

# Library-Mediated Data Curation Collaborations

## Examples from a National Library



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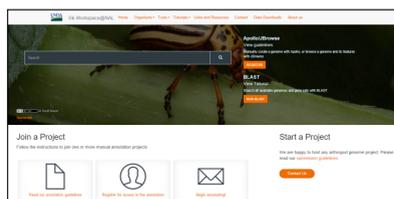
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### Motivation

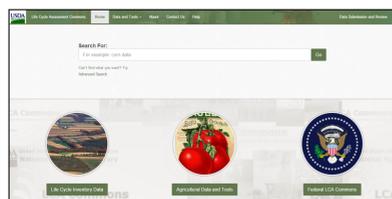
In partnership with the U.S. National Agricultural Library (NAL), we examine the various ways its Knowledge Services Division (KSD) mediate data curation collaborations in agricultural sciences. The goal of this project is to identify types of library-mediated collaboration in agricultural data curation and the relative expectations and responsibilities that library professionals play in those contexts.

### Method

Participant observation via active engagement with KSD staff and interviews with those working on data curation projects. We studied four library-mediated collaboration projects:



i5k Workspace



Life Cycle Assessment Commons (LCA)

Long-Term Agroecosystem Research (LTAR)

Ag Data Commons



### Research Questions

Libraries are thought to play a significant role in facilitating collaboration in data curation. However, very few studies examine this expectation in depth.

- **How does NAL facilitate collaborative data curation projects, and**
- **How do participants in those library-mediated collaborations identify and assess the value and outcomes of such endeavors?**

### Key Preliminary Findings

Collaboration can take place at the level of the project (working with other organizations to complete projects) or at the level of the user (facilitating collaboration through online access systems). Thus, collaboration is not one dimensional and librarians must learn how to facilitate a range of collaborative arrangements. Developing these relationships benefits data curation projects, bringing together disciplinary knowledge with information expertise and technical resources.

### Overview of KSD Projects and Collaborative Arrangements

	I5k	LTAR	LCA	ADC
Scientific Field	Insect Genomics	Agro-ecology	Life Cycle Assessment	All agricultural science
Types of Data	Gene sequences	Meteorological instruments, hydrology, ecological data	Unit processes for use in model construction	Inclusive of research data from agricultural sciences
Collaborative Nature of Project	Facilitates collaboration for users through sharing of gene annotations. Project grew out of relationship between USDA researchers and international community of insect genomics researchers.	NAL serves as data curation organization for network of 18 research sites maintained by USDA and land grant universities.	Following the success of initial project, NAL partnering with 2 other federal agencies (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency) to develop federal LCA Commons, uniting access to public LCA data.	Infrastructure building project which promises to lead to additional collaboration between NAL and agricultural researchers, inside and outside of the government.

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