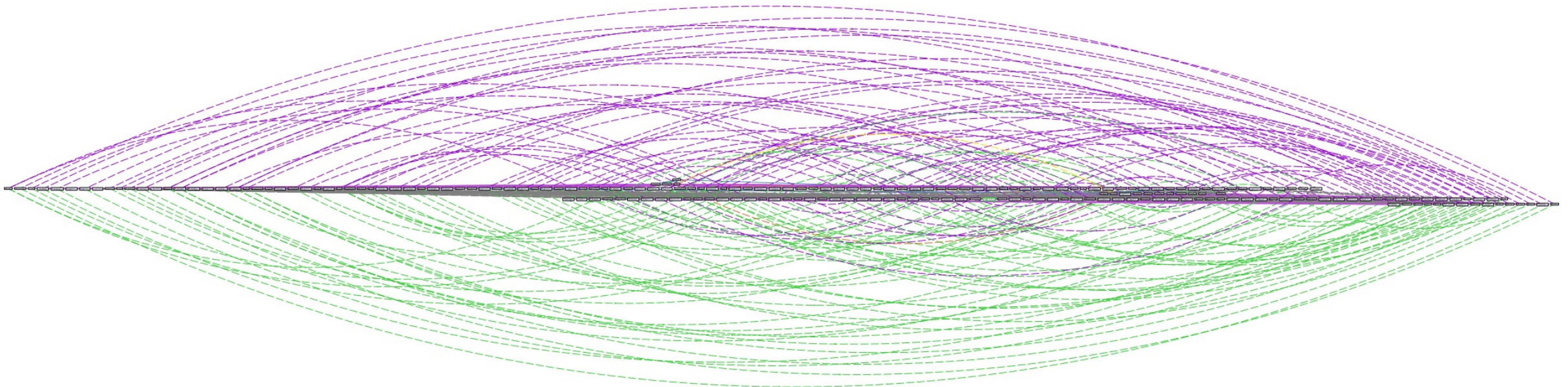


Data Collections Explorer

An easy-to-use tool for sharing and discovering research data

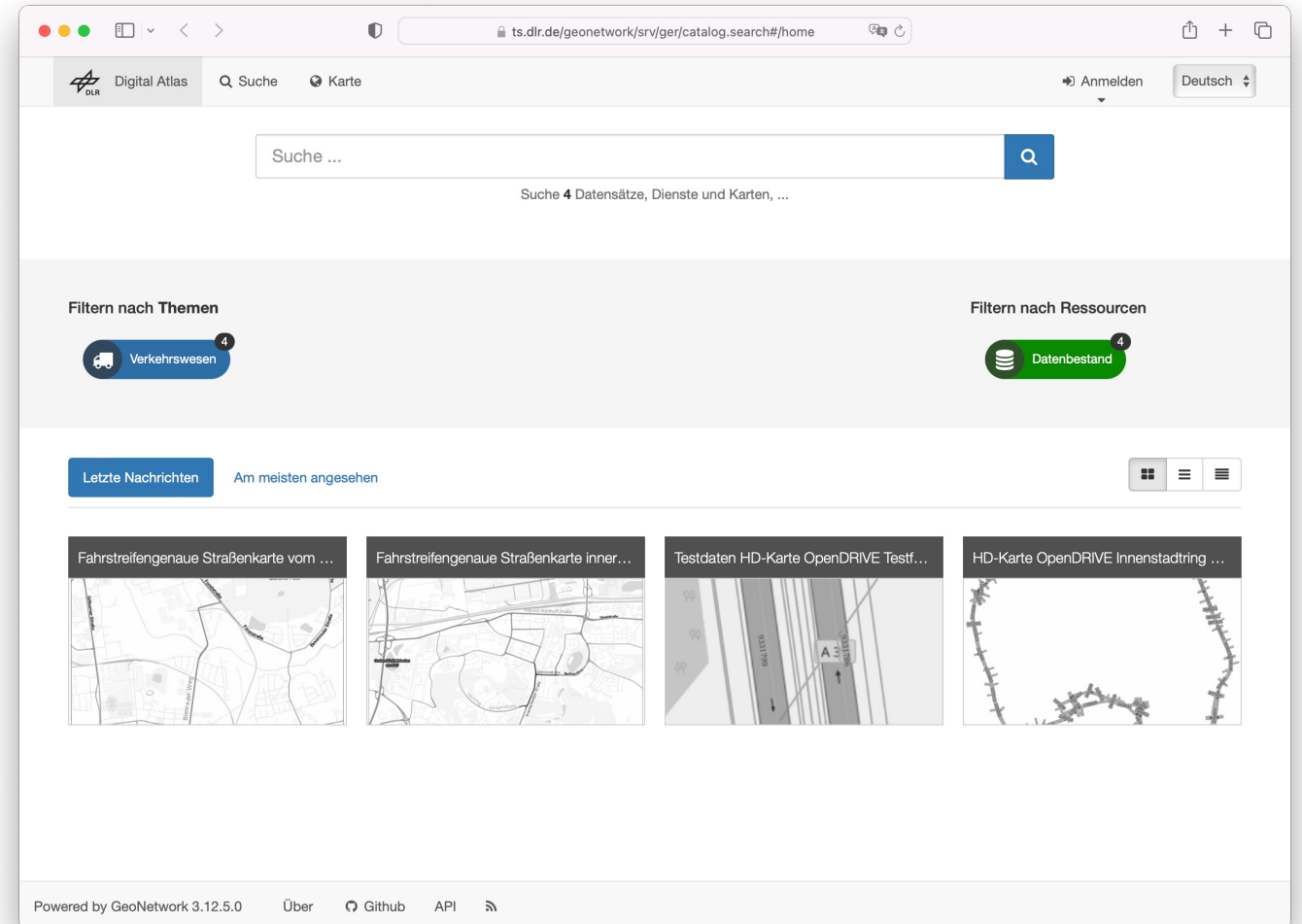
Philipp Ost, Yusra Shakeel, Philipp Tögel – 1st CoRDI, Karlsruhe, 12.–14. September 2023



Motivation – How to share datasets?

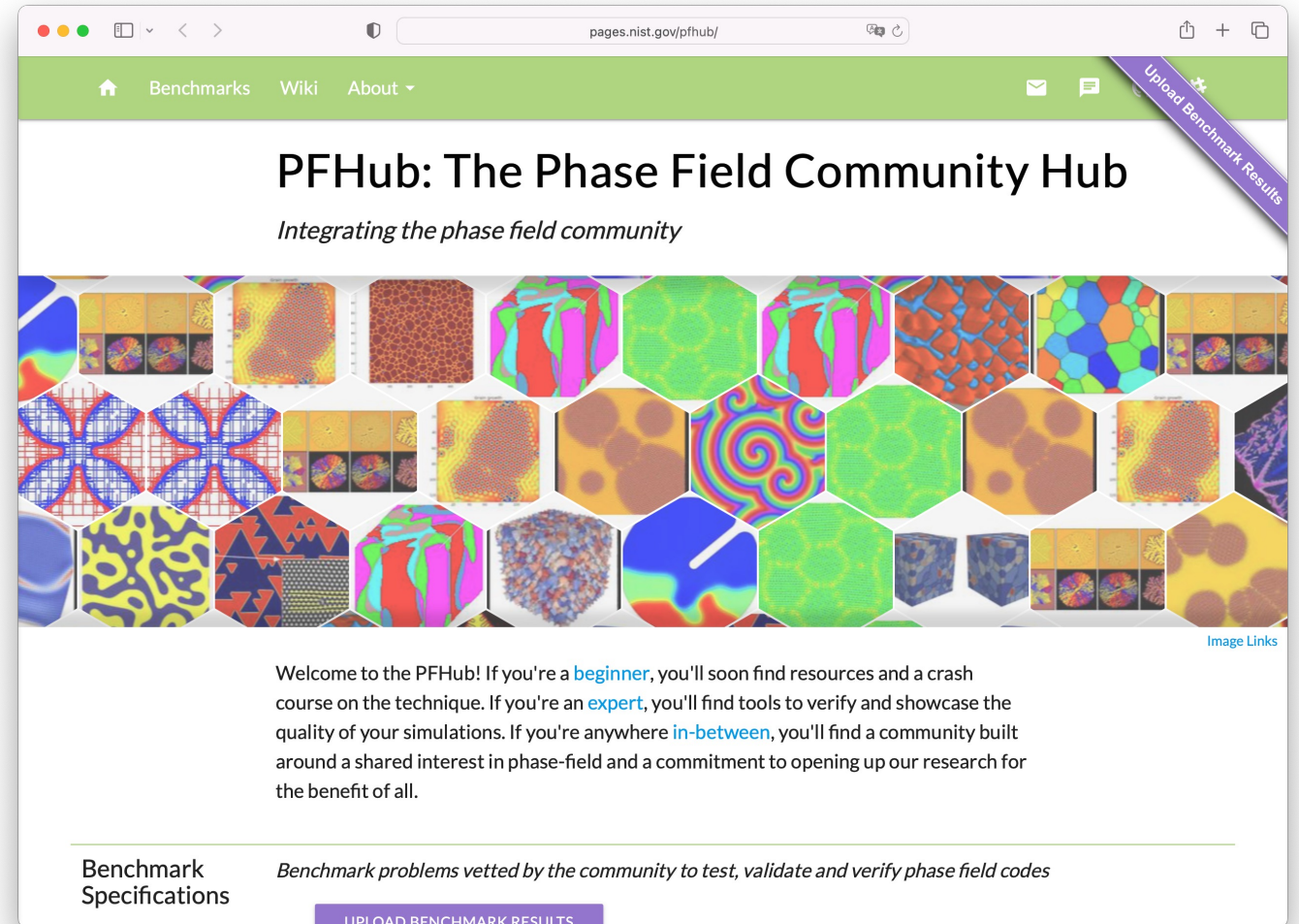
■ DLR Digital Atlas

- Hosted and curated by DLR
- Easy sharing of data with collaboration partners



Motivation – How to serve a community?

- PFHub: The Phase Field Community Hub
 - Hosted by NIST
 - Curated by the phase field community



Motivation – How to share a dataset?

- KITTI Vision Benchmark Suite
 - Hosted by responsible research group
 - Data access requires an account
 - Usage restrictions apply



The screenshot shows the homepage of the KITTI Vision Benchmark Suite website. The browser address bar displays www.cvlibs.net/datasets/kitti/index.php. The page features a navigation menu with links: home, setup, stereo, flow, sceneflow, depth, odometry, object, tracking, road, semantics, raw data, and submit results. Below the navigation, the authors are listed as A. Geiger | P. Lenz | C. Stiller | R. Urtasun, with a "Log in" button. A prominent banner for "KITTI-360" is displayed, labeled as a "New Dataset" and includes the URL <http://www.cvlibs.net/datasets/kitti-360>. The main content area contains a "Welcome to the KITTI Vision Benchmark Suite!" message, followed by a detailed paragraph about the dataset's origin and goals. To the right, there is an image of the "Stereo Camera Rig" and "360° Velodyne Laserscanner" mounted on a car, with a "GPS" label. A "Share" button is located at the bottom left of the main text area.

Easy Sharing of Research Data

- What do these examples have in common?
 - Allow relatively easy sharing of research data
 - Allow working with/on the data as part of a community
 - None of them are registered in re3data (as of 30.08.'23)
 - How does one find them?
 - There is a certain amount of “insider knowledge” required to know where to look
- How to share
 - ... interim results before publication, possibly with a wider audience?
 - ... data and related results with project partners?
 - ... data jointly produced/curated/... by a group of researchers?

Current State of the Art

- re3data – Repository of Research Data Repositories
 - “Gold standard” for research data repositories
 - Admits only quality controlled repositories

- Community specific initiative: Data Repository Finder
 - Geared towards the Life Sciences
 - Overview of repositories
 - “...helps researchers find data repositories where they can share data...”¹

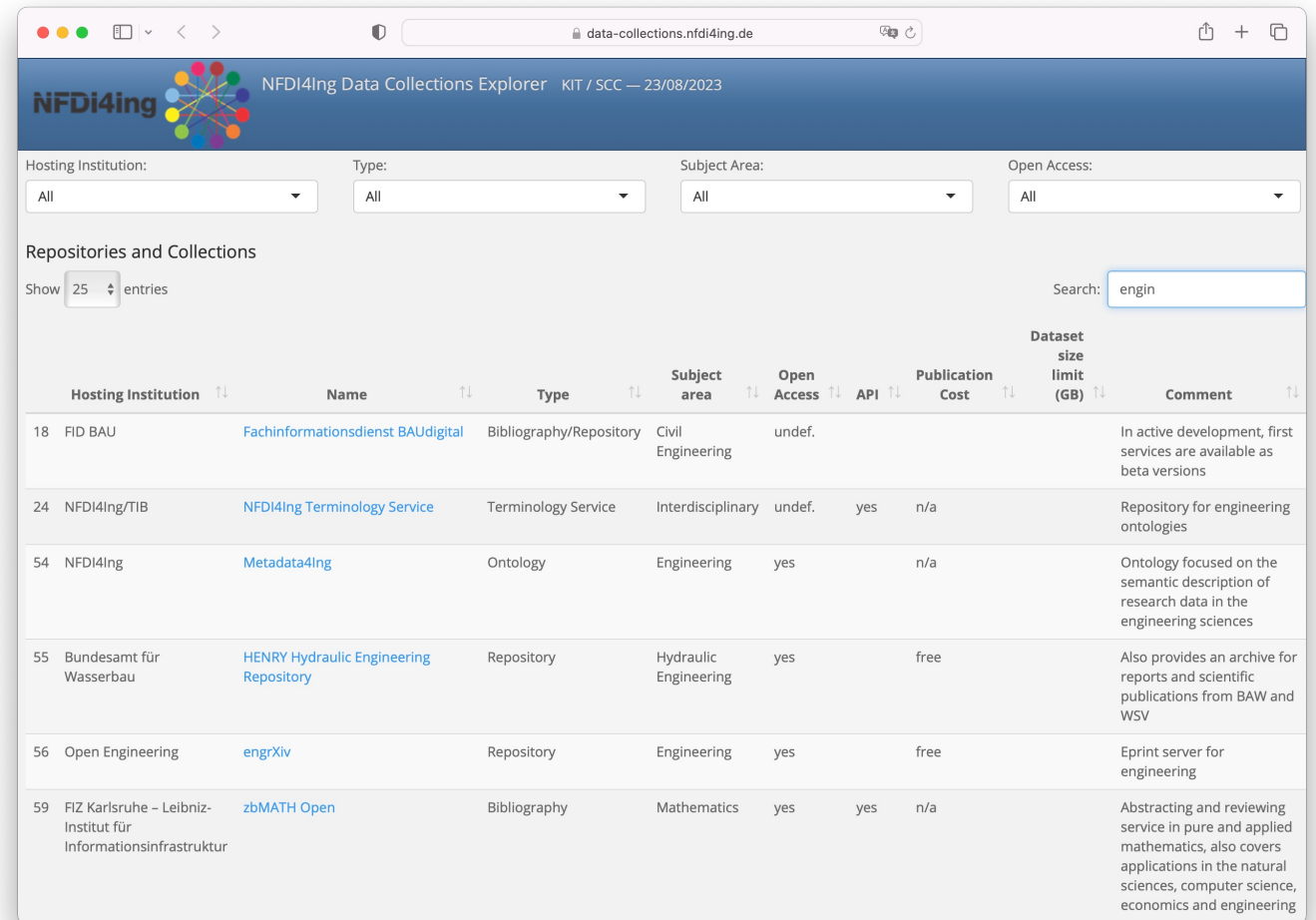
¹ <https://data-repository-finder.ll.mit.edu>

Data Collections Explorer – Use Cases

- Typical use cases considered during design and implementation:
 - Scientists looking for repositories to publish their research data
 - Example: PhD students create data sets as part of their research
 - Where to publish them?
 - Are there size limits or costs involved?
 - Scientists searching for data sets
 - Example: An engineer is interested in material properties
 - Are there other materials that might fit the requirements?

Data Collections Explorer – Current Version

- Successful proof-of-concept
 - Started out with 38 entries
 - Continuously updated
 - Currently at 87 entries
- Access it at data-collections.nfdi4ing.de

The screenshot shows the NFDi4ing Data Collections Explorer web interface. The browser address bar shows 'data-collections.nfdi4ing.de'. The page title is 'NFDi4ing Data Collections Explorer KIT / SCC — 23/08/2023'. Below the header, there are four dropdown menus for filtering: 'Hosting Institution' (set to 'All'), 'Type' (set to 'All'), 'Subject Area' (set to 'All'), and 'Open Access' (set to 'All'). A search bar contains the text 'engin'. Below the filters, a table lists various data collections. The table has columns for 'Hosting Institution', 'Name', 'Type', 'Subject area', 'Open Access', 'API', 'Publication Cost', 'Dataset size limit (GB)', and 'Comment'. The table is sorted by 'Dataset size limit (GB)' in descending order.

Hosting Institution	Name	Type	Subject area	Open Access	API	Publication Cost	Dataset size limit (GB)	Comment
18 FID BAU	Fachinformationsdienst BAUdigital	Bibliography/Repository	Civil Engineering	undef.				In active development, first services are available as beta versions
24 NFDi4ing/TIB	NFDi4ing Terminology Service	Terminology Service	Interdisciplinary	undef.	yes	n/a		Repository for engineering ontologies
54 NFDi4ing	Metadata4Ing	Ontology	Engineering	yes		n/a		Ontology focused on the semantic description of research data in the engineering sciences
55 Bundesamt für Wasserbau	HENRY Hydraulic Engineering Repository	Repository	Hydraulic Engineering	yes		free		Also provides an archive for reports and scientific publications from BAW and WSV
56 Open Engineering	engRXiv	Repository	Engineering	yes		free		Eprint server for engineering
59 FIZ Karlsruhe – Leibniz-Institut für Informationsinfrastruktur	zbMATH Open	Bibliography	Mathematics	yes	yes	n/a		Abstracting and reviewing service in pure and applied mathematics, also covers applications in the natural sciences, computer science, economics and engineering

Data Collections Explorer

- Basic implementation completed and available
 - CSV table to store entries
 - Served as HTML table using R Markdown and shiny
- Code is available on GitHub:
github.com/kit-data-manager/Data-Collections-Explorer
 - Adapt it, use it for your own community
- Constant updates
 - Mostly triggered by input from scientists
- Nonetheless, some caveats apply...

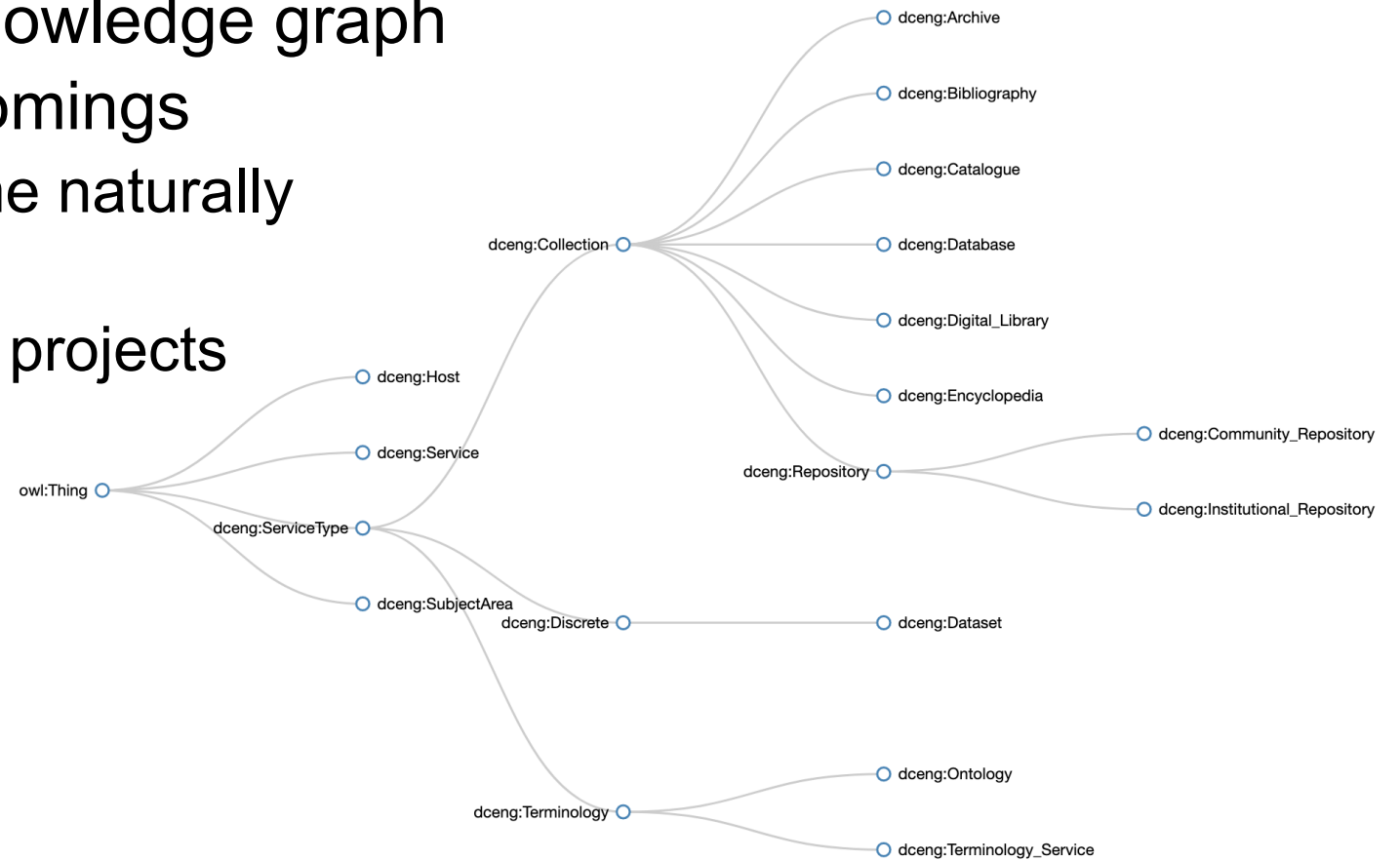


Collecting Scientists' Feedback

- Feedback collected from all NFDI4Ing Task Areas
 - Questions of interest:
 - What are scientists requirements and wishes of scientists regarding the Data Collections Explorer?
 - How would they like to work with the Data Collections Explorer?
 - Which repositories or data sets are important for their daily work?
 - Aggregated results:
 - Easy-to-use interfaces, including submission of new entries
 - API access
 - Flexible search
 - Use of vocabularies
- Discussions take time, but provide valuable input

Data Collections Explorer – Knowledge Graph

- Replace CSV table with a knowledge graph
- Addresses almost all shortcomings
 - One-to-many mappings come naturally
 - Access via SPARQL
 - Easier integration with other projects
 - More flexibility
 - Easy machine accessibility



Conclusions

- The Data Collections Explorer is an easy-to-use flexible tool
 - Share and find data focussed on a dedicated community
 - No big entry hurdles compared to re3data
 - Built for NFDI4Ing, easily adaptable for other communities
- New graph based version is work in progress; what to look forward to:
 - API access
 - New user interface
 - Vocabulary integration
 - And more... 😊