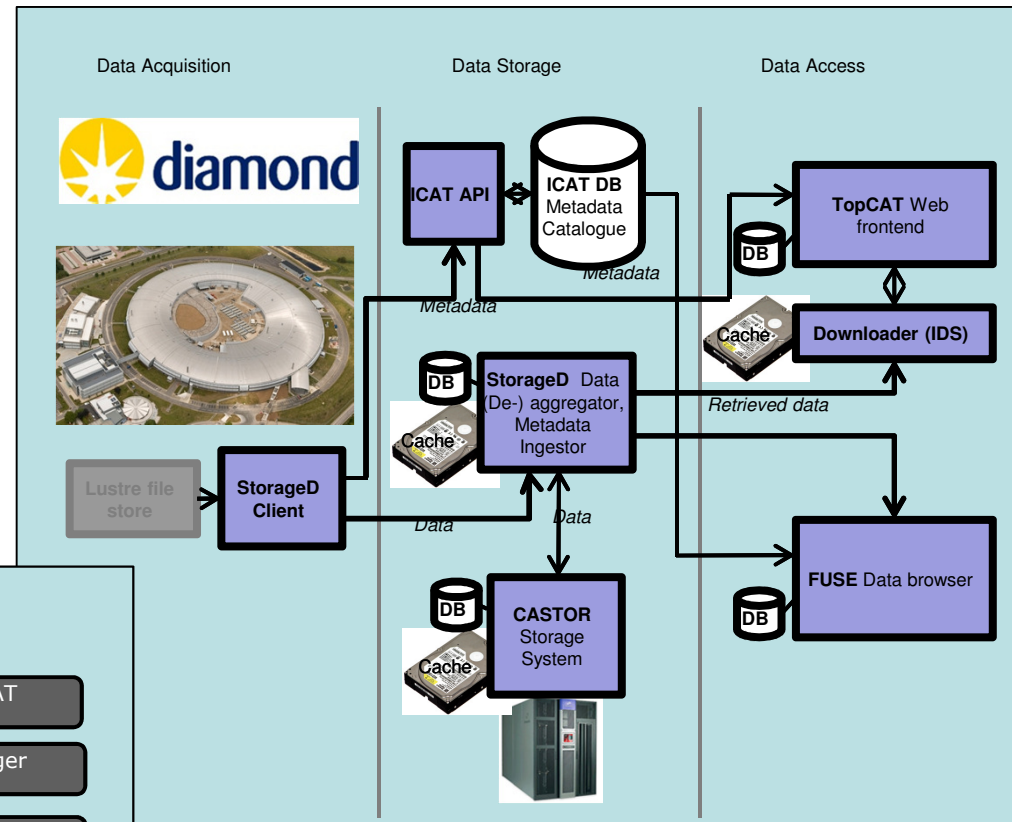
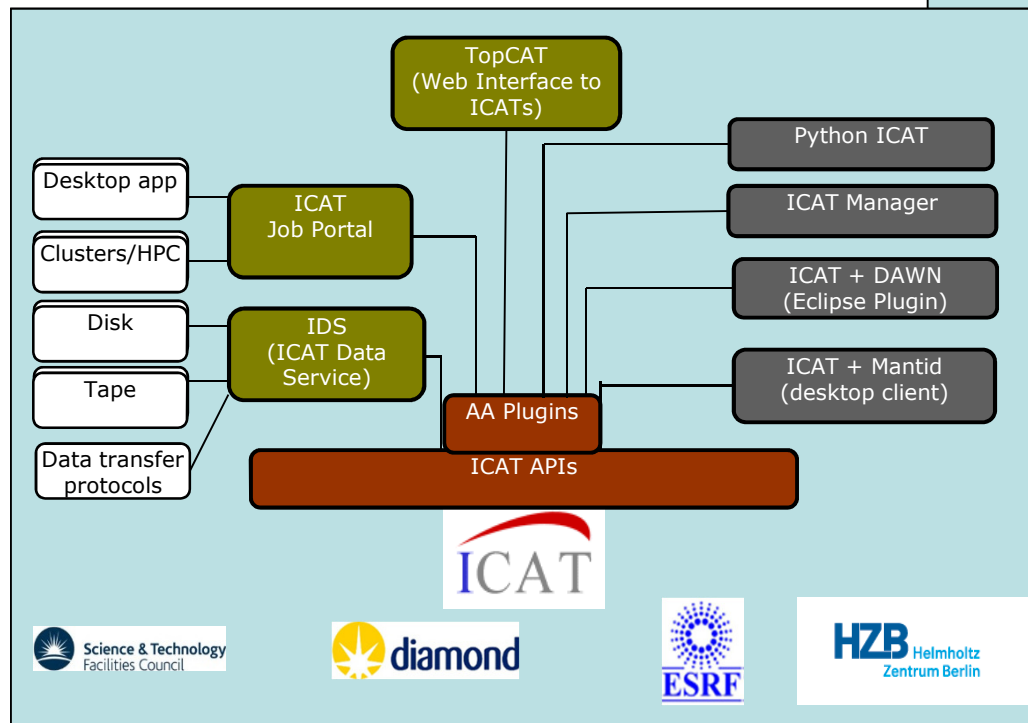
- From data acquisition to storage to publication

Metadata as Middleware

- A Catalogue of Experimental Data
- Automated metadata capture
- Integrated with the User Office and data acquisition system

Providing access to the user

- TopCat web front end
- Integrated into Analysis frameworks
 - Mantid for Neutrons, DAWN for X-Rays



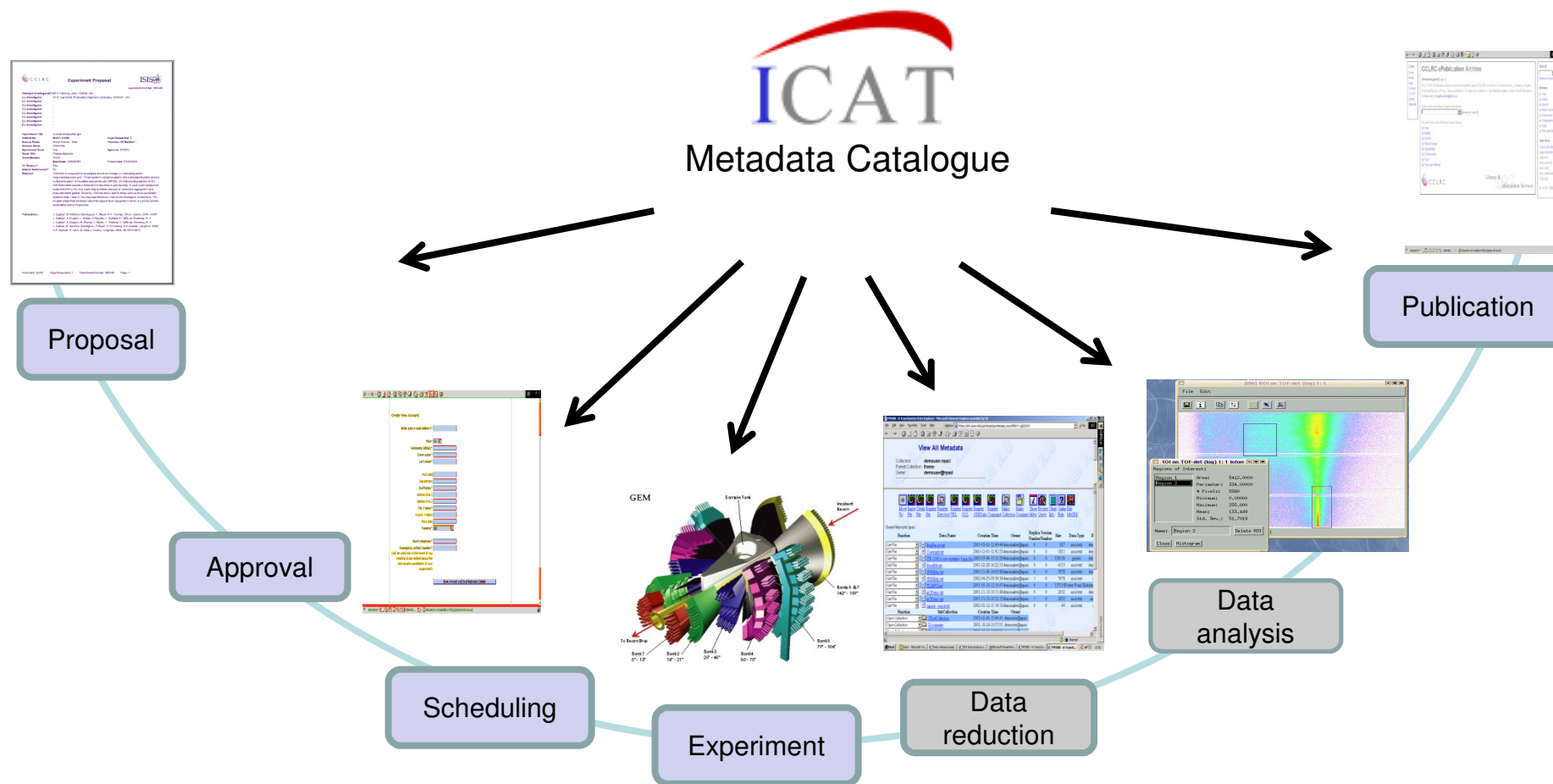
15 years effort to build data management systems

DLS Archive of
 - 4.7PB, 1100 million files (Aoril 2016)
 • cf 2.2PB, 620m Jan 2015

ISIS Data Archive
 • ~50Tb
 • Full experimental Metadata

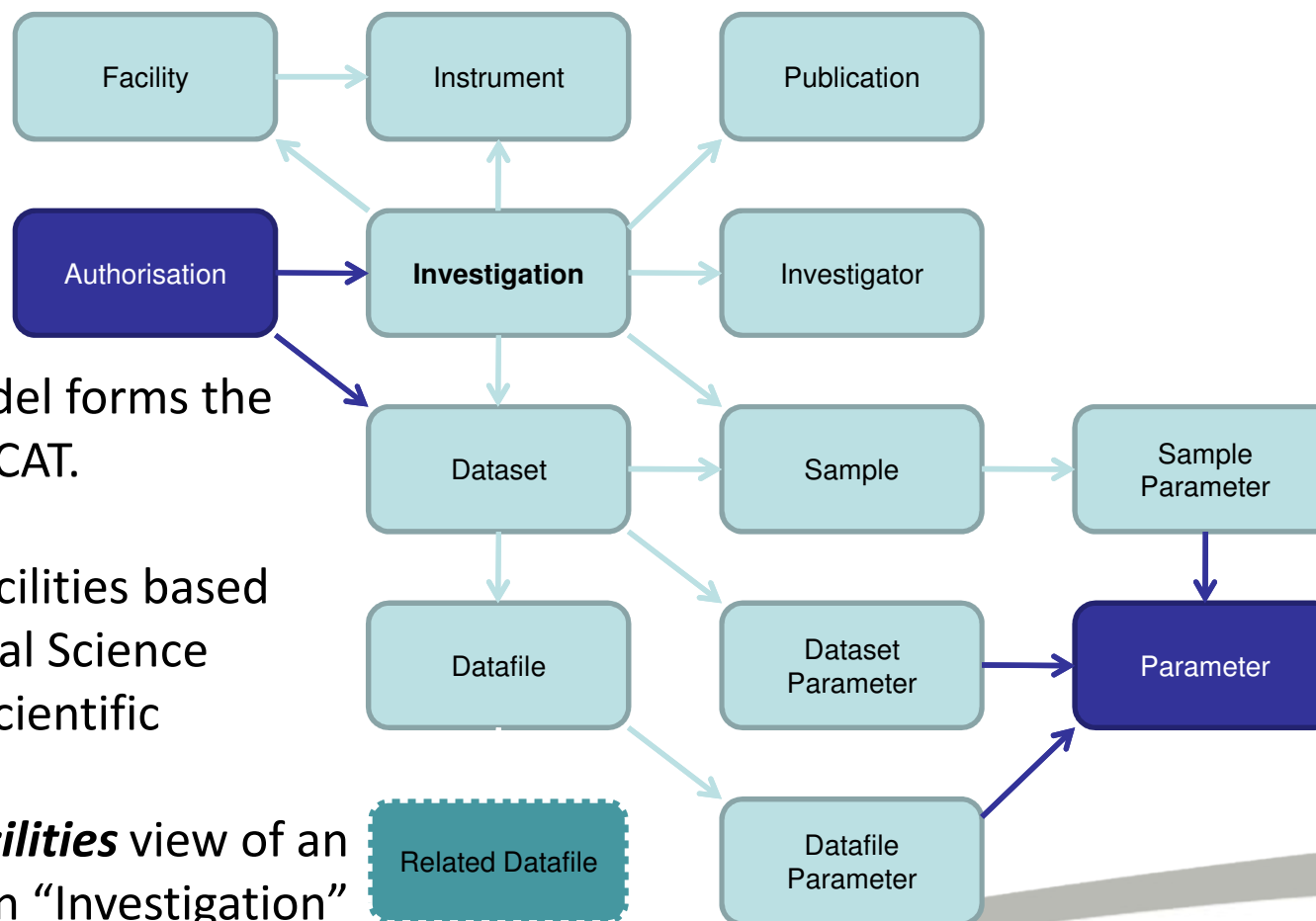
ICAT Open Source Collaboration: www.icatproject.org

Facility Data Lifecycle



<http://www.icatproject.org>

Core Scientific Metadata Model (CSMD)



The Core Metadata model forms the information model for ICAT.

Designed to describe facilities based experiments in Structural Science throughout a facility's scientific workflow.

- Uses a ***Facilities*** view of an experiment – an “Investigation” (proposal)

For use within the repository for organising data

<http://purl.org/net/CSMD>

<http://icatproject.org/CSMD/>

An open access resource for experimental & theoretical nanoscience

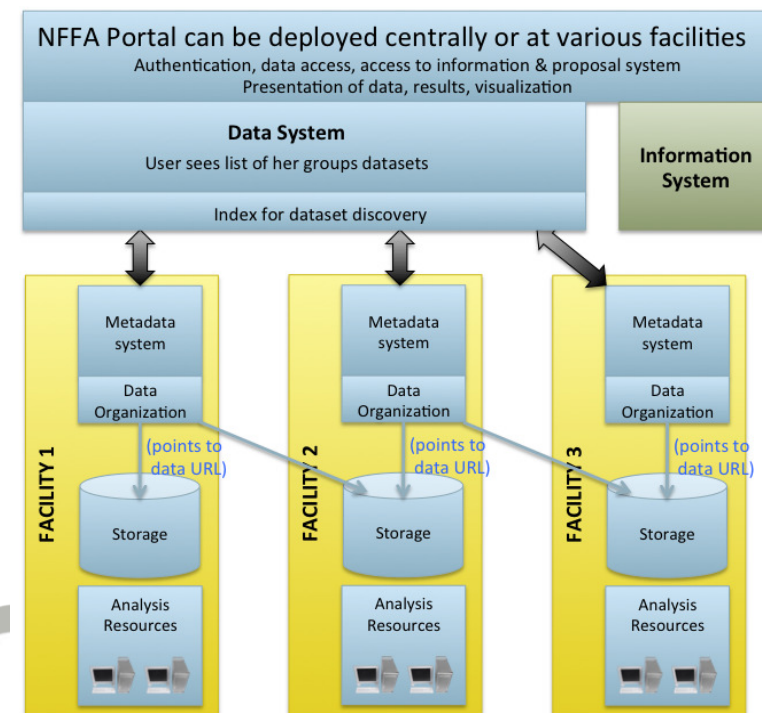
Information and Data Management Repository Platform for nanoscience

- An integrated platform
 - covering the full research cycle by the users.
 - automatic acquisition of key metadata
 - a data repository for future data access

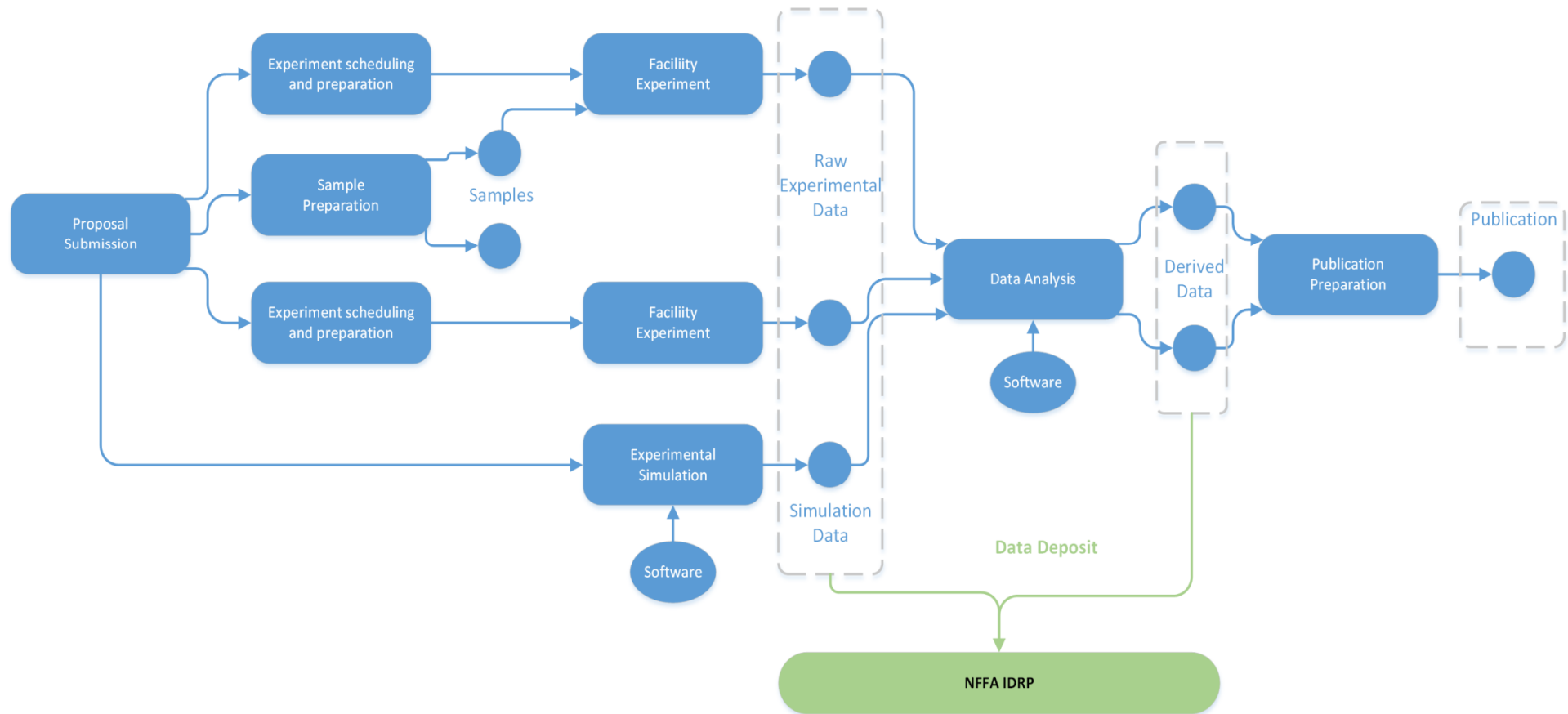
Defining metadata standards for data sharing in nanoscience

- To represent data from nanoscience experiment and theoretical analysis.
- Use currently available standards e.g. from PaNData project.
- STFC, CNR-IOM, ESRF, KIT, FORTH

➤ **Materials IG - and International Materials Resource Registries WG**



Metadata for Nanomaterials Data



- Workflow for Nano-structured Science
- Metadata focussed around the Project
 - A user centred view
- NFFA Deliverable 11.2: Draft Metadata Standard
 - 29th February 2016

Core vocabulary for Entities

Experiment Concepts

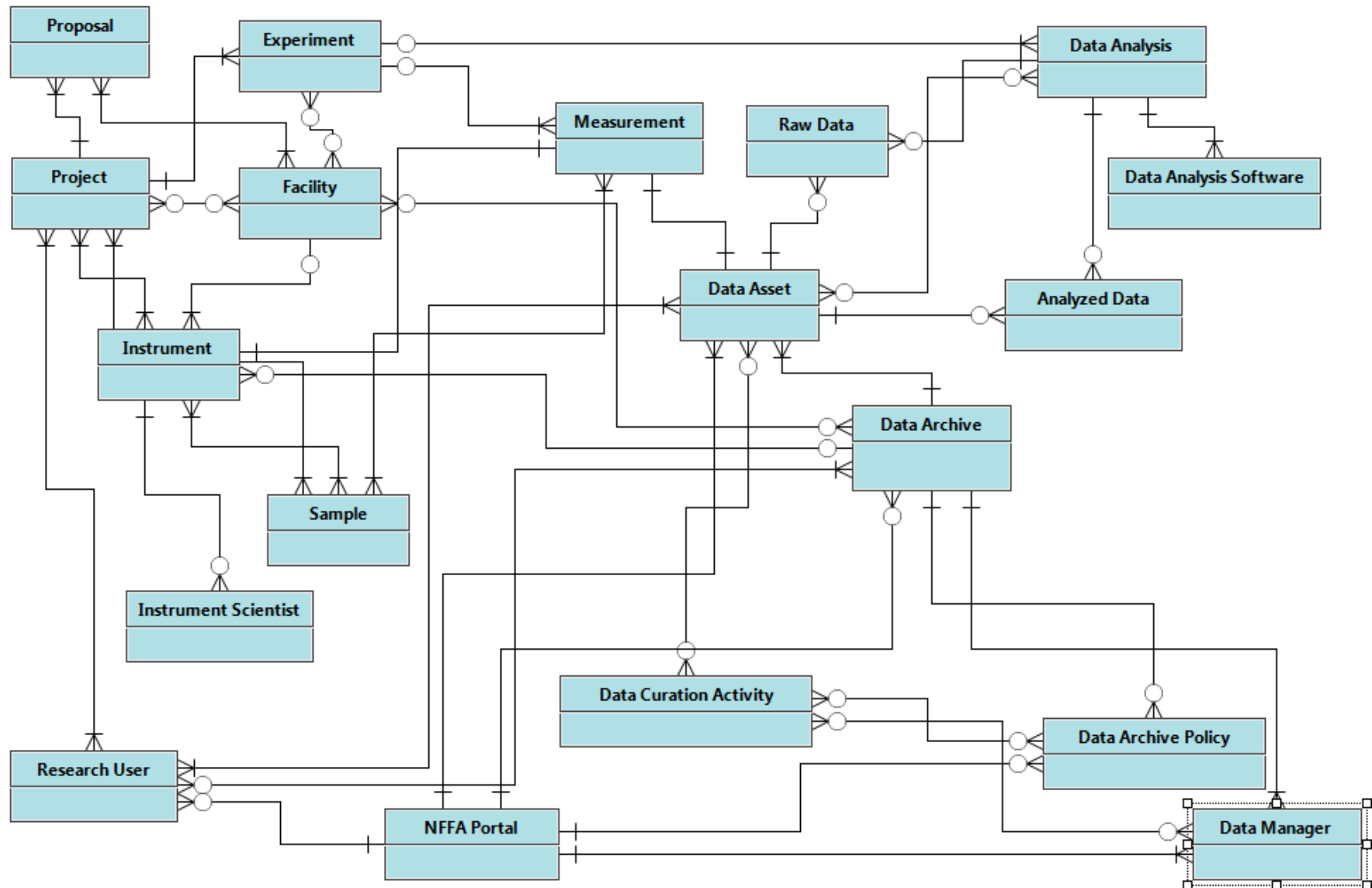
- Research User
- Instrument Scientist. .
- Project
- Proposal
- Facility
- Instrument
- Experiment
- Measurement
- Sample

Data Concepts

- Raw Data
- Analyzed Data
- Data Asset
- Data Analysis
- Data Analysis Software
- Data Archive
- Data Policy
- Data Manager
- Data Curation Activity



Relations between Entities



Not just us of course:

Chemical Process Description

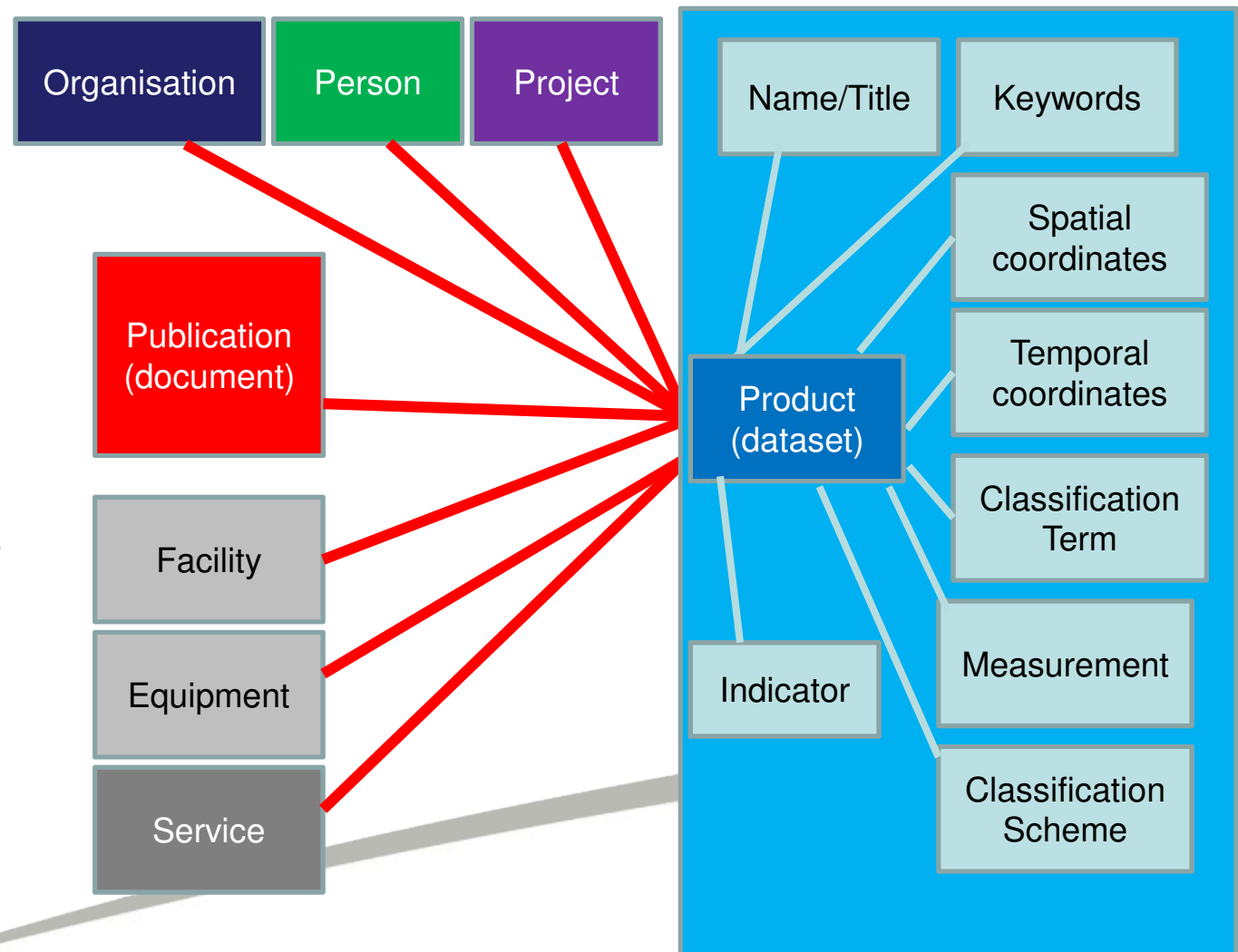
- Experimental process
- Measurement parameters
- Sample description/preparation
- Observation/outcome description
- Data analysis
- Reaction transformation
- Equipment/apparatus
- Laboratory/environmental parameters
- Metadata used in data models (e.g., oreChem)
- XML standards (e.g., AnIML, S88)
- Methods ontologies (e.g., ChMO)
- Analytical terminology (e.g., IUPAC Orange Book)
- Incident analysis (e.g., BowTie)



RDA Metadata IG Common Concepts

- RDA Metadata IG
- Defining common concepts
 - Straw man
- Need to agree good definitions
 - Take into account models of experimental science

Keith Jeffrey



For RDA

- FAIR: Interoperability, Reusability
 - Entities in a Core Metadata Vocabulary
 - Agreed definitions
 - Nature of Relationship between entities
 - Base Attributes for all Entities
- Based on models for research processes
 - General enough to be in common
 - Specific enough to be useful
- Role of Pids
 - Pids for everything!
- Relationships to other metadata
 - Provenance, Preservation ...

