

Sustainable Knowledge Management

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Sustainable development is finding the balance of the three E's: Economics, Environment and Equity. Scientists have the ever increasing responsibility to provide scientific data and analysis to provide support for Government policies and guidelines regarding sustainability.

Collating and curating data, particularly within multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional research project presents challenges. Currently it is not common practice to plan and scope for all data within a project to be deposited in to a secure, trustworthy repository. No only is it necessary for the data to be curated, the ideas and tacit knowledge acquired throughout the project need to be written down for future reference.

Knowledge management is a burgeoning area as Governments and businesses realise the underutilisation of human capital. The benefits of efficient, effective transfer of knowledge are multiple. The bottom line in terms of dollars benefits, or in the case of scientific research, decreasing dollars spent relating to "loss" of data or "invisible" data, but also to "softer" benefits such as collaboration enabled by the building up of trust.

A project surrounding *Lyngbya* (a species of blue-green algae) is used as an example to explore the limitations that became apparent and the benefits gained by sharing knowledge.