

A Semantics-based Information Repository for Distributed Scientific Investigations



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http://sciencedesk.arc.nasa.gov/scidesk/



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Key Science Collaborators

- Brad Bebout (ARC)
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NASA

Problem:

Capturing the Scientific Record in Distributed Teams



Accurate capture and preservation of the scientific record during an investigation is critical to conducting research, replicating results, & conducting follow-on studies, yet is difficult to achieve:

- Distributed teams
- Wide variety of data sources (sensors, instruments, data analysis software)
- Heterogeneous information formats (image, data)
- Distributed data curation
- Lack of metadata
- Different terminology used by different groups
- Difficult to see the connections between data/information gathered by different people





- 1. <u>Centralize</u>: Store all project information in a common repository (at least virtually)
- 2. <u>Standardize</u>: For each project team, engineer a common information model and vocabulary for expressing and interrelating all project information – not focusing solely on data
- 3. <u>Contextualize</u>: Annotate the data with ample semantic context to provide a basis for understanding interrelationships

Develop a Semantically-structured Information Repository: ScienceOrganizer





- A Web-based collaborative knowledge management tool for distributed teams of scientific investigators
- Facilitates information sharing, integration, correlation
- Serves as a project information repository / digital library: users upload/download heterogeneous project information products – images, datasets, documents, and various types of scientific records (describing samples, field sites, measurements, instruments, etc.)

• Features contextualized cross-linkage:

enables rapid access to interrelated information; permits linking data and observations to scientific hypotheses

Supports inference capabilities:

permits formal reasoning about the repository contents

• Functions as a project archive:

tracks history of project team's fieldwork, labwork, and associated data collection activities





- Collecting scientific field data
- Performing laboratory experiments
- Acquiring data from remote instruments
- Archiving samples and images
- Tracking scientific hypotheses
- Writing scientific papers & proposals
- Conducting education and outreach



Example: Early Microbial Ecosystems Investigation





Collection of microbial mats in the field

Microbial mat (algae)







Detailed studies of mat biogeochemistry

- monitoring
- analysis
- experimentation

geographically-disbursed team of collaborators

Trace gas production and consumption under "Early Earth" conditions

Greenhouse Incubator



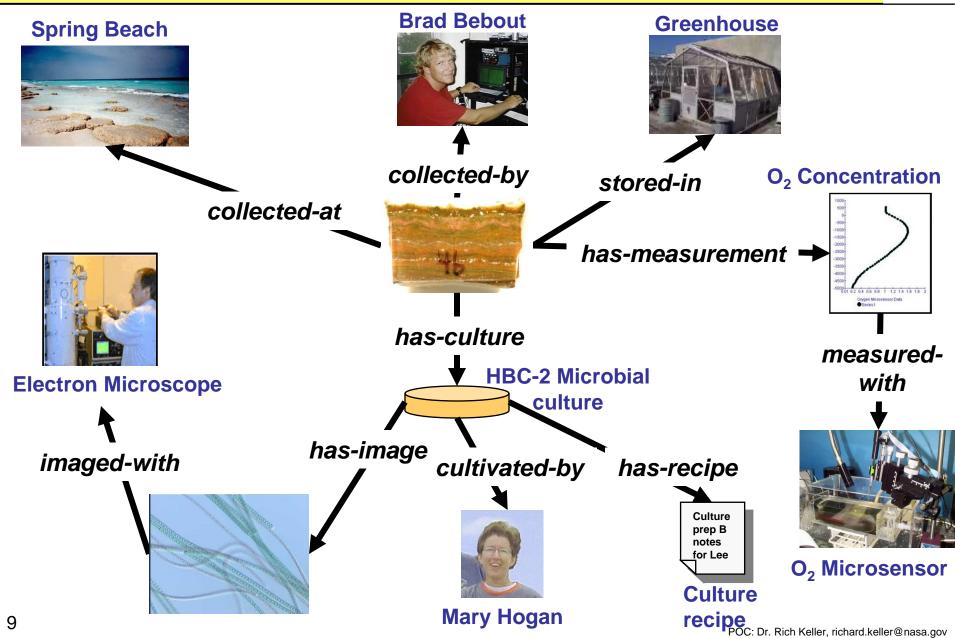


- Mat "4b" is a piece of evidence in the scientific investigation
- Want to capture all contextual information about Mat "4b" for use in:
 - conducting analyses
 - generating hypotheses
 - conveying situational information to remote collaborators
 - writing papers
 - designing follow-on field investigations



What is known about Mat "4b"?









To facilitate storage, retrieval and comprehension of scientific data, capture the

semantic context

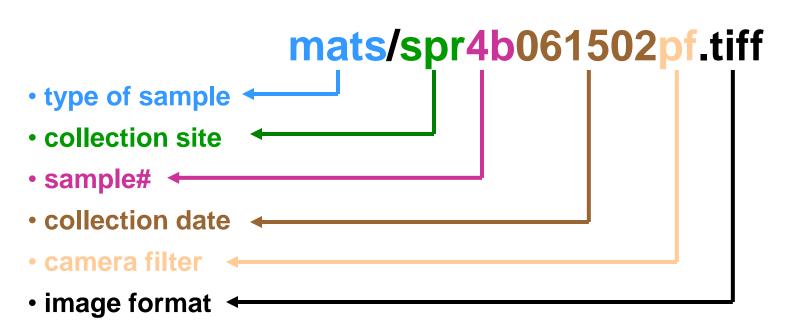
associated with each data product





- Generally, it isn't!
- File naming conventions provide some obscure clues:

mats/spr4b061502pf.tiff





Semantic Network Structure



Ontology: Specifies the types of nodes, attributes and links defined for scientific investigation

Rules: Add/modify nodes, links & attributes in the network

- Nodes: key info resourcés or organizational structures (describes people, places, measurements, hypotheses)
 - Attributes: properties of resources (metadata)
 - Links: relationships among resources

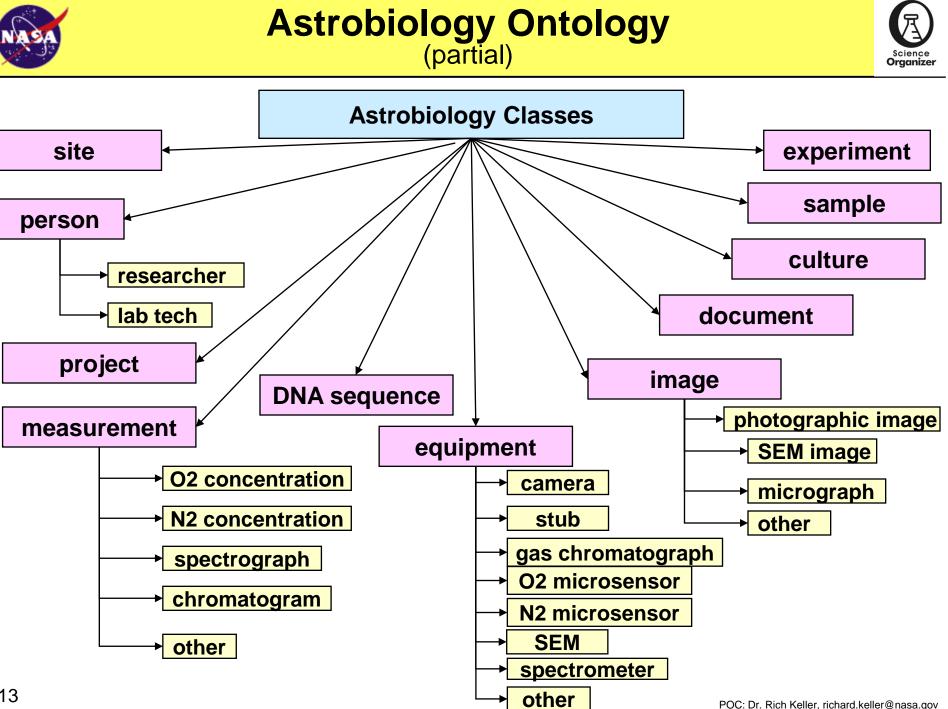
measurement

instrument

hypothesis

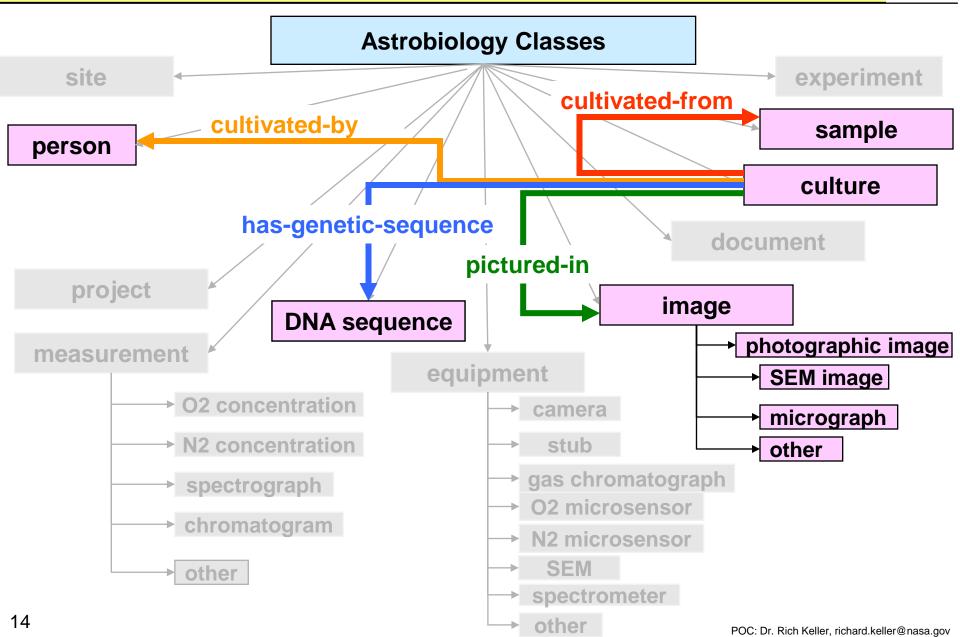
(e.g., "measured by", "supports hypothesis")

• Attached files: electronic products associated with resources (in almost any type of format)











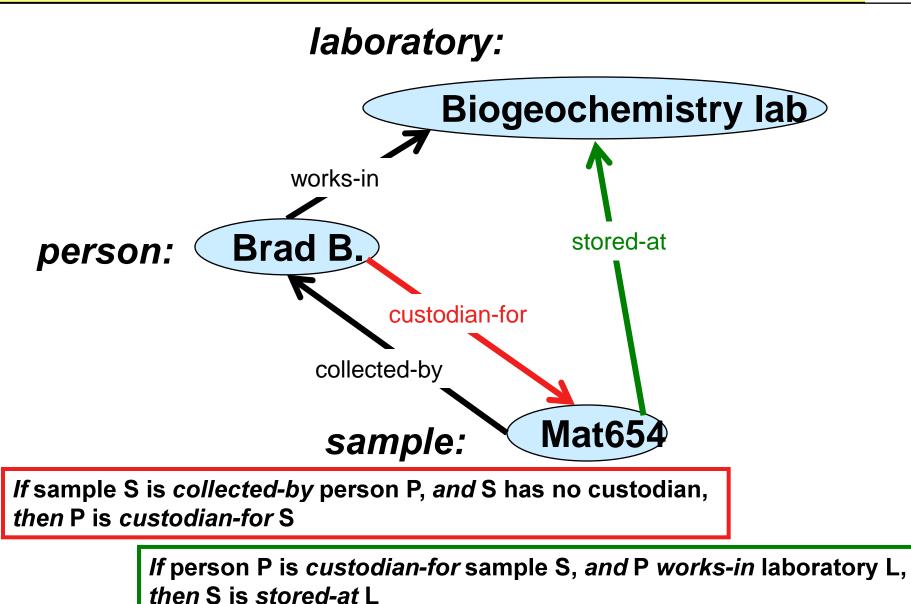
Unified Master Ontology



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Model	┌ Model Causal			_ Mission	Feature Request	
Idea or Deduction Concept	L Scientific			Task ——	Action Item	
Hypothesis	Letter Hypothesis _T Investigative			Project	Meeting/Telecon	
	L Scientific	Activit	y	Review	- Bug Fix	
			Field Trip			
Social Person	WorkGroup			Experiment		
Structure Group —	Investigation Board			L Investigati	on	
L Project Team				┌ Microscope		
_ Work Site ─_ Accident		Equip	ment –	nent - Camera		
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SemanticOrganizer's Browser-based Interface (Algae Mat Sample Node: Spring-M4-b)



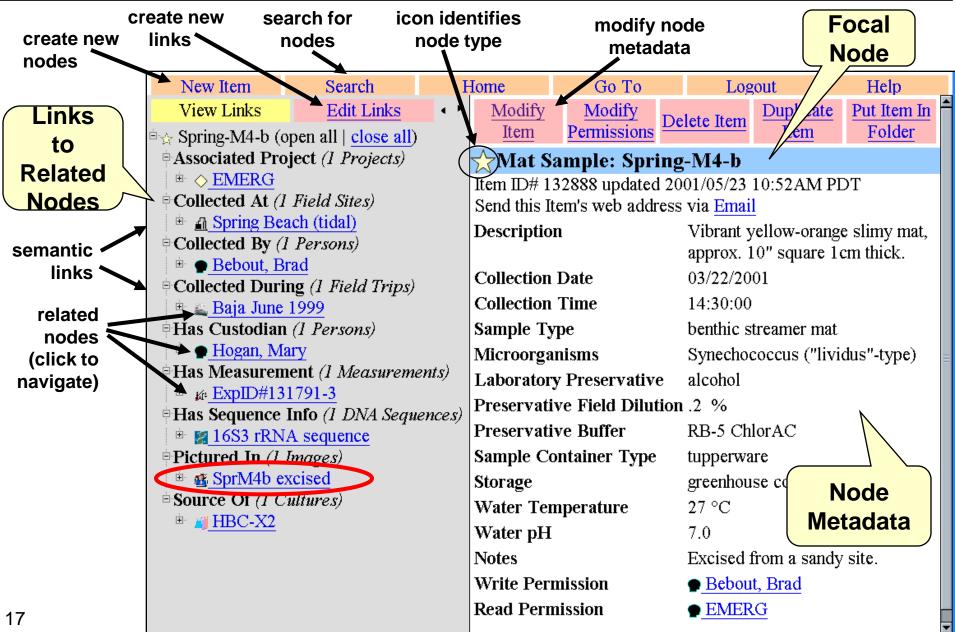
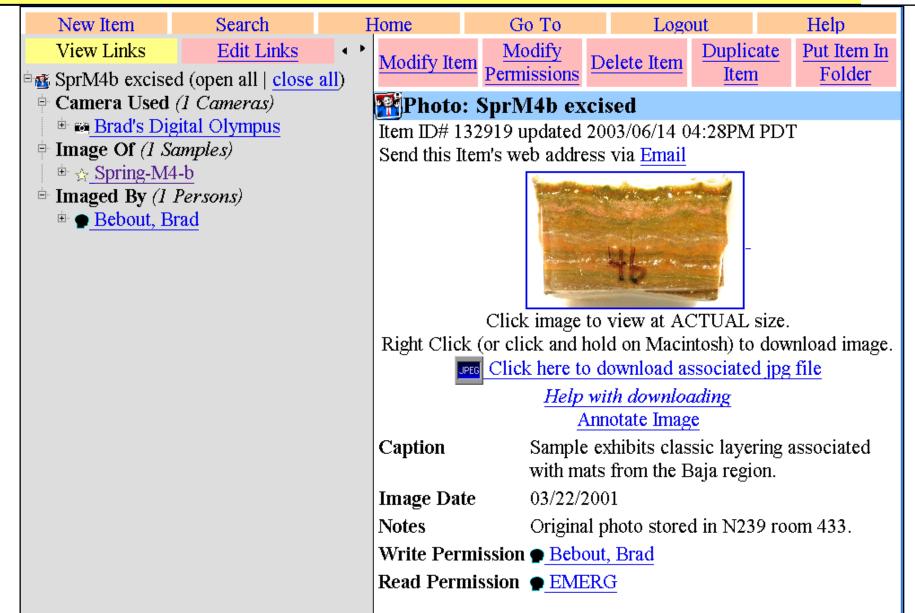




Photo: SprM4b excised

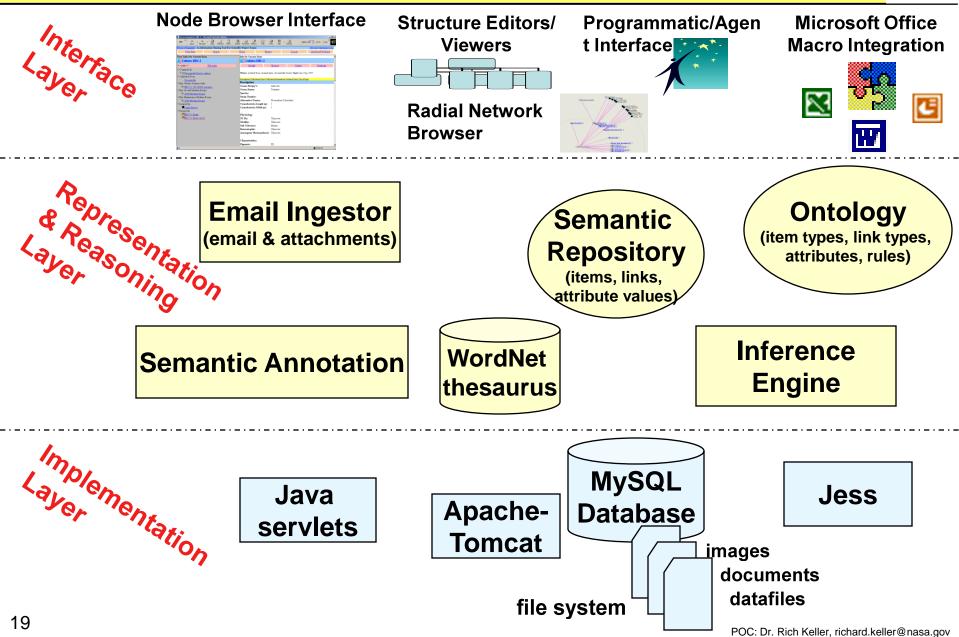






Architecture







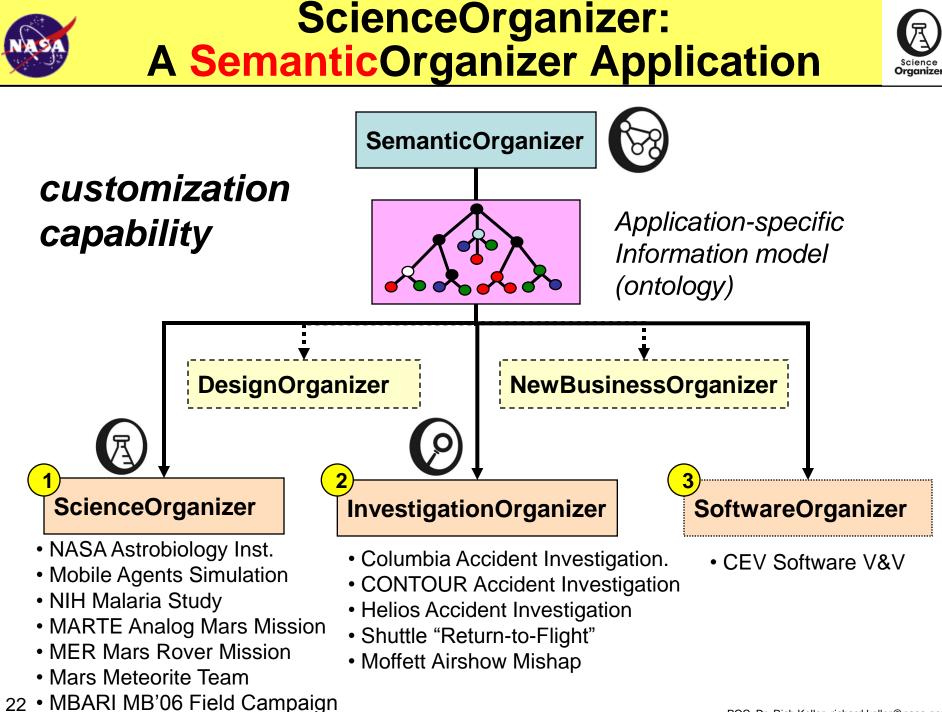


- Text and Semantic search
- Email discussion list integration
- Automated semantic hyperthreading
- Microsoft office integration
- Collaborative image annotation
- Interoperation w/external agents





- System deployed initially in 2001
- Over 400 registered individual users from over 50 organizations within NASA at peak
- Over 30 projects hosted
- Over 45,000 nodes & 160,000 links in repository
 - Over 10,000 electronic files stored (documents, image, datasets)
 - Over 10,000 archived email messages





ScienceOrganizer Deployments





Astrobiology Field and Lab Science





NIH-NASA African Malaria Study



Electron Microscopy Image Archive (Martian Meteorites)



Simulated Mars Surface Exploration



Monterey Bay Oceanographic Campaign





MARTE Mars Analog Drilling Mission



Mars Exploration Rovers **Hypothesis Management** (prototype)



Questions?



Web Site http://sciencedesk.arc.nasa.gov

Paper

Keller et al.: "SemanticOrganizer: A Customizable Semantic Repository for Distributed NASA Project Teams", International Semantic Web Conference, Hiroshima, Japan, November 2004.

Honors



Winner, Best paper award, 2004 International Semantic Web Conference



Finalist in the 2003 NASA Software of the Year Competition and recipient of a Space Act Award for significant technical contribution to NASA.



Winner of a 2004 NASA Turning Goals Into Reality Award for outstanding accomplishment in supporting the Columbia Accident Investigation Board

A new application award Semantic Web Challenge http://challenge.semanticweb.org

Finalist in the 2004 Semantic Web Challenge Competition





- Mars Exploration Rover application: Science Hypothesis Organizer
- ScienceOrganizer Features:
 - 1. Text and Semantic search
 - 2. Email discussion list integration
 - 3. Automated semantic hyperthreading
 - 4. Microsoft office integration
 - 5. Collaborative image annotation
 - 6. Interoperation w/external agents



MER Science Hypothesis Organizer Objective



Improve MER science return by facilitating the science team's hypothesis formation process

Motivation:

- Hypothesis formation and testing are fundamental drivers for MER science
- Hypothesis formation and reasoning processes are informal and managed in an *ad hoc* fashion
- No representation of the process is formally captured for later analysis or critical reflection
- No centralized catalog of active hypotheses and scientific evidence

Science Organizer

Permits MER scientists to store/track hypotheses & relate them to:

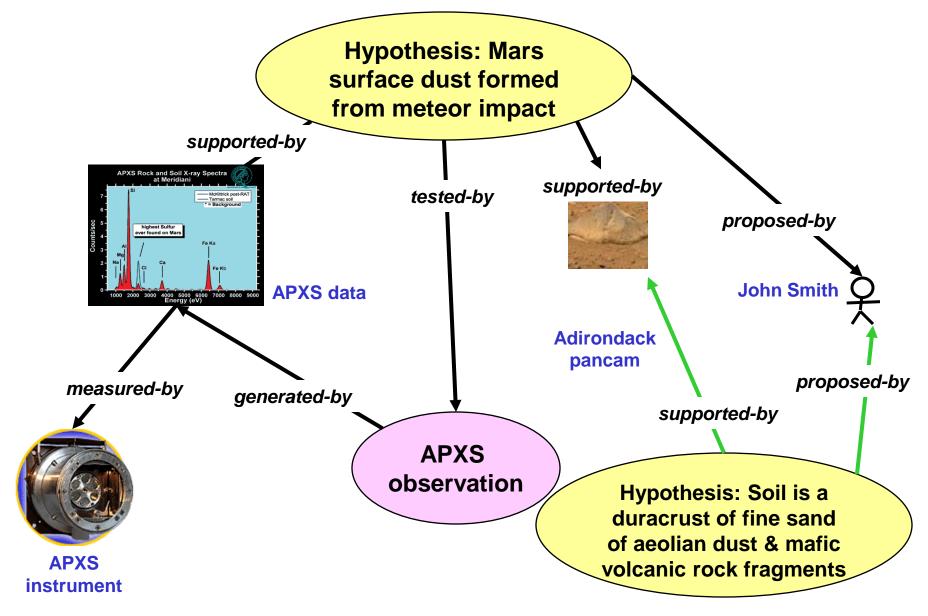
- observations
- data products
- documents
- & other files stored in mission data systems

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Hypothesis Information Network: Connecting the dots

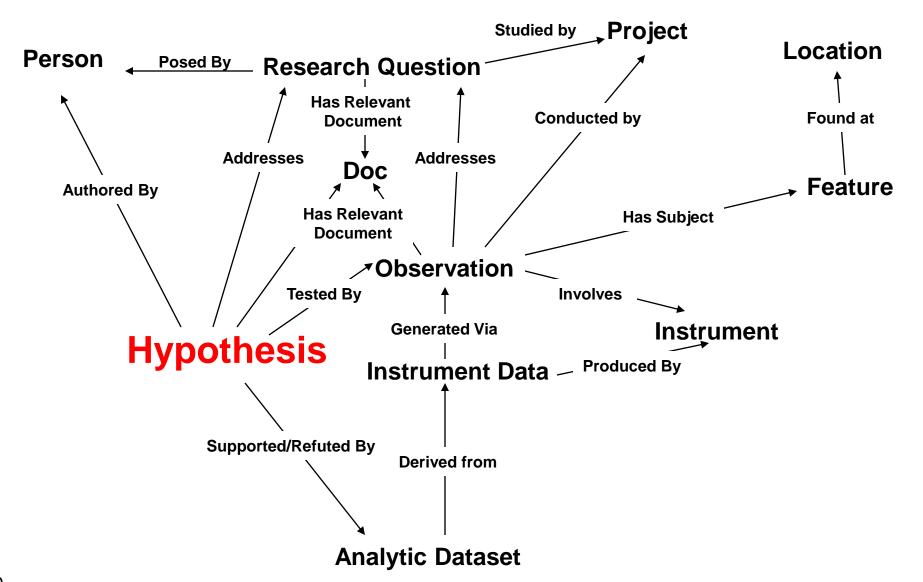






MER Science Hypothesis Organizer Cross-relationships









All Items

- Analytic Dataset
- 🗌 Email Message
- 🗌 Feature
- Hypothesis
- Institution
- Location
- 🗆 Mailing List
- MER Participant
- Observation
- Project
- Research Question
- 🗆 Target
- Litem (other)

🔲 All Instrument Data

- 🗌 All Images
 - Hazcam Image
 - Micrograph
 - Navcam Image
 - Pancam Image
 - Image (other)
- All Measurements
 - APXS Data
 - Mini-TES Data
 - Mossbauer Data
 - Measurement (other)
- Instrument Data (other)

All Documents Meeting Notes Presentation Research Paper

Document (other)

All Instruments
 APXS
 Camera
 Mini-TES
 Mossbauer
 RAT
 Rover
 Instrument (other)



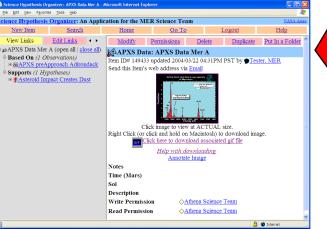
MER SHO Screenshots



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Text Search



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Email Message	Phylogenic Tree	Experiment Document		
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Laboratory	🗆 Carbon Isotope	🗆 All Equipment		final
□ Mailing List	🗆 Carbon Monoxide	□ Camera	Acceptance Status	unsubmitted in review
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□ Model	□Dissolved Organic Carbon	□Fluorometer		rejected
□Note	Fluorescence	🗖 Gas Chromatograph	Author	No Value Given
Person	□Hydrogen Sulfide	H Microsensor		Baumgartner, Laura Kathleen
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POC: Dr. Rich Keller, richard.keller@nasa.gov



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Semantic Search



Search by semantic patterns involving ext nodes, links, and value	ended chains of		by matching pattern against be nodes and links in the network
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Email Discussion List Integration



	ScienceOrganizer: An Info	ormation-Sharing Tool	For Scientific I	Project Teams			NASA Ames/Computational Science
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	semantic linkage	0 10	If you are taking a plane flight to join the trip, you are a member of the "Airplane Group." You should plan to meet in San Diego on March 5 and ride down together in a passenger van rented from Pearson Ford in San Diego. It might not be necessary for the				
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Automated Semantic Hyperthreading [Concept Extraction from Email] (experimental)



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 Developed suite of Microsoft Office macros to enable direct upload and subsequent modification of documents without leaving Office application

"Save and upload to Organizer"

- Macro communicates w/server
- User fills out metadata using standard Organizer form on creation
- Subsequent saves are transparent

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		Versions	netadata field, or an email message. When the text source is uploaded into							
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		Page Setup	y. We will develop such an auto-linking capability using techniques from the							
	Q	Print Preview	rocessing.							
	8	Print Ctrl+P	pport interoperability with other tools, we will develop a uniform API to							
		Sen <u>d</u> To	ent with emerging standards such as RDF [9] and SOAP [10]. Use of this							
		Properties	wider array of other information systems to exchange data with							
		1 C:\\FY02 SciDesk Review.doc								
		≥ C:\\ScienceDesk\IS_Proposal_FY03.doc	Y'02, we developed a capability to establish an email discussion list and							
		3 C:\\Desktop\FY02 SciDesk Review.doc	ganizer. Mail messages appear as items within the ScienceOrganizer and can							
		$\underline{4}$ C:\\IS-HCC Review Agenda.doc	n the repository. During FY'03, we will deploy and test this capability with							
		E⊻it	te various approaches to linking email messages to relevant repository items.							
		(E.g., see Text understand								
			In FY'02, we developed a prototype suite of Microsoft Office macros to ganizer. These macros allow users to stay within Word, Excel, or Powerpoint							
			cienceOrganizer to upload modified Office documents. We plan to deploy this							
		-	ration tools in FY'03 and develop new tools to build bridges between the							
			anizer. One tool we are considering is an agent that synchronizes files on the	-						
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