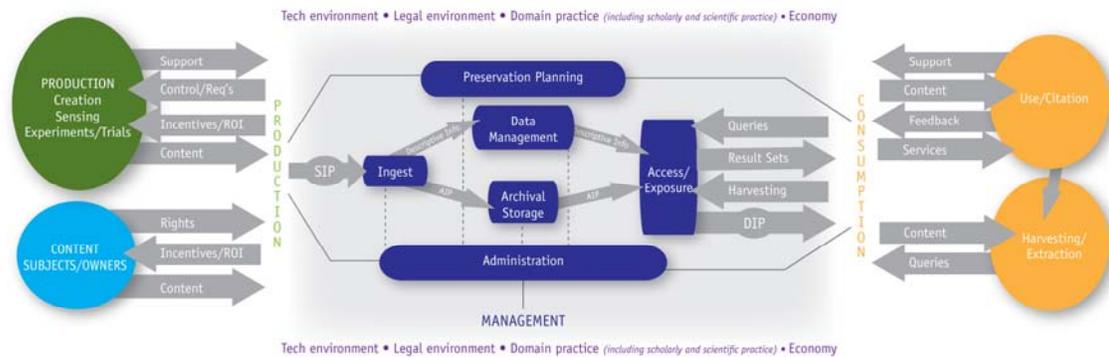


Long-Lived Digital Collections

Creation of massive amounts of digital data by the sciences and social sciences today is creating stewardship demands that cannot be met fully by traditional libraries and archive organizations. During the past several decades large, independent repositories of digital data have emerged to meet the needs of the science, engineering and social science communities. The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) is undertaking a two-year project to analyze eight established, "long-lived" collections of data and digital resources, and create tools and metrics for developing and assessing new repositories.

The case studies examine the social, economic and technical aspects of several collections of electronic data and content that have persisted for a significant period of time. The studies will determine what elements and factors have affected the growth, longevity and usefulness of those collections and their repositories.



The analysis sheds light not only on the technologies used by the repositories but the governance of the parent organizations and the funding models that sustain their activities, as well as the organizations' modes of organizing their data-collecting, maintenance, and dissemination activities. CRL is identifying the practices, strategies and mechanisms that have enabled the eight repositories to support and grow massive data collections over substantial periods of time. Finally, the project will generate and disseminate useful models, risk assessment tools, cost data and metrics to enable informed planning and prudent investment in Cyberinfrastructure by the NSF and other federal agencies, universities, scientific consortia and institutes, corporations, publishers, and stakeholders.

The Case Study Collections and their Repositories

The Arabidopsis Information Resource (TAIR)	General Social Survey (National Opinion Research Center)
Sloan Digital Sky Survey	U.S. Geological Survey
NCAR Earth Observing Laboratory Data Archives	American Chemical Society, Chemical Abstracts (CA)
ProQuest UMI Dissertation Publishing	The Associated Press (eAP)