

The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of glowing blue and purple lines that curve and swirl, creating a sense of motion and depth. Interspersed among these lines are various binary digits (0s and 1s) and some faint, stylized text, giving the overall image a digital or data-driven aesthetic.

If You Share It, Will They Come? Quantifying and Characterizing Reuse of Biomedical Research Data

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Data Science and Open Science Librarian
Office of Strategic Initiatives
National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health

Overview



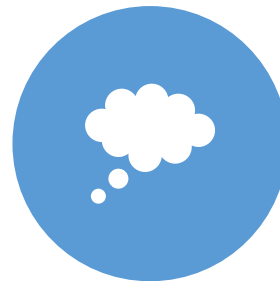
Background: where did all these datasets come from?



Methods



Findings: what happens with these datasets once they're shared?



Implications



Background



Cheaper and
faster data
generation

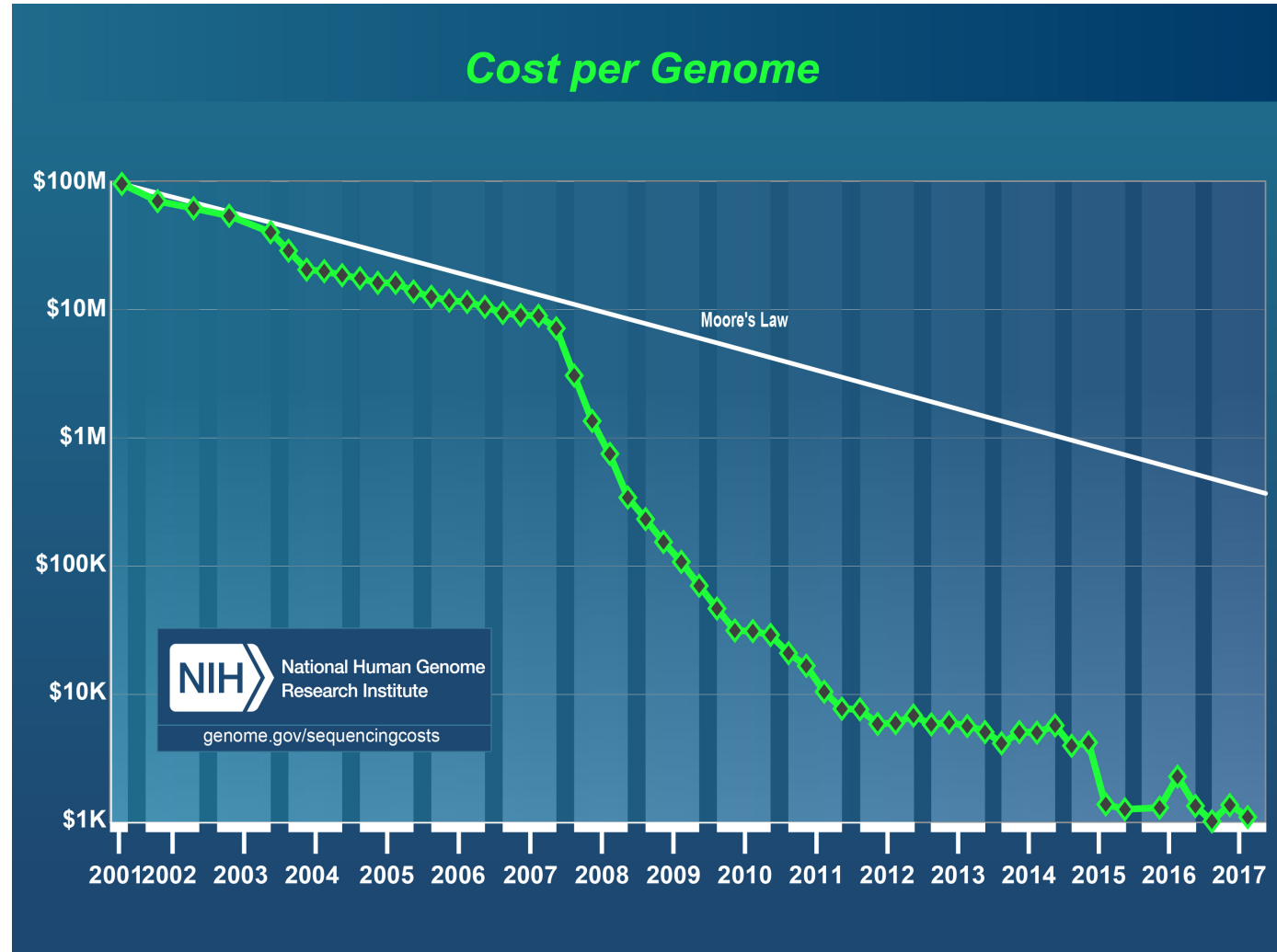
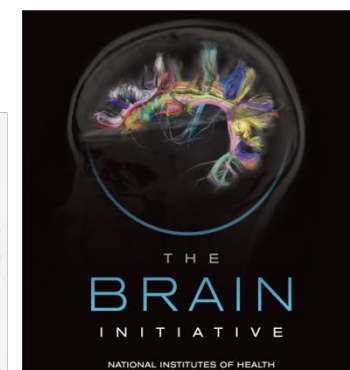
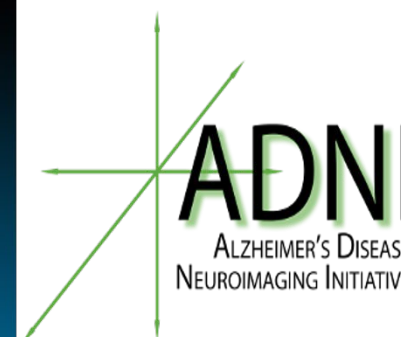
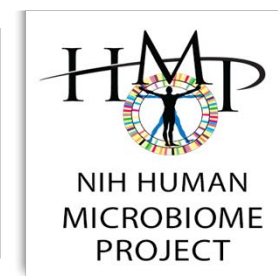
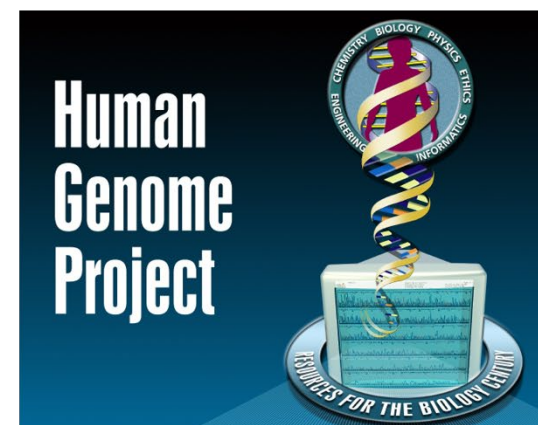
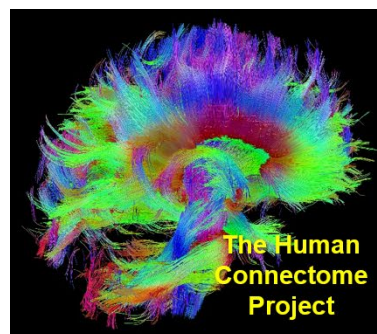


Image source: National Human Genome Research Institute

Greater
availability of
data

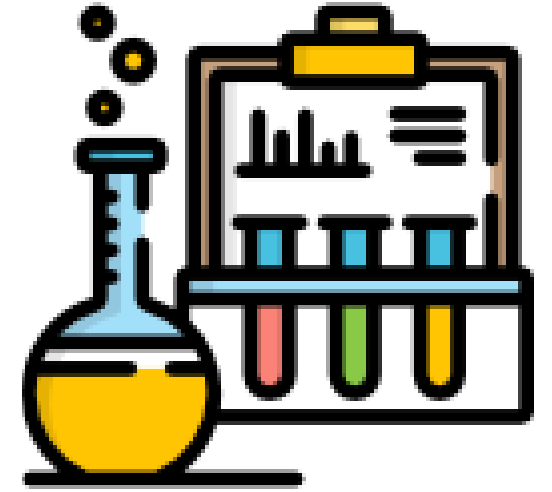


Funder and
journal
sharing
policies



National Institutes of Health

- The primary biomedical and public health research agency of the United States
 - 27 Institutes and Centers focused on diseases, organ systems, and types of research
 - Invests nearly \$37.3 billion annually in medical research
- Extramural research program: awards more than 50,000 competitive grants annually to research in every US state and around the world
- Intramural research program
 - World's largest biomedical research institution
 - Nearly 6,000 scientists, primarily at the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland



National Library of Medicine

- An Institute of the NIH (1968)
 - Lead, conduct, and support research and training in biomedical:
 - Information science
 - Informatics
 - Data science
- The world's largest biomedical library (1836)
 - Create & host major resources, tools, & services for literature, data, standards, & more
 - Send > 115 terabytes of data to > 5 million users daily
 - Receive > 15 terabytes of data from > 3,000 users daily
 - Facilitate open science & scholarship by making digital research objects:
 - Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, & Reusable (FAIR)
 - As well as Attributable & Sustainable



But what's happening with all the data?

Existing research has explored:

- Researchers' attitudes about data reuse
- Factors that influence researchers' choice to use a particular dataset
- Subjective experiences of researchers in a few particular disciplines



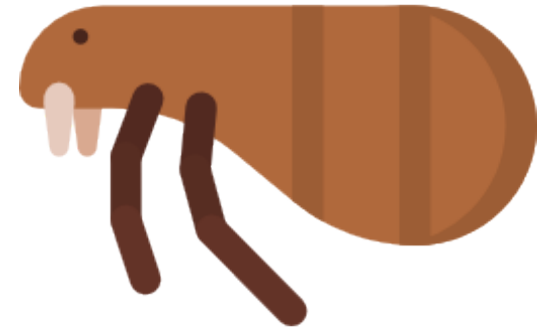
Why does this matter?



Science as a credit economy



Bibliometrics as a means to
quantify impact



Quantifying impact of shared data
enables reward to creators (no
more “research parasites”)



Methods

Sampling and data collection



A proxy for reuse: use requests

Requestor: Abbosh, Philip

Affiliation: RESEARCH INST OF FOX CHASE CAN CTR

Project: Identification of microbial genomic material in genitourinary and gastrointestinal tumors

Date of approval: Nov 29, 2017

Request status: approved

Research use statements ([Hide](#))

Technical Research Use Statement

Non-Technical Research Use Statement

Aim: To identify viral, bacterial, or fungal organisms which are found in or on genitourinary (GU) or gastrointestinal (GI) cancer tissues from human patients. **Hypothesis:** Viral, bacterial, or fungal organisms are found in or on human cancer tissues. **Rationale:** Microscopic organisms have been identified in multiple tumor types and are hypothesized to affect the way that patients respond to cancer therapies. I hypothesize that microbes may be present in GI or GU cancers due to contact with urine or fecal material. To preliminarily investigate this hypothesis, whole genome sequencing (WGS) data from GI and GU cancers (BLCA, KICH, KIRC, KIRP, PRAD, TGCT, COAD) will be analyzed using PathSeq (Nature Biotechnology 29:393), or similar informatic algorithms which subtract out human sequences from WGS output to identify sequences from the remaining non-human reads using BLAST. In addition, we will perform validation of the identified organism by searching raw RNAseq reads, which may contain RNA from the same organisms. The controlled data in these databases will be used to identify microbial species within the tumor. We will then utilize the clinical metadata provided (age, gender, smoking history, and stage) and other parameters (RNA expression subtype) to conduct logistic regression and perform correlation analysis (MaAsLin) to identify the microbes with the strongest biological associations. This will be performed in collaboration with Dr. Leigh Greathouse (Baylor University, TX, USA). If certain species of microbes are found recurrently, especially if they are not known to be commensal in that organ or are known to be associated with other tumor types, then further experiments will be undertaken independent of TCGA to identify these organisms in tumors from cancer patients in my laboratory. Specifically, we will perform 16S rRNA hypervariable region deep sequencing, or design primers to amplify specific species identified in TCGA data from human biosamples prospectively collected at Fox Chase.

Sample dbGaP use request

Requestor	Affiliation	Studies	Request Date
Jessica Stahl	University of Washington	CKiD	10/18/18

Executive Summary: The purpose of this study is to describe the burden of mental health disorders in children and adolescents with chronic kidney disease. Analysis will utilize the prospective cohort design of the chronic kidney disease in children (CKiD) dataset to assess existing mental health issues at the time of patient enrollment and to track subsequent incident diagnoses. All participants in the CKiD cohort will be included. Despite the large number of children with chronic kidney disease and known associations of CKD with worsened neurodevelopmental outcomes, as well as the association of chronic illness in general with higher rates of mental health conditions, this problem is not well described in CKD populations. This study will help provide information to address the mental health needs of children with chronic kidney disease.

Sample NIDDK use request

Repositories in the study



Genomic data



Clinical data






National Institute of
Diabetes and Digestive
and Kidney Diseases

NIDDK Central Repository



Data included in the study

	 dbGaP	 NHLBI	 NIDDK	All combined
Datasets	1,014	146	77	1,237
Total requestors	5,260	N/A	253	5,513
Total institutional affiliations	1,230	1,001	195	2,426
Total requests	9,444	1,939	416	11,799
Total datasets requested	104,326	3,864	506	108,696



Findings



What's happening with all these datasets?



Requests by reuse type

Category	Definition
Original research study	use of a single dataset to answer a new research question, distinct from the specific question for which the data were originally collected
Meta-analysis study	aggregation or integration of the dataset with other datasets to answer a research question or conduct a formal meta-analysis
Statistical methods study	use of one or more datasets to develop or verify new statistical methodology
Software or tool development study	use of one or more datasets to develop, test, or validate a new software product or analysis tool
Validation	use of one or more datasets to validate other findings, such as validating findings from an animal model in human subjects
Comparison or control	use of one or more datasets to validate the investigator's own data, provide comparison, or serve as a control group
Reproducibility or reanalysis study	reanalysis of one or more datasets to answer the same question for which the data were originally collected or to verify the original study's findings
Infrastructure	use of one or more datasets to populate a database or repository for internal or institutional use

Reuse types

Reuse type	 dbGaP Requests		 NIDDK requests	
	N	%	N	%
Original research	460	2.3%	282	50.27%
Meta-analysis	14,619	72.4%	139	24.78%
Comparison	858	4.3%	2	0.36%
Validation	221	1.2%	14	2.5%
Statistics	2,242	11.1%	84	15.0%
Software	1,097	5.4%	14	2.5%
Infrastructure	644	3.2%	0	0%
Re-analysis	11	0.05%	2	0.36%
Reuse type not specified	2	0.01%	24	4.28%

($\chi^2 = 4547$, $df = 8$, $p < 0.01$)

Automated coding for reuse topic

The screenshot displays the NLM Medical Text Indexer interface. At the top, there are four buttons: 'Search', 'Reset', 'Help/FAQ', and 'Features'. Below these is a text area containing a paragraph of medical text. A blue arrow points to the word 'tumors' in the text. To the right of the text area are two buttons: 'Start PubMed Search' and 'Export Data'. Below these buttons is a section titled 'MeSH Terms' which lists several terms, each preceded by an 'i' icon. A blue arrow points to the term 'Neoplasms'.

Search Reset Help/FAQ Features

The objective of our study is to determine whether the p53 status of various tumors wild type vs mutant correlates with up or downregulation of the mRNA expression of selected transposons and retrotransposons. To do so we plan to look at the raw sequences of p53 in selected tumors via the TCGA on CGhub which will enable us to determine whether the tumor in each case is wild type or mutant. Then we will query cBio Portal for the mRNA expression levels of selected transposons and retrotransposons. Our analysis will involve correlating the p53 status with the mRNA expression of each case and conventional statistical assessments will be applied. At every step our proposed analyses will strictly adhere to all guidelines and restrictions outlined for use of these data sets. We will not combine the requested datasets with others outside of the dbGaP and no inter institutional collaborations will be involved. We will only be using the raw sequences of DNA and the mRNA expression levels in the analysis described above.

Start PubMed Search

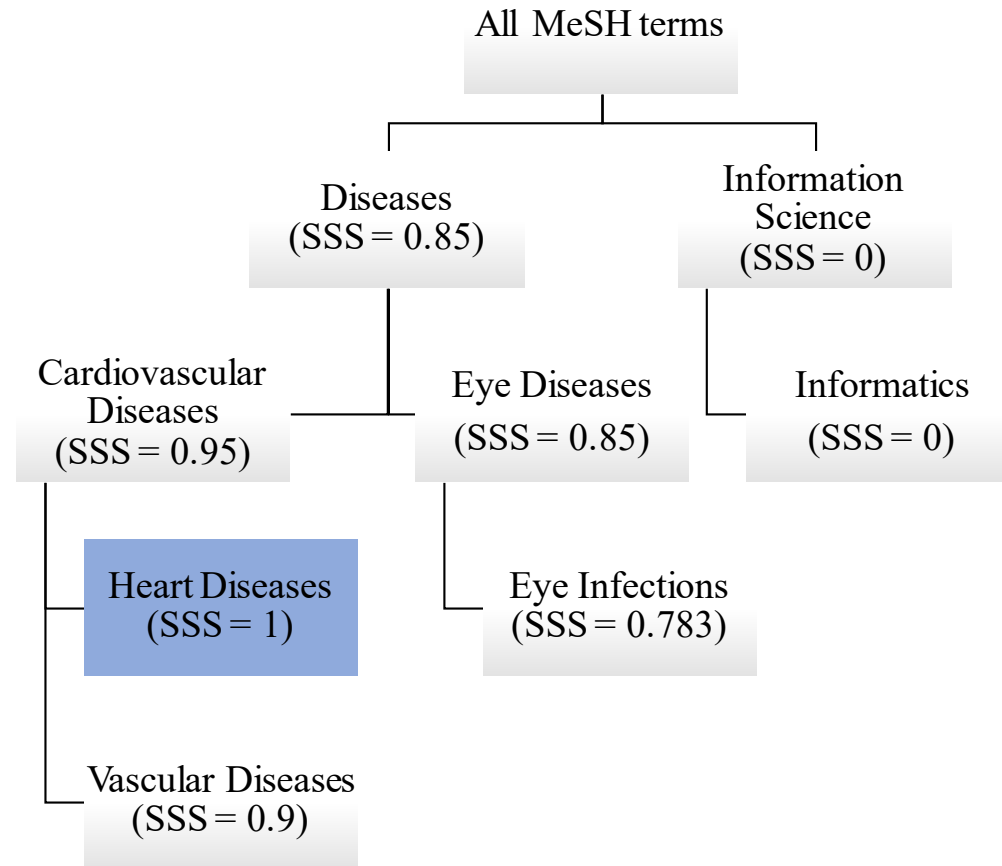
Export Data

MeSH Terms

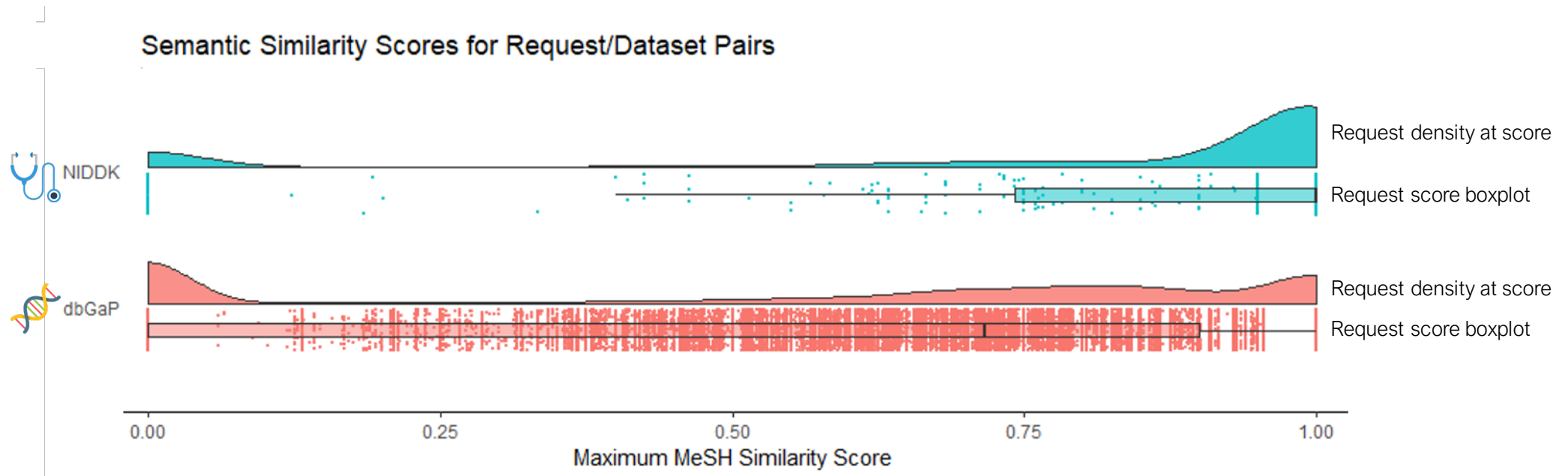
- i Retroelements
- i Down-Regulation
- i Tumor Suppressor Protein p53
- i Neoplasms ←
- i Biochemical Phenomena
- i RNA, Messenger

NLM Medical Text Indexer: <https://ii.nlm.nih.gov/MTI/>

MeSH terms and semantic similarity



Request/dataset topic similarity

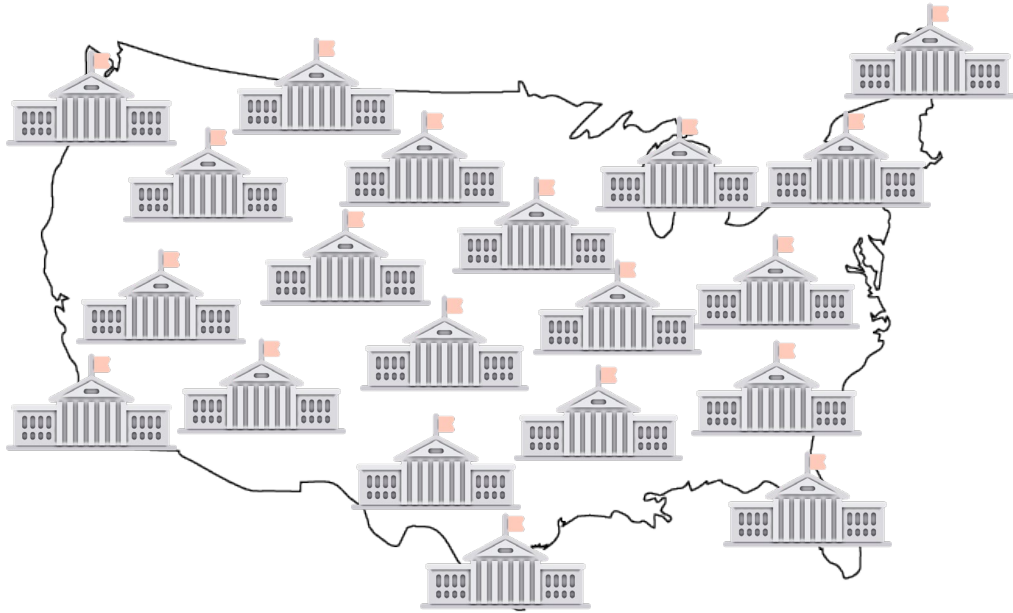


Coding for career stage and institution location

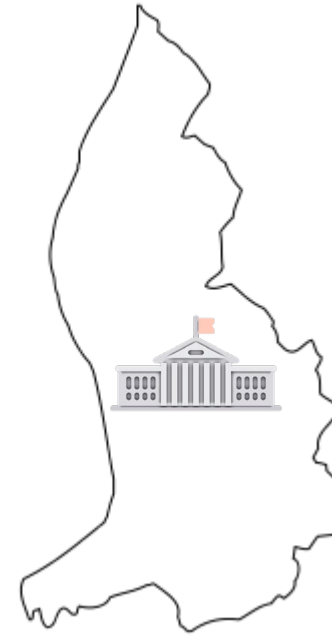
Name	Institution	Date	Status
Doe, John	Duke University	15-Jan-14	assoc_prof
Doe, John	Duke University	25-Jan-17	prof

Institution Name	# of requests	Latitude	Longitude	Country
University of Oulu	10	65.093	25.4663	Finland
deCODE Genetics, EHF	78	64.1265	-21.8174	Iceland

Calculating relative difference in composition

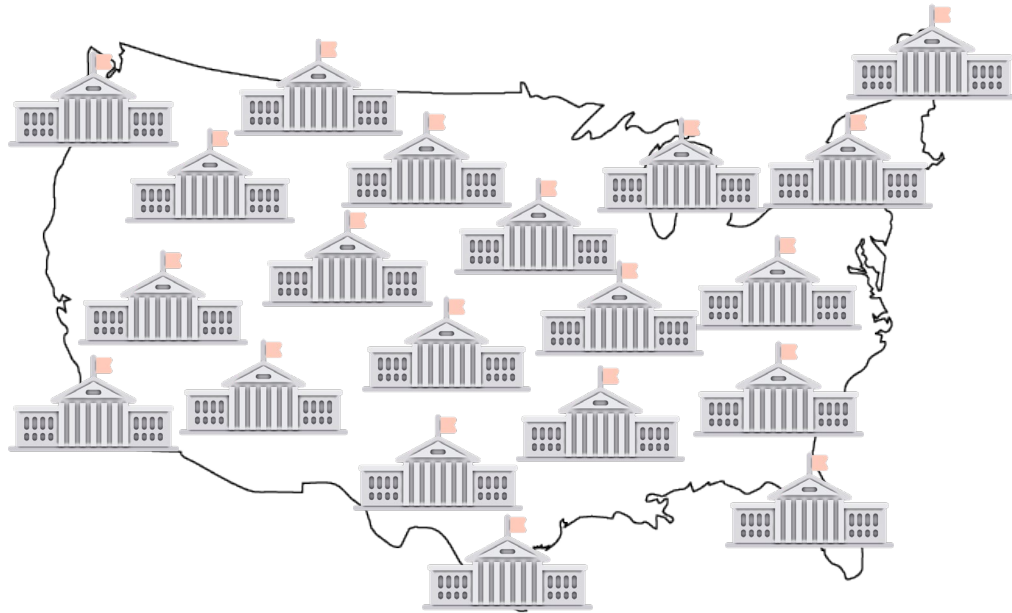


United States



Liechtenstein

Calculating relative difference in composition (RDC)



United States

Difference in composition = % of world requests – % of world universities

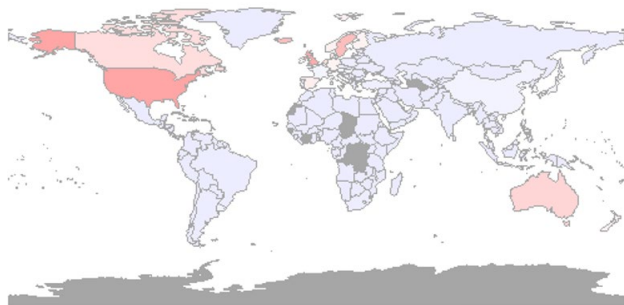
$$\text{RDC} = \frac{\text{Difference in composition}}{\% \text{ of world universities}} \times 100$$

Difference in composition = 67.8% of requests came from US – 11.6% of all universities are in US = 56.2%

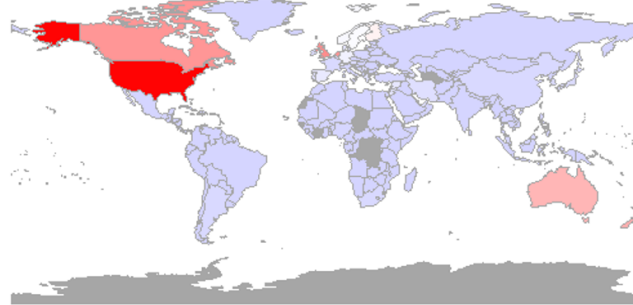
$$\text{RDC} = \frac{56.2\%}{11.6\%} \times 100 = 484.5\%$$

RDC of requests/research presence

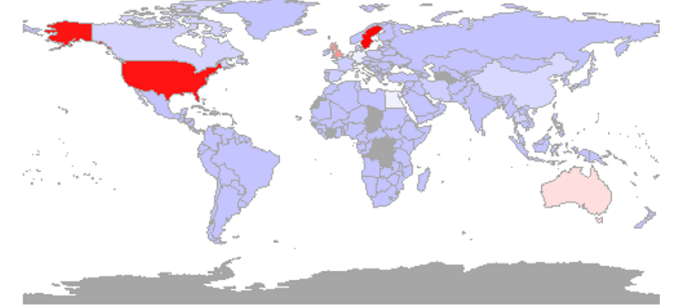
dbGaP 






NHLBI 





NIDDK 



Most overrepresented countries

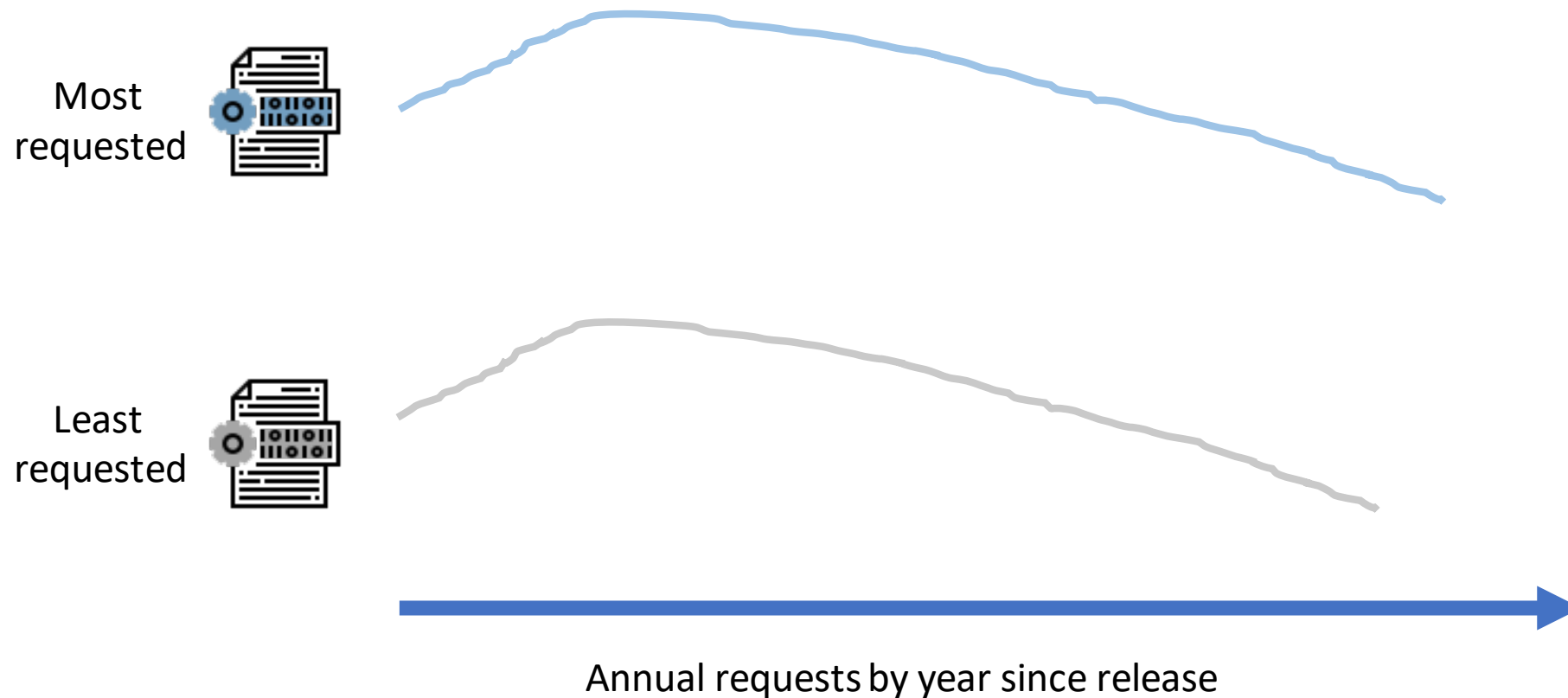
Country	University Count	 dbGaP		 NIDDK		 NHLBI	
		N	RDC	N	RDC	N	RDC
Australia	188	183	221%	6	55%	35	170%
Canada	355	301	179%	2	-72%	85	246%
Cyprus	26	1	-89%	1	84%	0	-100%
Finland	46	23	65%	0	-100%	4	28%
Germany	465	223	58%	2	-26%	22	-32%
Iceland	9	12	337%	0	-100%	0	-100%
Israel	42	77	501%	0	-100%	10	248%
Italy	239	86	19%	5	2%	1	-94%
Luxembourg	3	14	1,397%	0	-100%	0	-100%
Netherlands	133	106	162%	2	-26%	32	248%
New Zealand	56	27	60%	0	-100%	11	186%
Qatar	9	0	-100%	0	-100%	1	56%
Singapore	45	44	224%	0	-100%	3	-6%
Sweden	46	63	352%	5	431%	3	-8%
Switzerland	102	59	90%	2	-4%	4	-42%
United Kingdom	280	471	484%	16	179%	71	267%
United States	3,257	5,773	484%	338	406%	1,556	592%

Career status of requestors

Career Stage	Title	 Percent of dbGaP requests	 Percent of NIDDK requests
Pre-professional	Student	0.7%	1.8%
	Fellow	0.7%	3.1%
	Total	1.4%	4.9%
Early career	Assistant Professor	19.1%	27.6%
	Resident Physician	0%	1.1%
	Lecturer	0.07%	0.4%
	Instructor	0.07%	0%
	Total	19.2%	29.1%
Mid-Career	Associate Professor	15.4%	13%
	Scientist	5.7%	3.9%
	Attending Physician	0%	0.2%
	Manager	0.7%	0.4%
	Total	21.8%	17.5%
Established	Professor	26.8%	24%
	Director	8.5%	5.5%
	Executive	3%	5.1%
	Senior Scientist	10.3%	6.7%
	Total	48.6%	41.3%
Unknown		9%	5.9%

($\chi^2 = 81$, $df = 12$, $p < 0.001$)

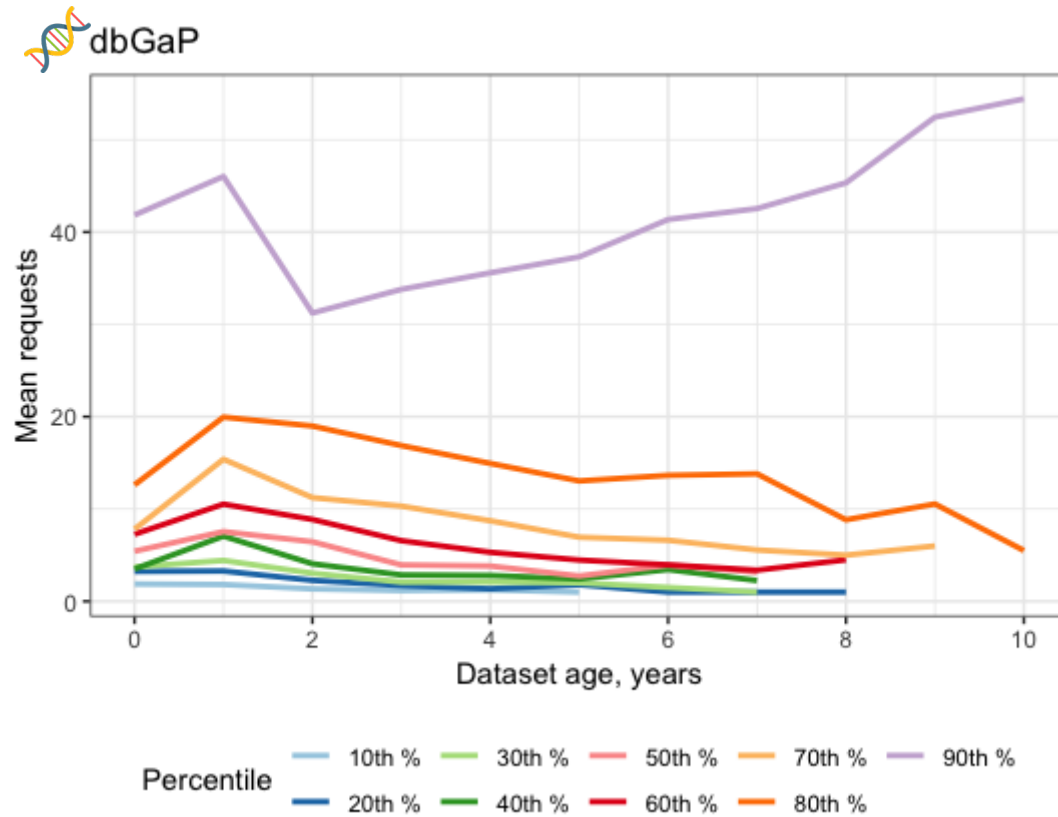
Tracking dataset requests over time



Predictive power of early requests

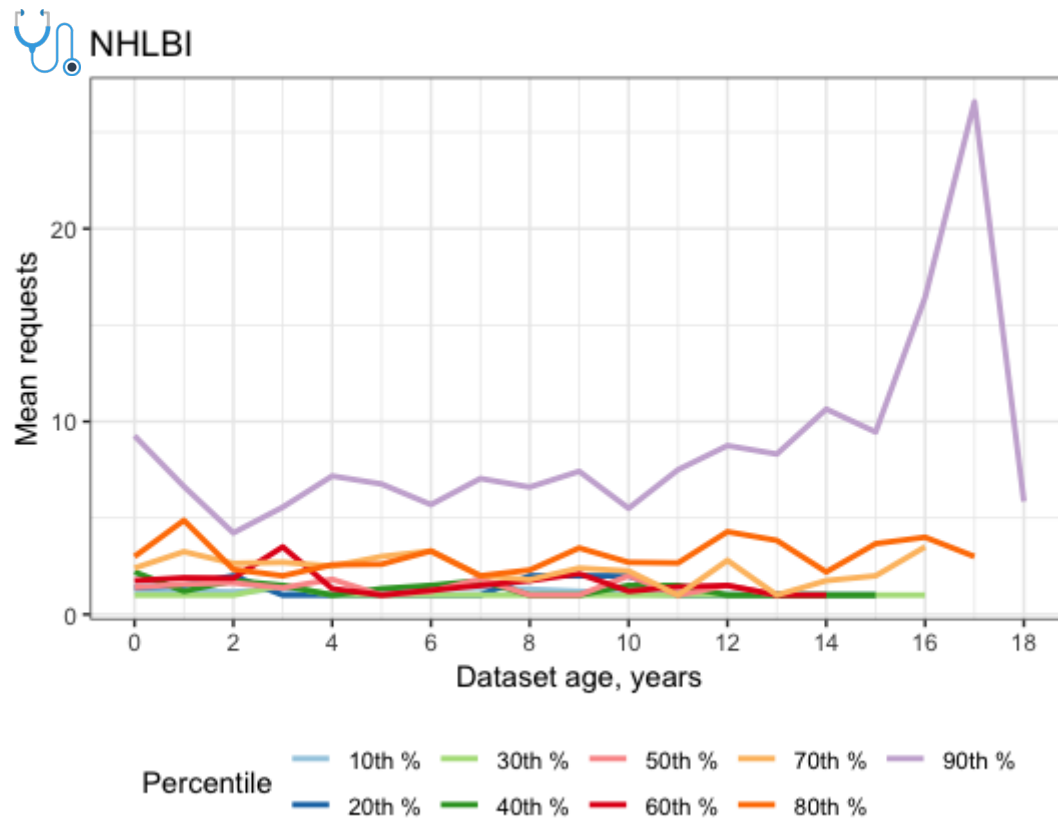


Requests by year, dbGaP



Model	R-squared	p-value
One year	0.73	<0.001
Two years	0.8	<0.001
Three years	0.87	<0.001

Requests over time, NHLBI



Model	R-squared	p-value
One year	0.8	<0.001
Two years	0.89	<0.001
Three years	0.96	<0.001

Determining highly requested topics

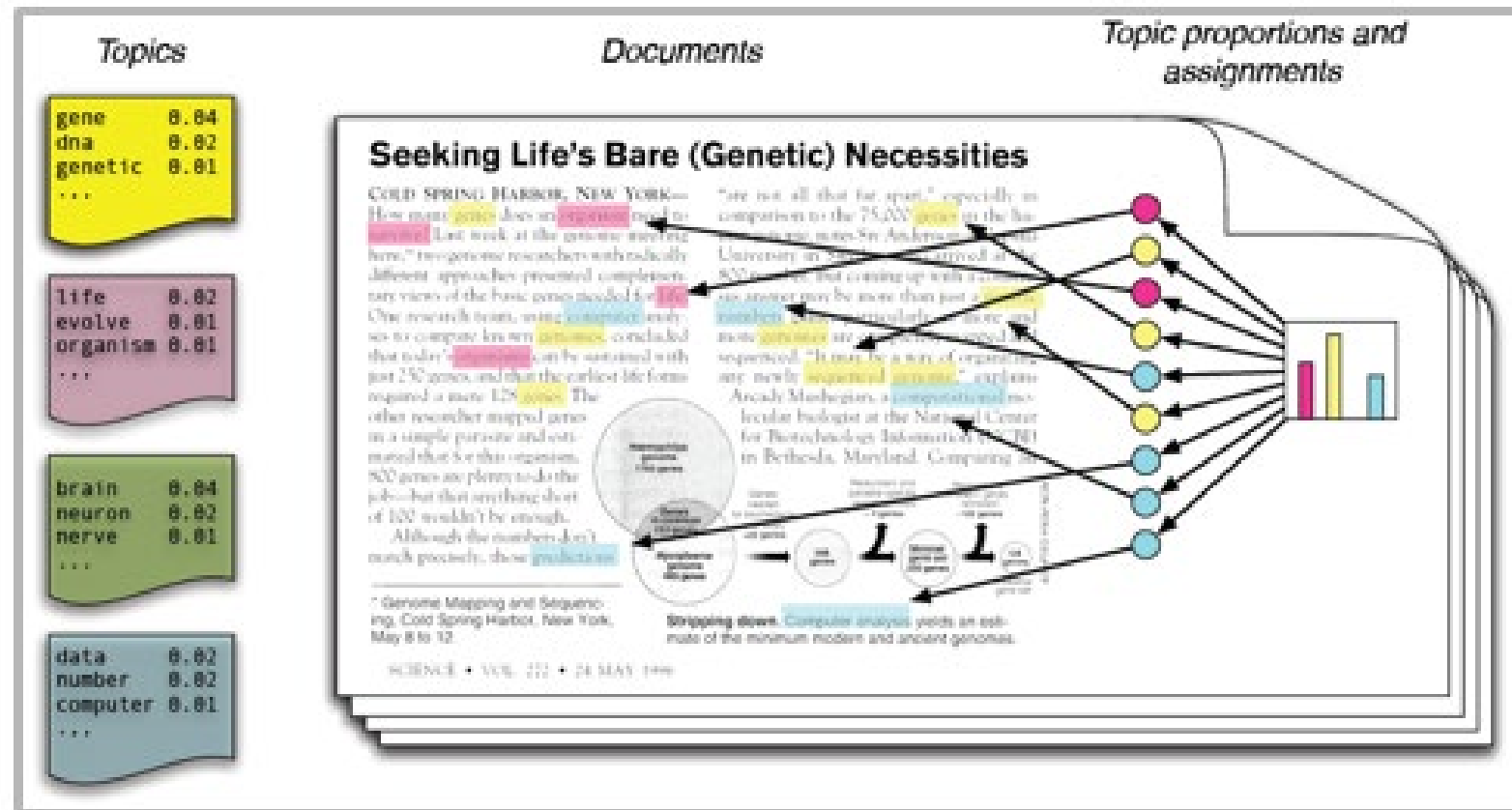
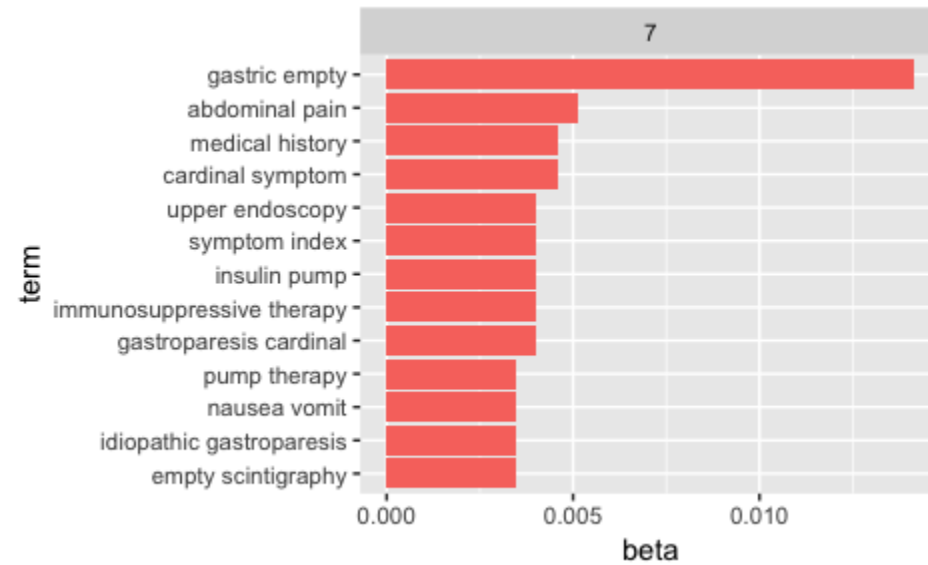
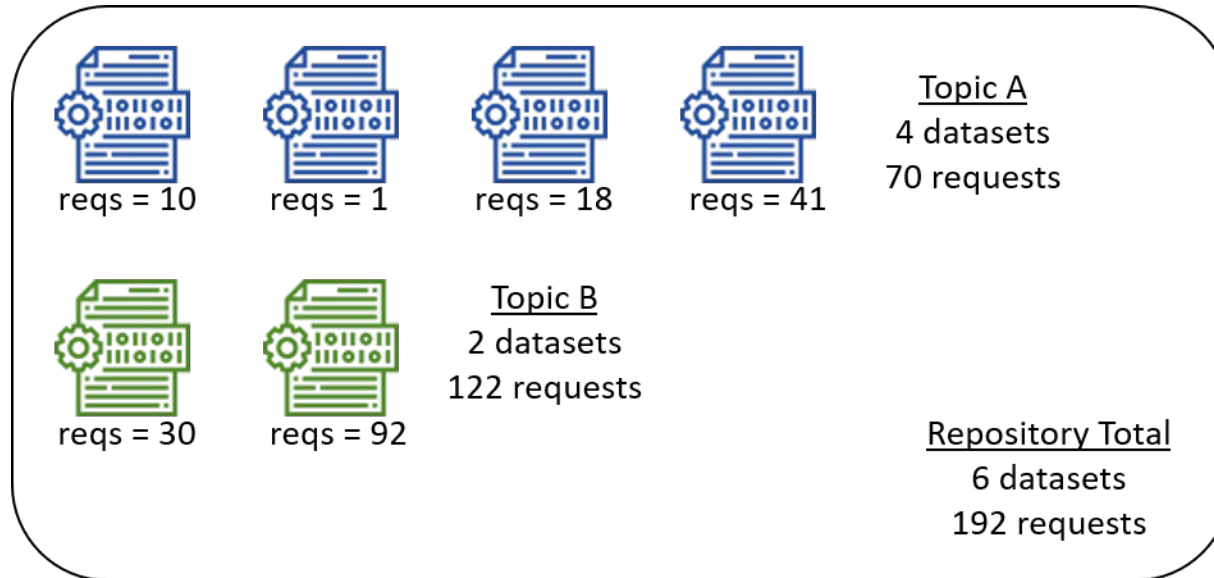


Image source: <https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2016/08/beginners-guide-to-topic-modeling-in-python/>

Sample topicmodels output



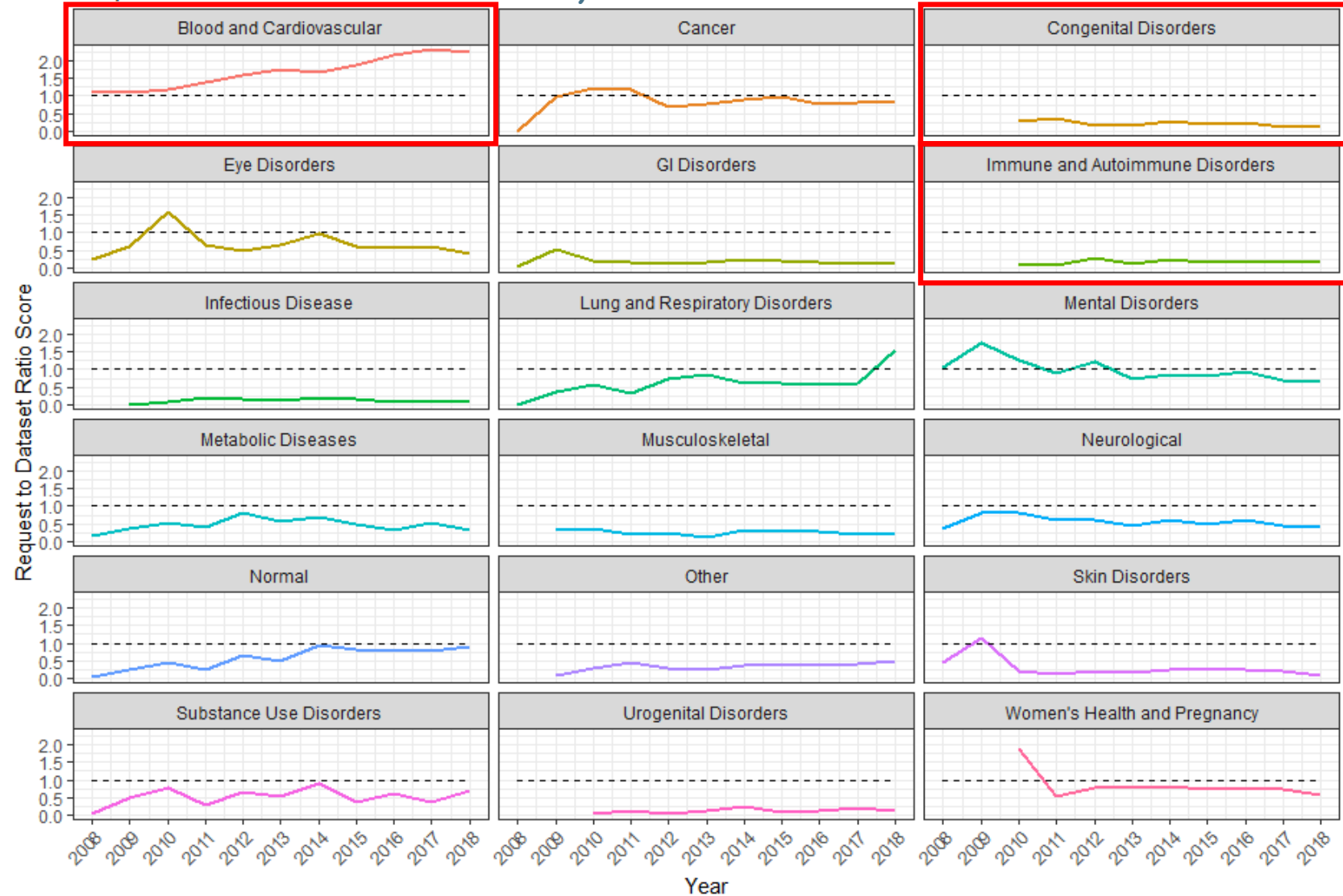
Request to Dataset (RTD) Ratio



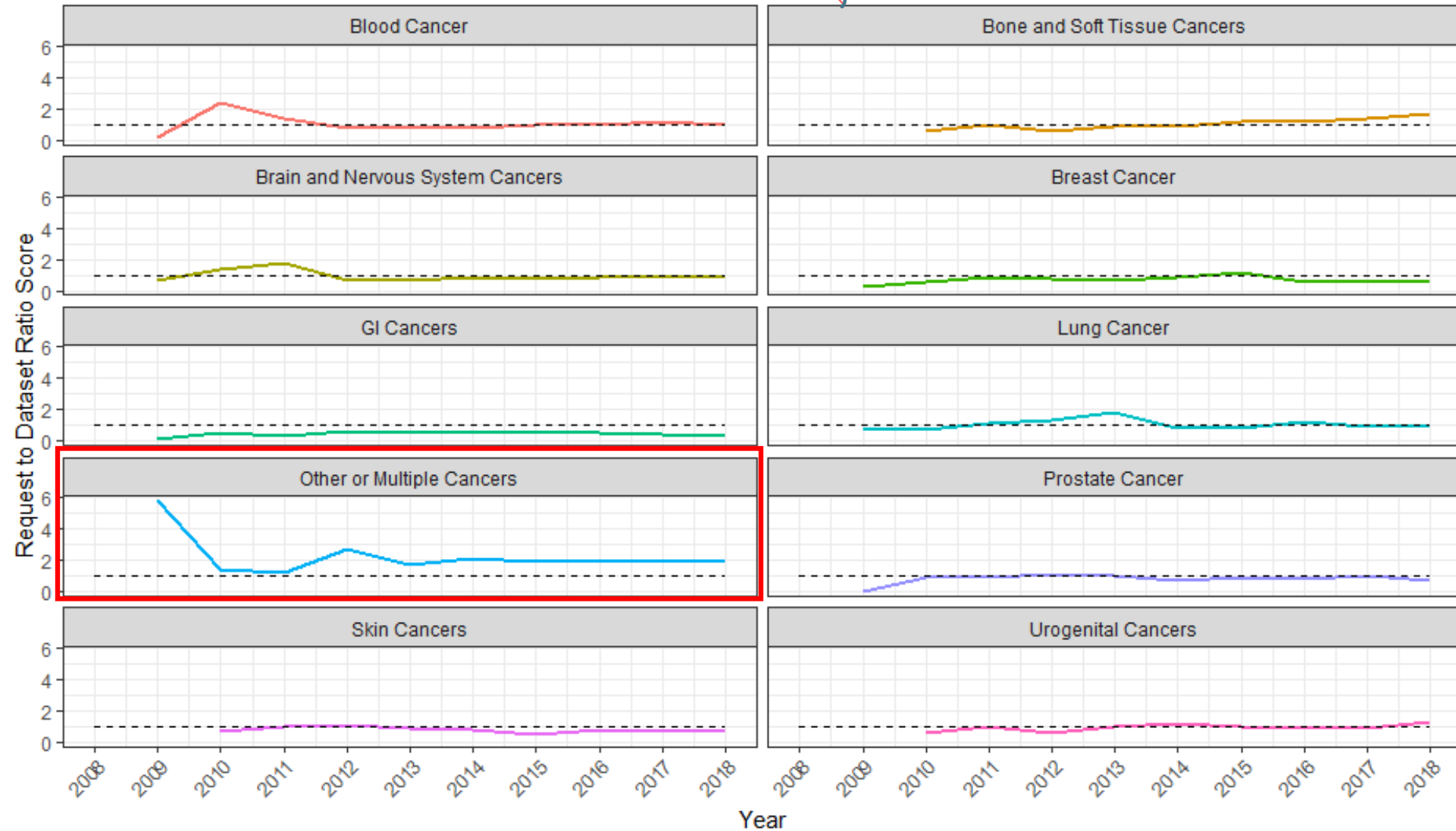
$$\text{RTD} = \frac{\text{proportion of requests in topic}}{\text{proportion of datasets in topic}}$$

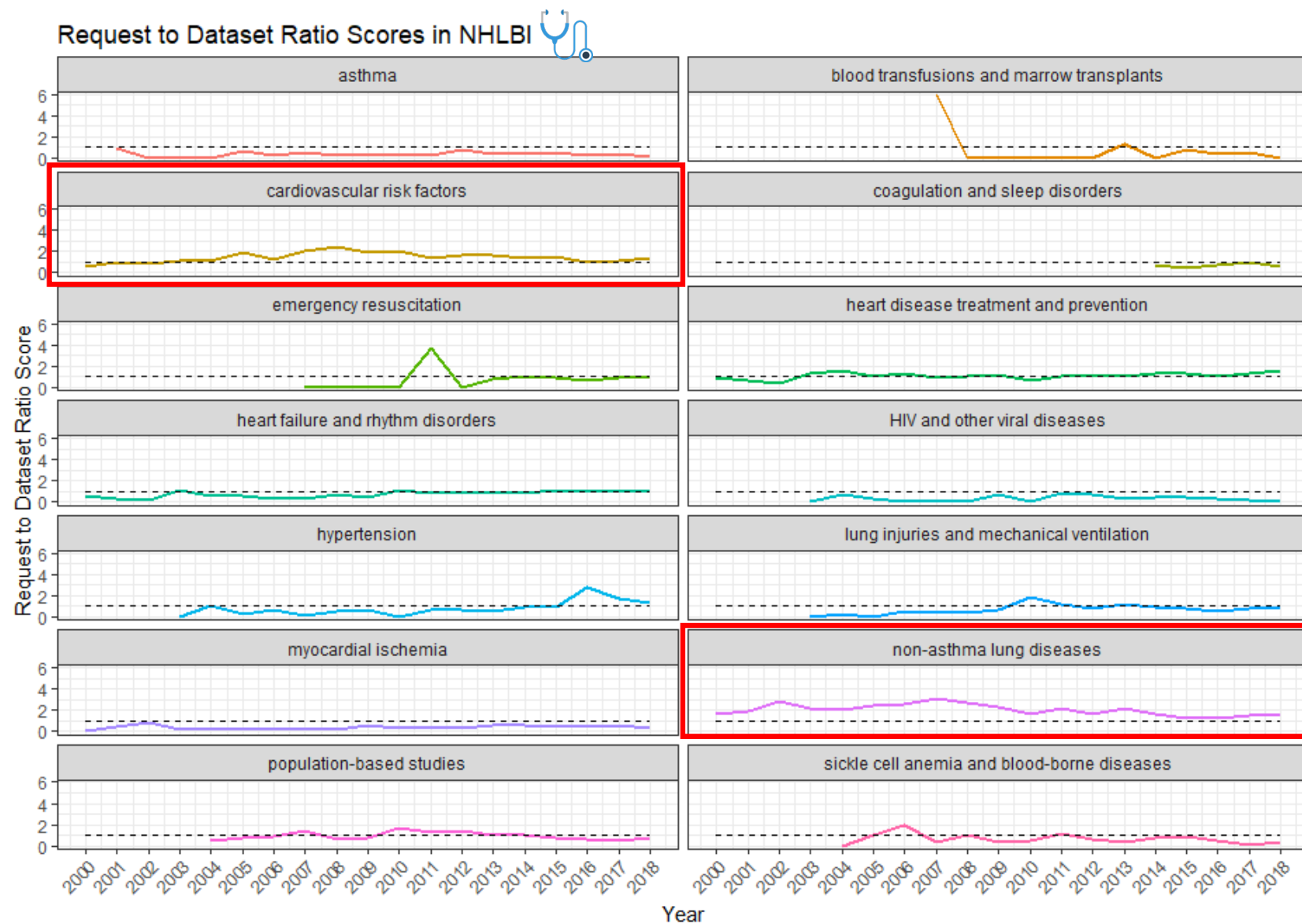
$$\text{RTD Topic A} = \frac{\frac{70 \text{ requests in Topic A}}{192 \text{ requests total}}}{\frac{4 \text{ datasets in Topic A}}{6 \text{ datasets total}}} = \frac{0.36}{0.67} = 0.54$$

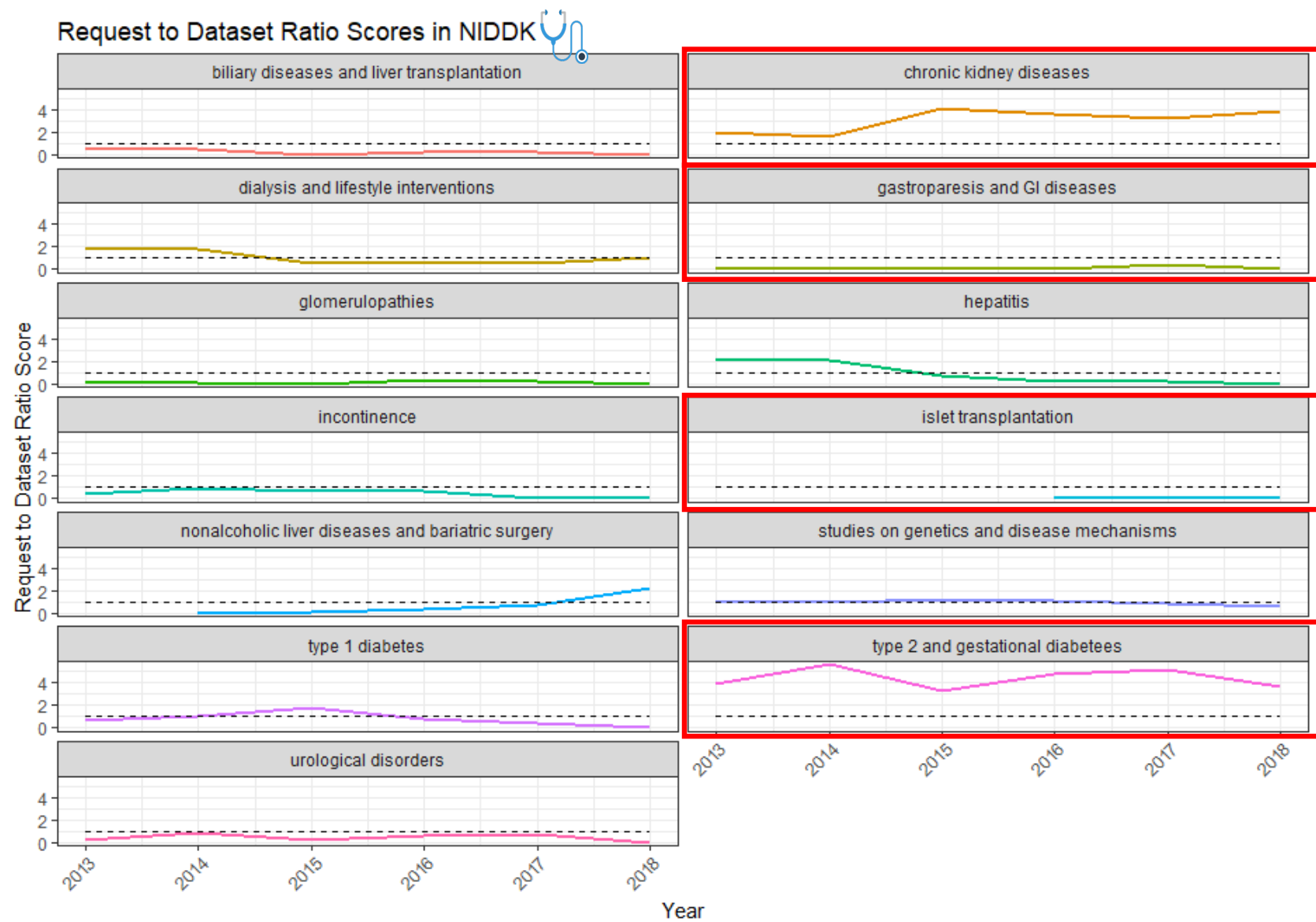
Request to Dataset Ratio Scores in dbGaP



Request to Dataset Ratio Scores in dbGaP - Cancer Studies









Implications



For researchers: sharing concerns may be unfounded



Getting “scooped” may not be a significant threat



Replication to refute results is not a major reuse of these datasets

For repositories: evidence for preservation and curation decisions



Early requests for datasets are a predictor for long-term reuse

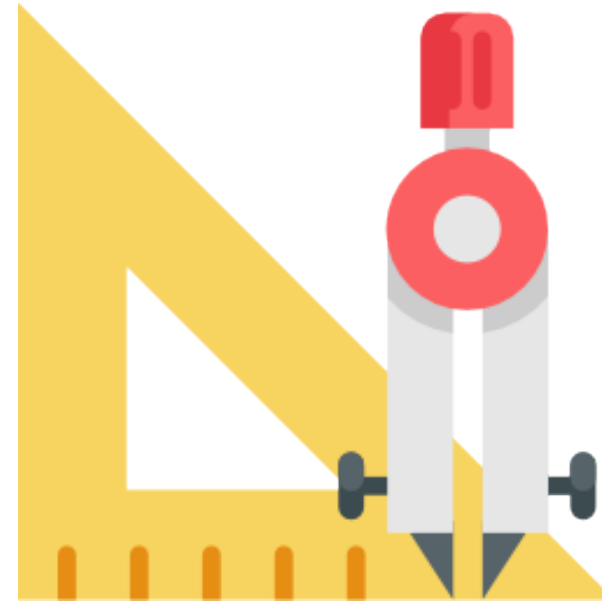


Certain topics may be expected to be more reused than others

For funders and institutions



Datasets are reused in many ways –
should creators be rewarded
equally for all of them?

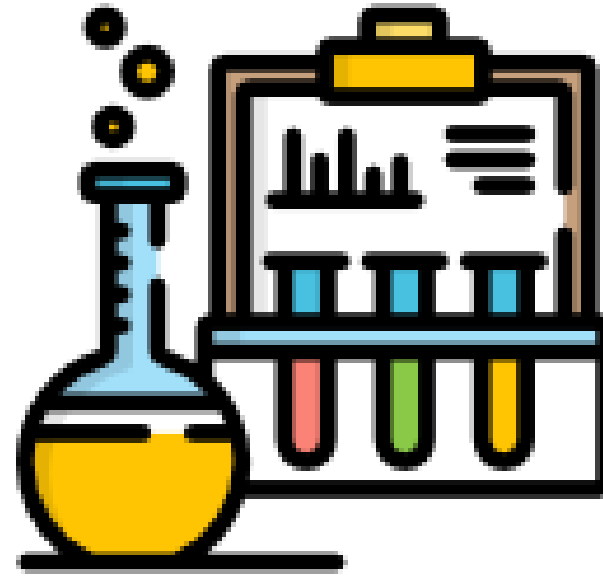


Need to carefully define metrics to
avoid pitfalls such as those
experienced in bibliometrics

Limitations



Unclear how closely requests track
to actual reuse of datasets



Limited generalizability beyond
biomedical repositories

NLM Office of Strategic Initiatives

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Chief Scientist, ONC, DHHS

Tony Chu, PhD, MLIS

Information Scientist

The background is a vibrant, abstract digital composition. It features a dense field of binary code (0s and 1s) in various shades of blue, purple, and white. Overlaid on this are numerous glowing, curved lines that create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a digital tunnel or a complex network. The overall effect is futuristic and high-tech.

Questions?

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