

Building a Data-Sharing Community

American Institute for Conservation

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What is VertNet?

Access to millions of biodiversity records via a searchable cloud-based platform on the web.

Fast

Easy

Scalable

Cheap



The Vertebrate Networks



Est. 1999, 2004

Mammal
Networked
Information
System

MaNIS

Est. 2001



Est. 2002



Est. 2004

The Vertebrate Networks

Primary Goals

Facilitate open access to specimen data on the web

Enhance the value of specimen collections

Conserve curatorial resources

*Use a design easily adapted by other disciplines
with similar needs*

Technical Challenges

- Cloud-based aggregation
- Caching and Indexing
- Search and Downloads
 - Cost

Social Challenges

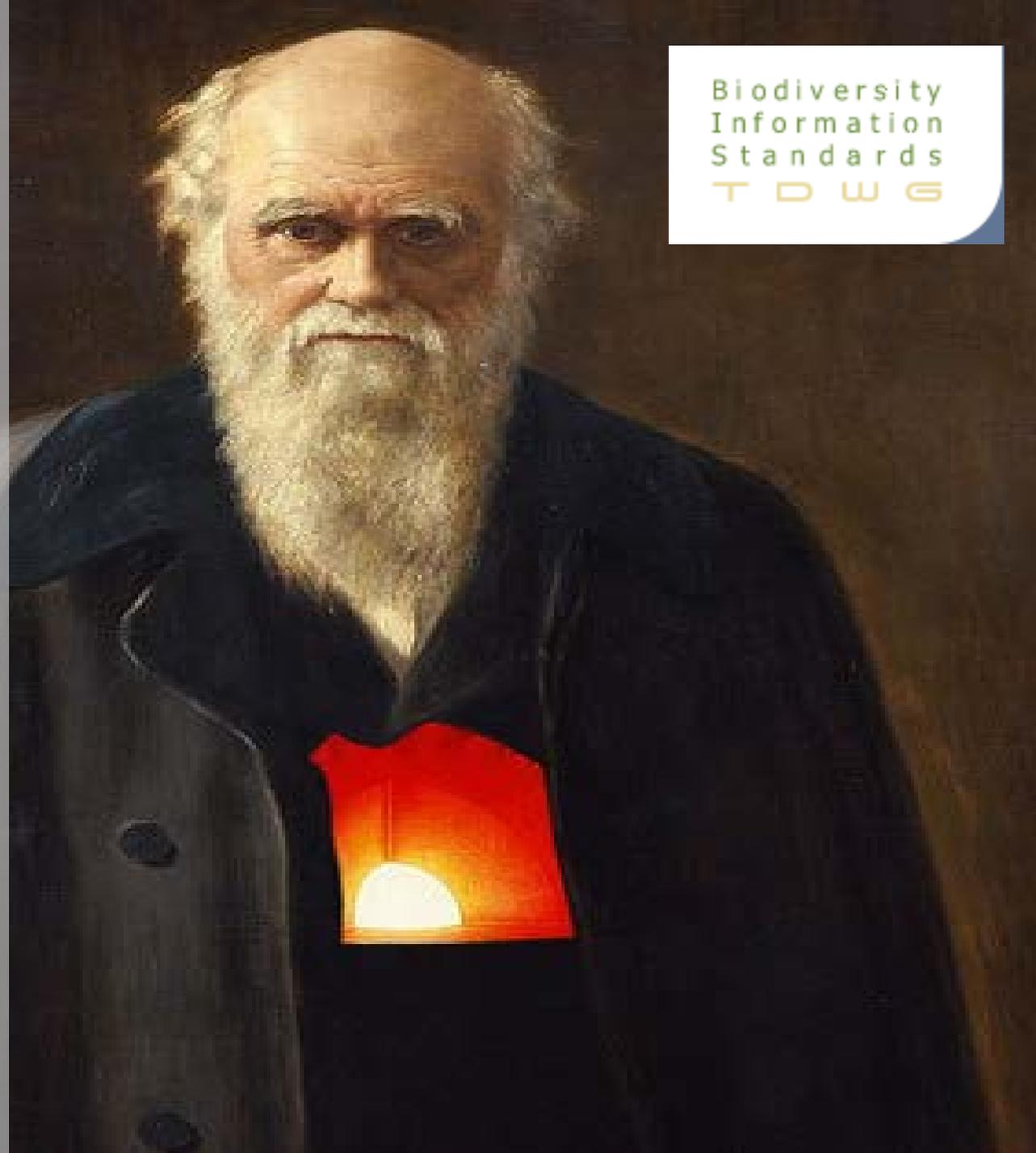


- Knowledge gaps
- Varied experience
- Limited resources



Communication is Key

The Natural
History
Community
Developed
Darwin Core.



Customer service

Excellent



Poor

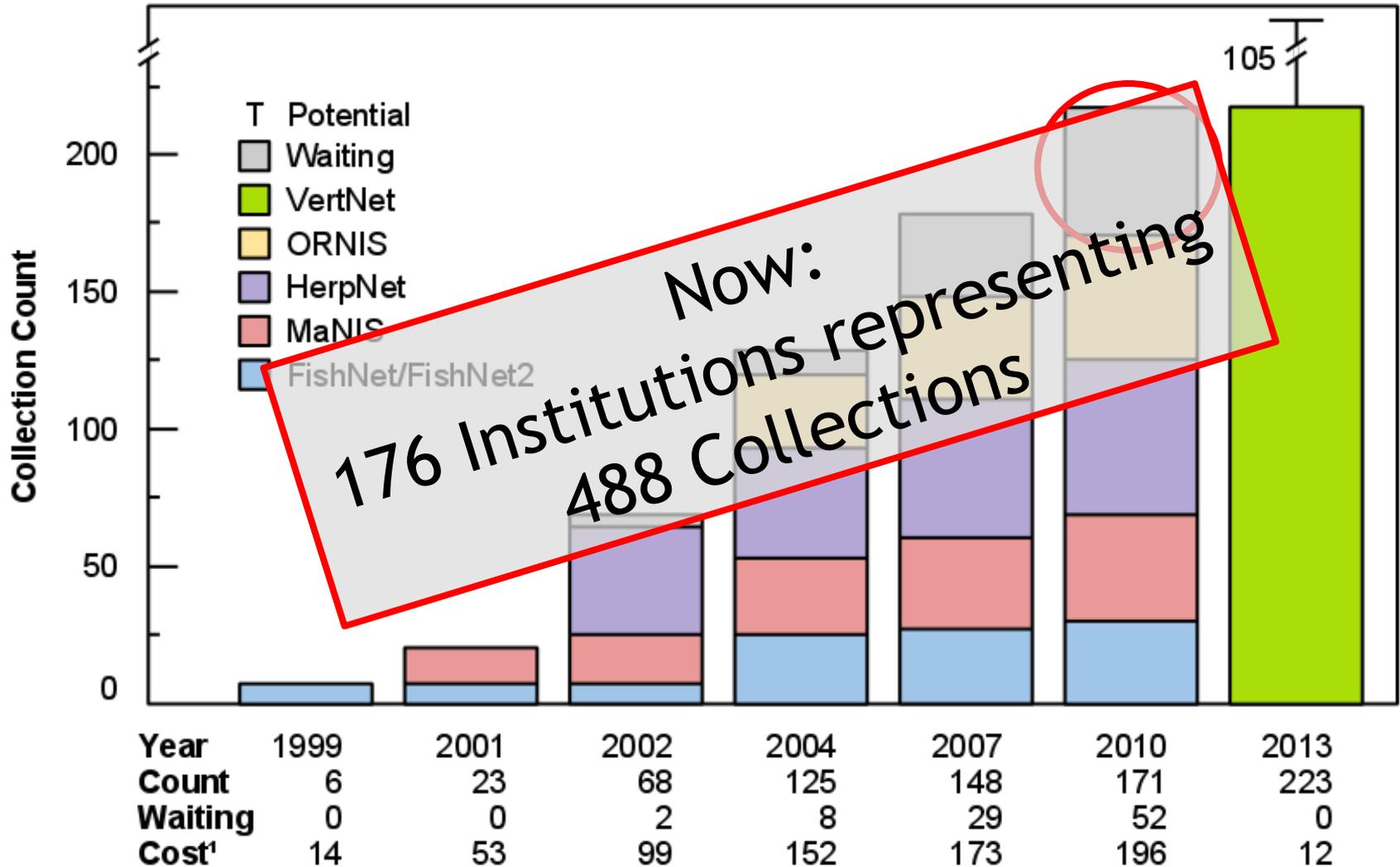


Create Opportunity



- Training Workshops
- Customized Tools
- Impromptu Instruction

Growth of the Vertebrate Networks



¹ Total Operating Cost per Year in USD (x1000)



Known Unknowns

Funding Model (sans beer)

*Overcoming Community
Misconceptions*

*What is this really worth to
the community?*

*“Information is only of value if you give it to people
with the ability to do something with it.”*

- Gen. Stanley McChrystal

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VertNet

<http://www.vertnet.org/>