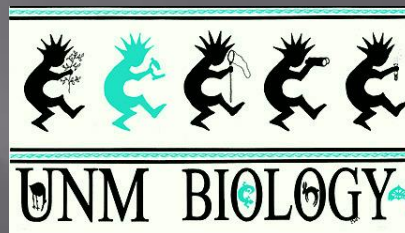


# EMERGING PATHOGENS AND THE ROLE OF NATURAL HISTORY ARCHIVES: THE HANTAVIRUS EXAMPLE.

Jonathan L. Dunnun and Joe Cook  
Museum of Southwestern Biology



# Outline

- ▣ Emerging Pathogens
  - Zoonotic diseases/Reservoirs
- ▣ Hantavirus example
  - ▣ Outbreak investigation
  - ▣ Long term ecological studies
- ▣ New pathogen discovery
- ▣ Archives are critical
  - Natural History Collections

# Emerging Pathogens

- ▣ Newly appearing or spread of infectious disease.
  - Unrecognized or underreported due to
    - ▣ Ignorance of clinical expression.
    - ▣ Or lack of a reliable test.
  - Often associated with outbreak scenarios.
- ▣ >1400 species of organisms known to be pathogenic to humans
- ▣ >60% are zoonotic, 12% considered emergent

# Zoonotic Diseases

- ▣ Transmitted from animals to people

Plague, Malaria, SARS, Chagas, Lyme disease, Ebola, Hantavirus

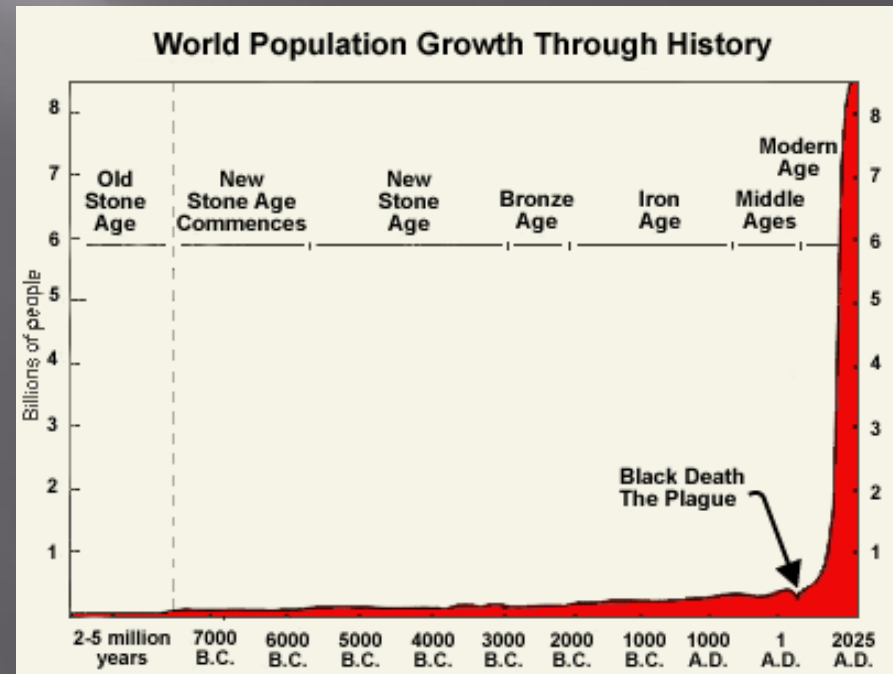


# Why more emerging diseases?

- ▣ Increased Human – Animal Contact
  - Increase and spread of human populations
  - Natural areas are home to “reservoir species”.
    - ▣ Animal populations often immune to symptoms.
- ▣ Recognition and diagnosis

# 7 Billion

- ▣ Added 1 billion since 1999
- ▣ Current growth –
  - about 235,000/day



# Pop Growth Consequences

- ▣ Need for space
  - Sprawl
  - Encroachment on natural areas
- ▣ Need for food
  - Habitat conversion
  - Forest hunting/Bush meat

# Habitat conversion

- ▣ Ca. 50% of habitable land converted to farming.
  - Predicted another 120 million ha converted by 2050.
  - Will include land with high biodiversity value.
- ▣ Large-scale clearing for intensive monocultures.
  - e.g. Amazon and Asian rainforests to oil palm plantations
  - Brazilian savanna to soybean and cattle farms.





# Habitat Conversion Effects

- ▣ Humans into natural areas
- ▣ Reduction in biodiversity, unbalances species communities
- ▣ Cleared land/monocultures facilitate population explosions in certain species

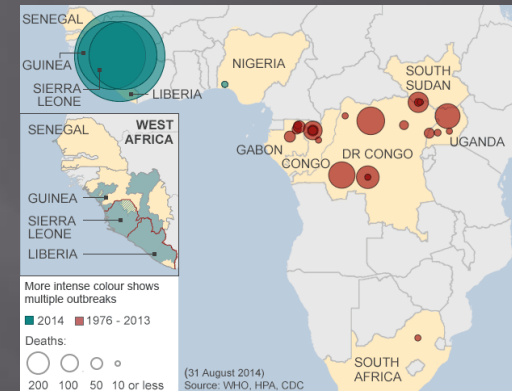
# Outbreak scenarios

## ▣ Ebola example

- Reservoirs - Long lived fruit bats
- Maintain pathogen for long periods in natural areas.
- Pathogen encountered in natural area.
- Human to human contact

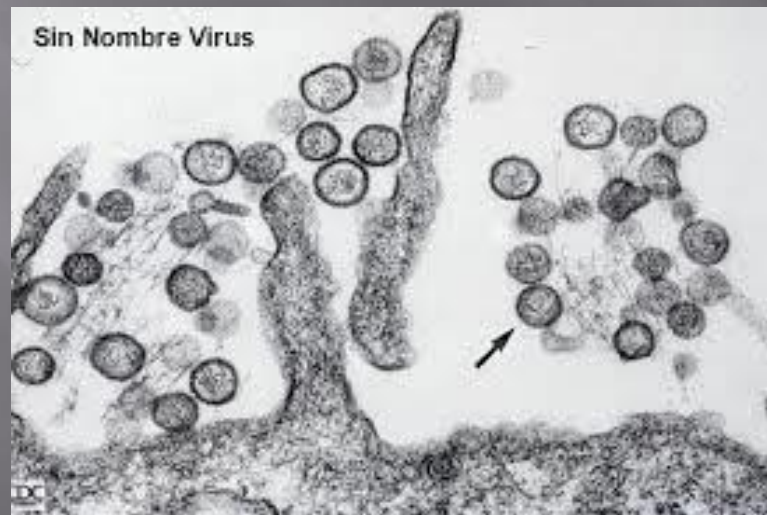
## ▣ Hantavirus example

- Reservoirs – short lived, prolific rodents
- Respond rapidly to environmental /ecological changes.
- 2 types - Ratatas in natural and converted habitat.
- Pathogen encountered in converted area.
- Rodent to human contact causes outbreak.



# Sin Nombre Hantavirus example

- ▣ Case study in working through the process of responding to and understanding the underlying mechanisms of an outbreak.



# Initial 1993 Outbreak

- ❑ Unknown disease emerged in the Southwest, killing 10 people during an 8-week period.
- ❑ Flu-like symptoms for several days, but condition suddenly and rapidly deteriorated as lungs filled with fluids.
- ❑ Death usually occurred within hours of the onset of this crisis period.
- ❑ No treatment, unknown disease agent, 70% mortality, many young and fit.



\* ATTENTION \*

IF YOU HAVE A  
FEVER ALONG WITH  
MUSCLE ACHES AND  
PAINS, PLEASE STAY  
IN YOUR CAR AND  
WE WILL EXAMINE  
YOU THERE.

# What was the disease agent?



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

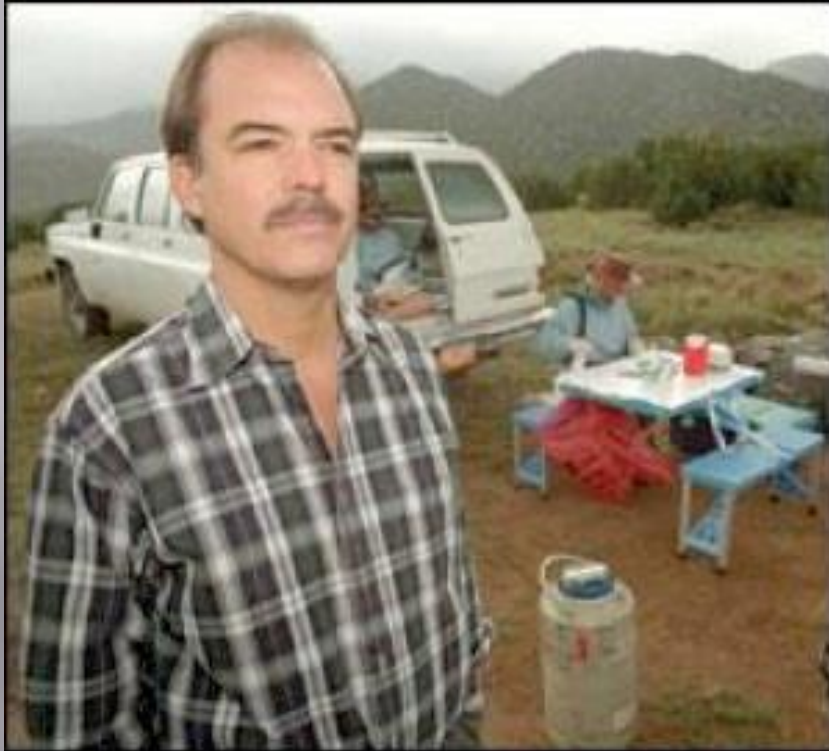


THE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW MEXICO

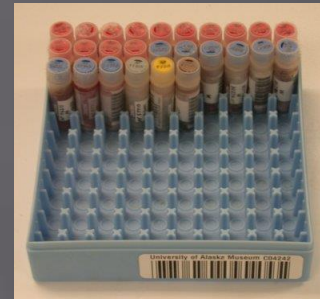
*New Mexico's Flagship University*

- Conspiracy theories
- Massive collaboration and a bit of luck
- Virus isolation in human case
- Reservoir ID

# Was this something new?



- Terry Yates
- Basic Mammal Field Work
- Tissue collection since 1978
- Unintended Consequences

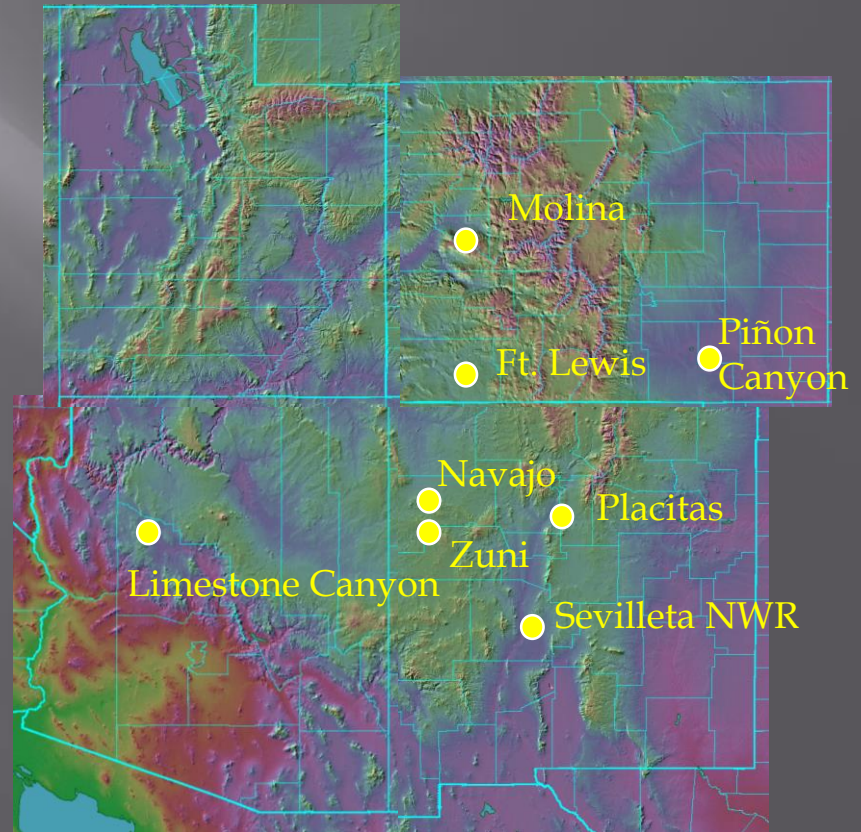


# Why did this occur at this time and place?

- ▣ Understanding Reservoir Ecology
- ▣ Longitudinal studies (1994-2006)

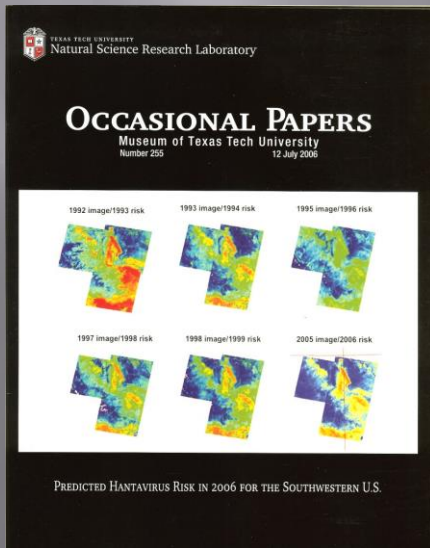
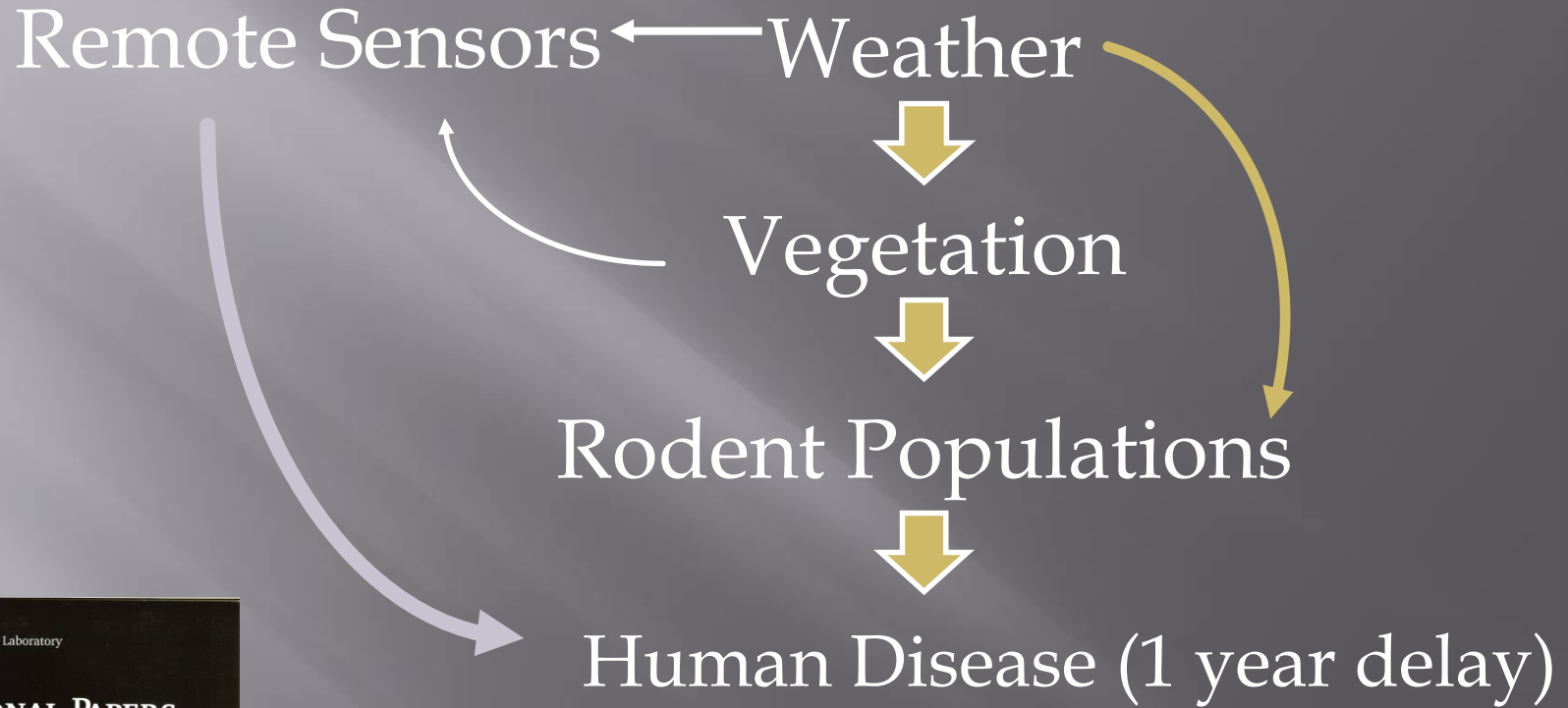
8 sites in SW United States monitoring

- Small mammal pop
- Hantavirus prevalence
- Ecological conditions.





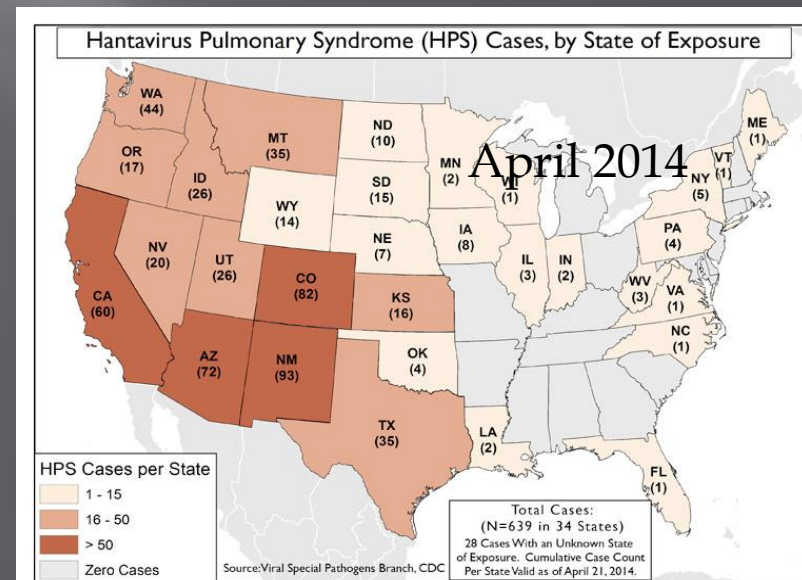
# Reservoir studies → Predictive models



- Data through two El Niños in the SW US
- Precipitation catalyst of a trophic cascade
- Delayed density-dependent rodent response
- Allows prediction of risk for HPS

# Today

- ▣ 639 cases
- ▣ Mortality 30-40%
- ▣ Understand reservoir ecology
- ▣ Medical community recognition, treatment



# New World Hantaviruses-in 2003

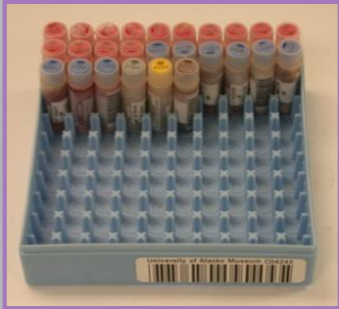


# Many new hosts for new Hantaviruses

New discoveries possible with deep, integrated specimen archives



# Holistic Voucher



Ultrafrozen tissues



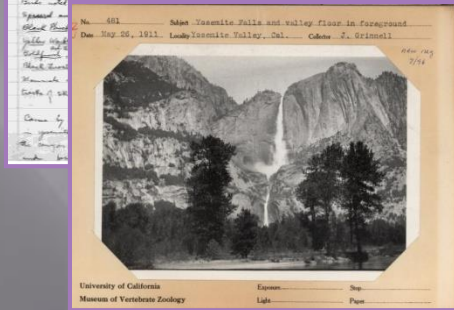
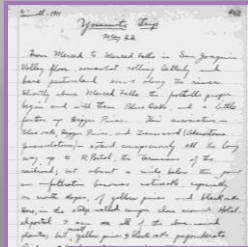
Traditional skin, skeleton or fluid voucher



Ecto & endo parasites



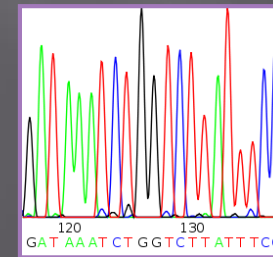
Virus isolates



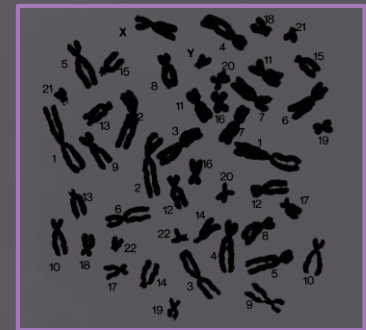
Field notes,  
ecological data



Geo-reference



Genomic data



Karyotypes

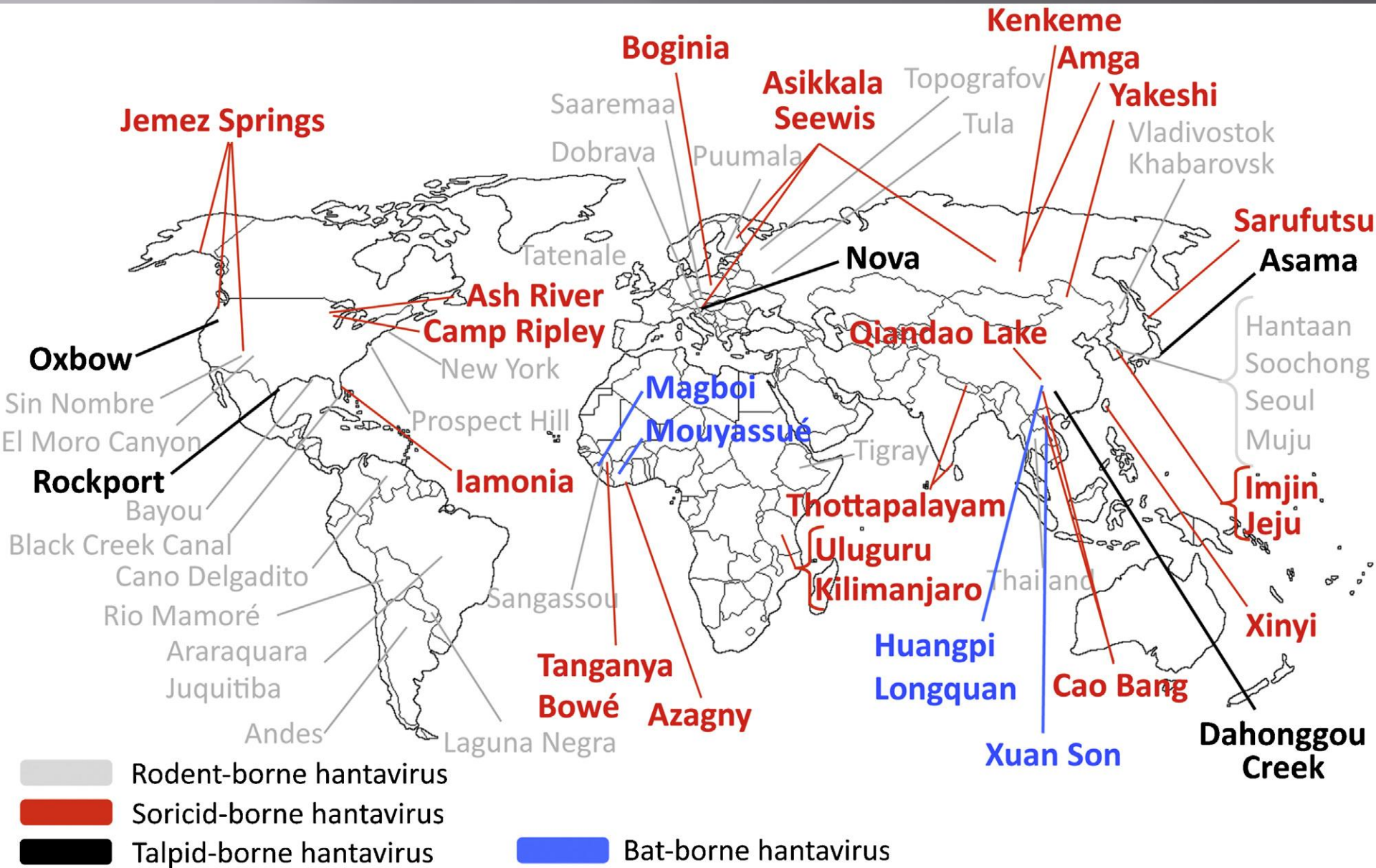
# Integrated Archives

- Temporally Deep
- Geographically Broad, Site Intensive
- Geo-referenced
- Multiple Datasets tied to central voucher specimen
  - Frozen Materials for Molecular Biology
  - Parasites tied to Hosts

# Global Collections from Emerging Pathogens Research

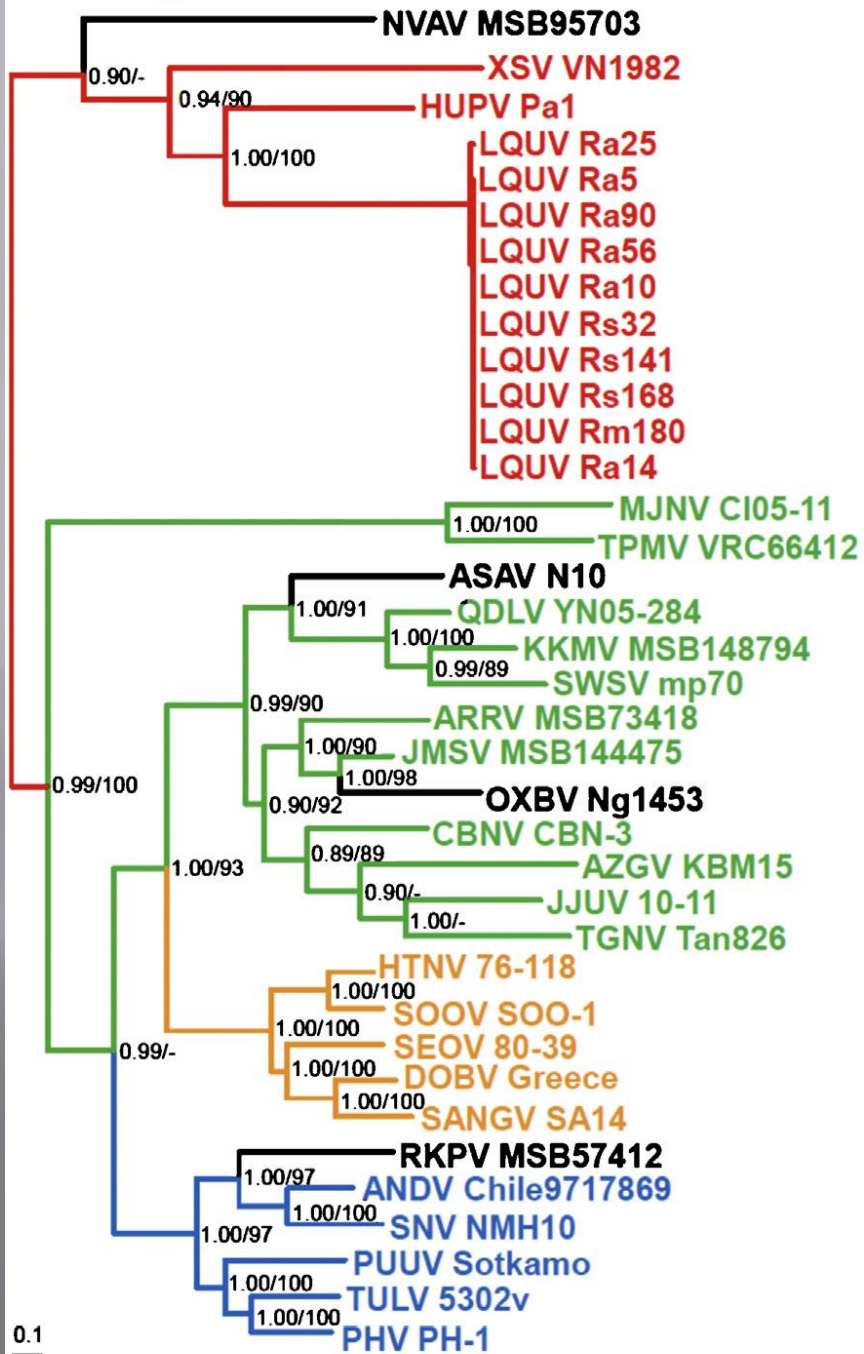
PROJECT	# SPECIMENS
□ Sweden 1993, 1999 – Hantavirus	400
□ Bolivia 1994 - Hemorrhagic fever	185
□ Zaire 1995 –Ebola virus	600
□ Nicaragua 1995– Hantavirus	50
□ Paraguay 1995 – Hantavirus	135
□ Bolivia 2000 – Machupo virus	330
□ Chile 1997-2007 – Hantavirus	7300
□ Panama 2000-2014 – Hantavirus	7000
□ Panama 2009 - SIGEO climate change/ emerging diseases	160
□ Mongolia 1999, 2009-2013 – Hantavirus	5000
□ China 1999, 2006 – Emerging diseases	500
□ 22,000 specimens; 300 species	

# Hantavirus Discovery----multiple mammalian hosts

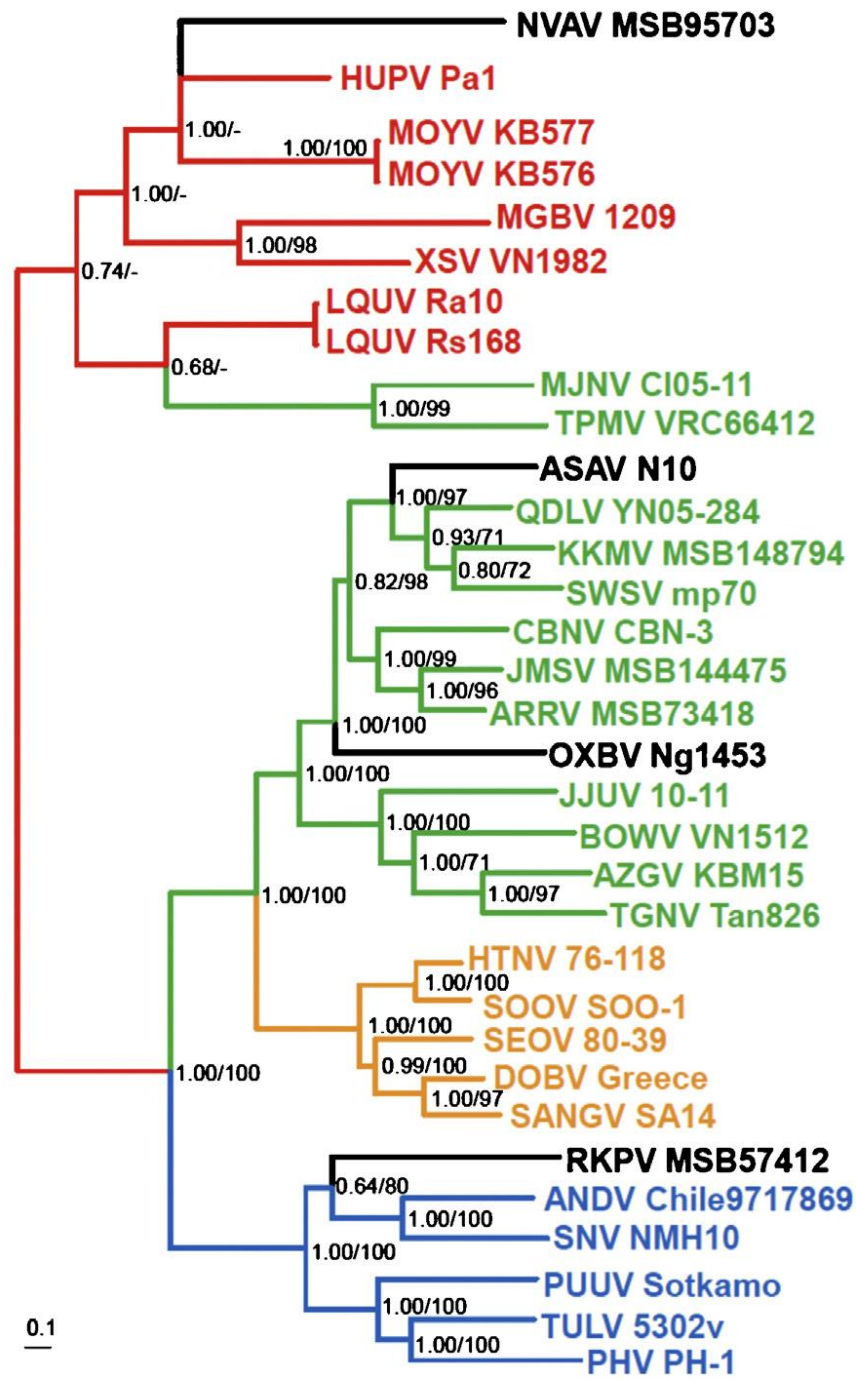




# S segment

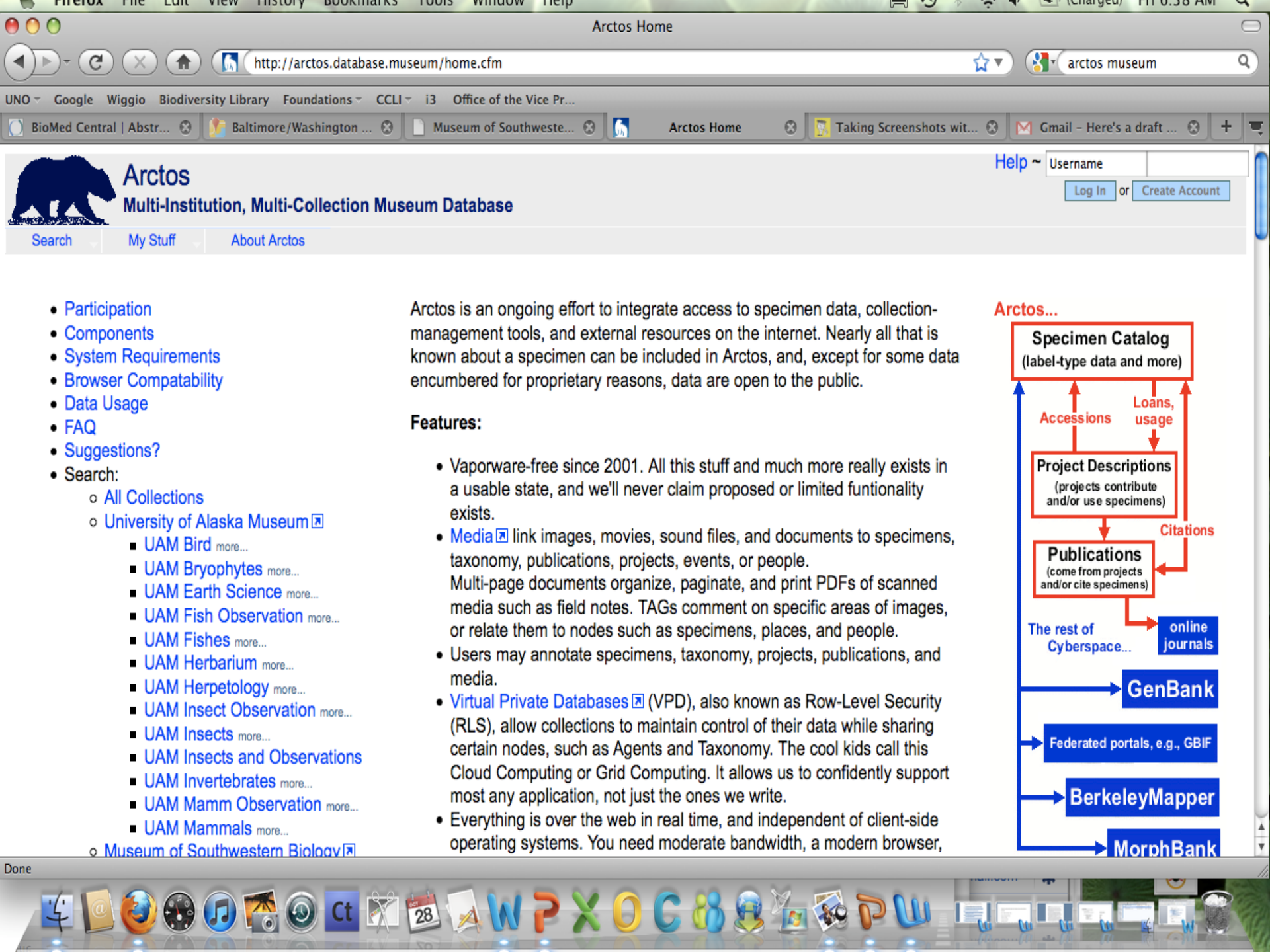


# L segment



# Integrated Archives

- Temporally Deep
- Geographically Broad, Site Intensive
- Geo-referenced
- Multiple Datasets tied to central voucher specimen
  - Frozen Materials for Molecular Biology
  - Parasites tied to Hosts
- Searchable Web-based Databases
  - Research, Policy, Education



# Arctos

Multi-Institution, Multi-Collection Museum Database

Help ~ Username   
 or

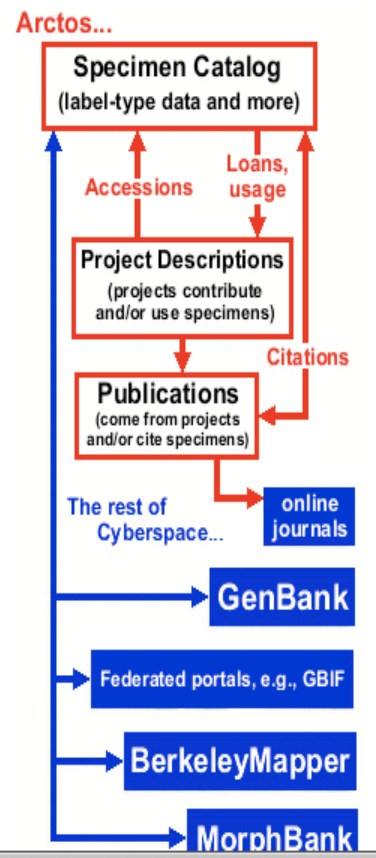
[Search](#) [My Stuff](#) [About Arctos](#)

- [Participation](#)
- [Components](#)
- [System Requirements](#)
- [Browser Compatability](#)
- [Data Usage](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Suggestions?](#)
- Search:
  - [All Collections](#)
  - [University of Alaska Museum](#)
    - [UAM Bird](#) more...
    - [UAM Bryophytes](#) more...
    - [UAM Earth Science](#) more...
    - [UAM Fish Observation](#) more...
    - [UAM Fishes](#) more...
    - [UAM Herbarium](#) more...
    - [UAM Herpetology](#) more...
    - [UAM Insect Observation](#) more...
    - [UAM Insects](#) more...
    - [UAM Insects and Observations](#)
    - [UAM Invertebrates](#) more...
    - [UAM Mamm Observation](#) more...
    - [UAM Mammals](#) more...
  - [Museum of Southwestern Biology](#)

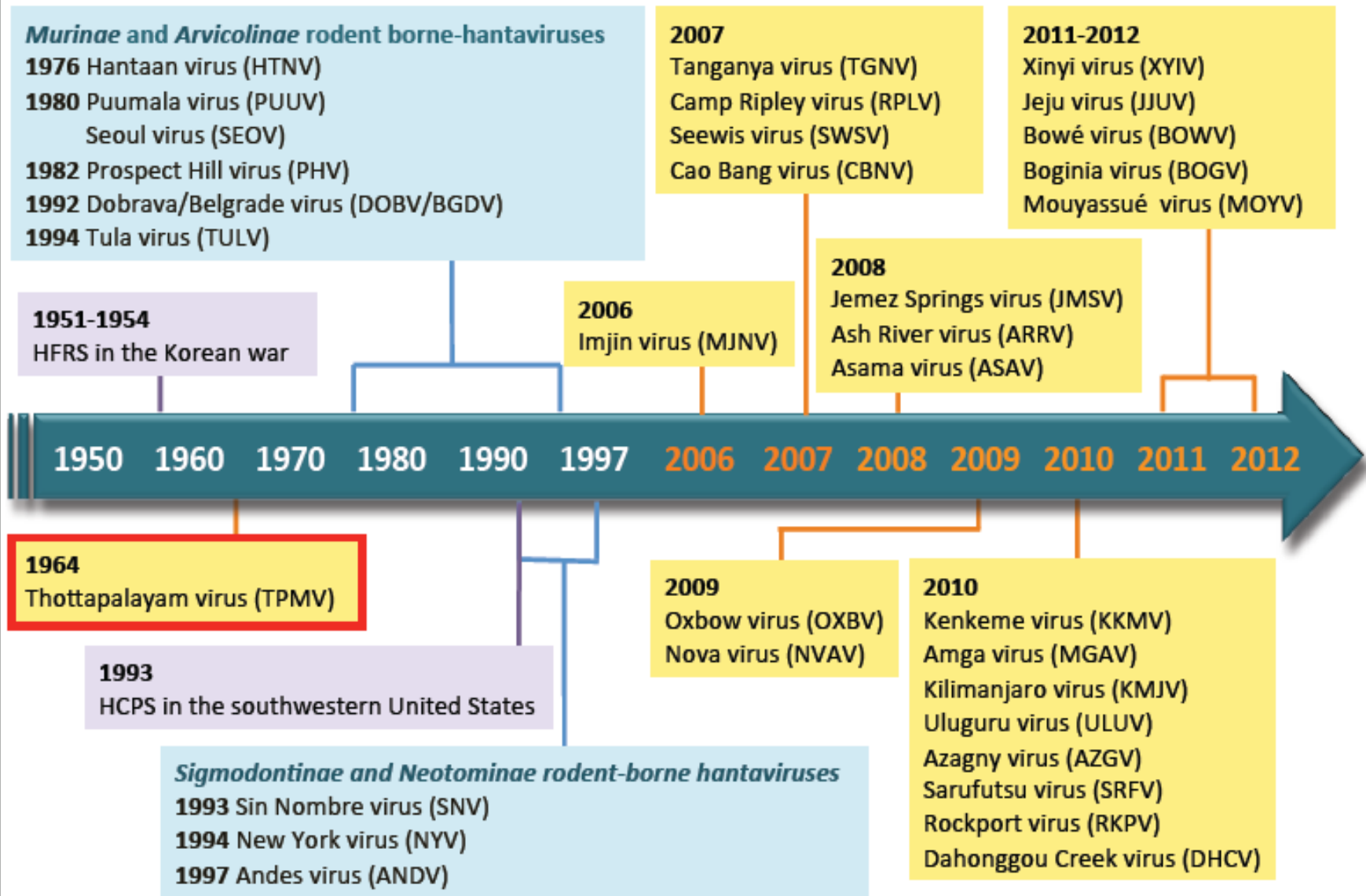
Arctos is an ongoing effort to integrate access to specimen data, collection-management tools, and external resources on the internet. Nearly all that is known about a specimen can be included in Arctos, and, except for some data encumbered for proprietary reasons, data are open to the public.

### Features:

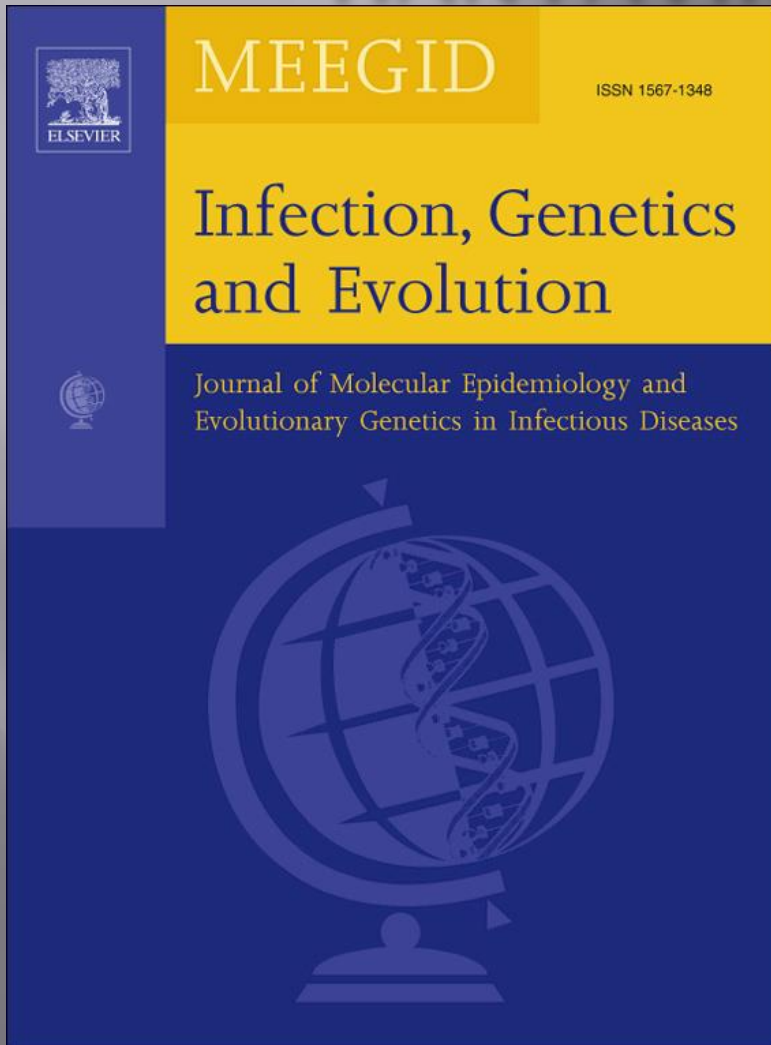
- Vaporware-free since 2001. All this stuff and much more really exists in a usable state, and we'll never claim proposed or limited functionality exists.
- [Media](#) link images, movies, sound files, and documents to specimens, taxonomy, publications, projects, events, or people. Multi-page documents organize, paginate, and print PDFs of scanned media such as field notes. TAGs comment on specific areas of images, or relate them to nodes such as specimens, places, and people.
- Users may annotate specimens, taxonomy, projects, publications, and media.
- [Virtual Private Databases](#) (VPD), also known as Row-Level Security (RLS), allow collections to maintain control of their data while sharing certain nodes, such as Agents and Taxonomy. The cool kids call this Cloud Computing or Grid Computing. It allows us to confidently support most any application, not just the ones we write.
- Everything is over the web in real time, and independent of client-side operating systems. You need moderate bandwidth, a modern browser,



# Hantavirus Milestones



# WHAT IS THE TIME-SCALE OF HANTAVIRUS EVOLUTION?



Zhang, Y-Z., Holmes, E.C., 2014.  
What is the Time-Scale of Hantavirus  
Evolution?  
Infection, Genetics and Evolution

2000 years to 50 million years?

# *What went right?*

- Integrated Archives Available
  - Diverse tissues across time and space
- Integration across disciplines
  - Systematics, Virology, Public Health, Geography, Ecology, Sociology
- Coordination across multiple agencies and others
  - State, federal, tribal, universities, museums

# *What went wrong?*

- Durable infrastructure **lacking**---deep (temporal) & wide (spatial)  
Why?
  - Focus on hypothesis driven science
    - Funding availability
    - Narrower scope of new collections
    - Resources shifted to public programs
  - Reluctance of museums to engage other communities
  - Slow response of museums to build integrated resources
  - Communication – on line open, resources (internet)
  - Data models are weak for many institutions
    - Tracking data & data availability
    - Tie big data together, place specimens as central
      - e.g., GenBank to GoogleEarth through specimens

## Natural History

SPECIMEN DATABASES (www)

### TEACHING & RESEARCH

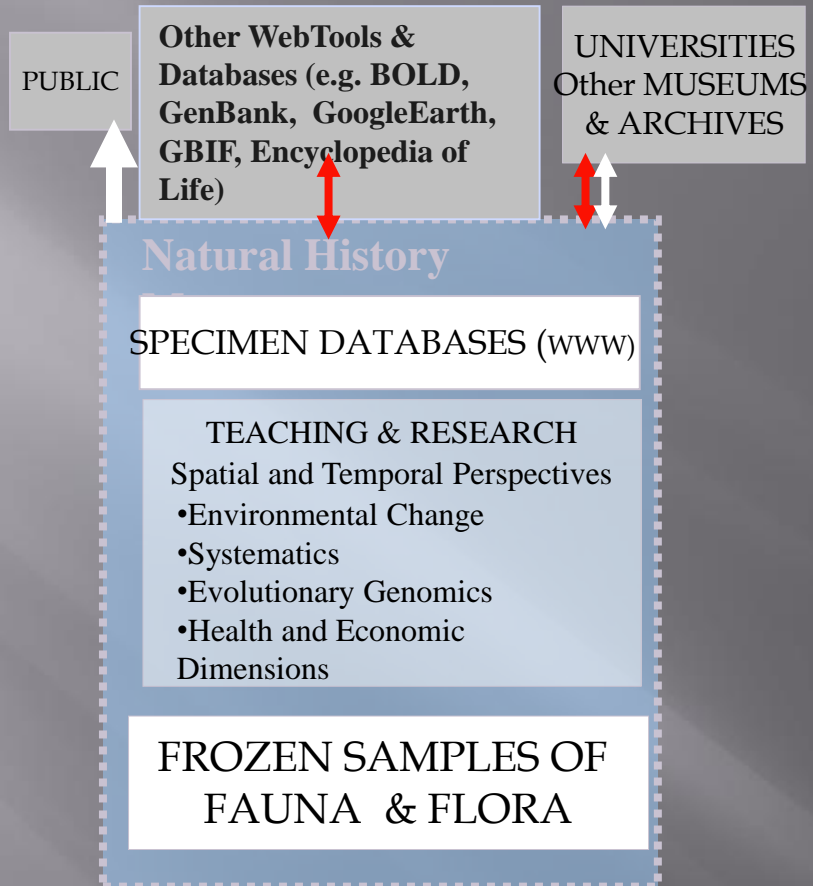
Spatial and Temporal Perspectives

- Environmental Change
- Systematics
- Evolutionary Genomics
- Human Dimensions

FROZEN SAMPLES OF  
FAUNA & FLORA

A Museum Approach to  
Pathogen Observatories

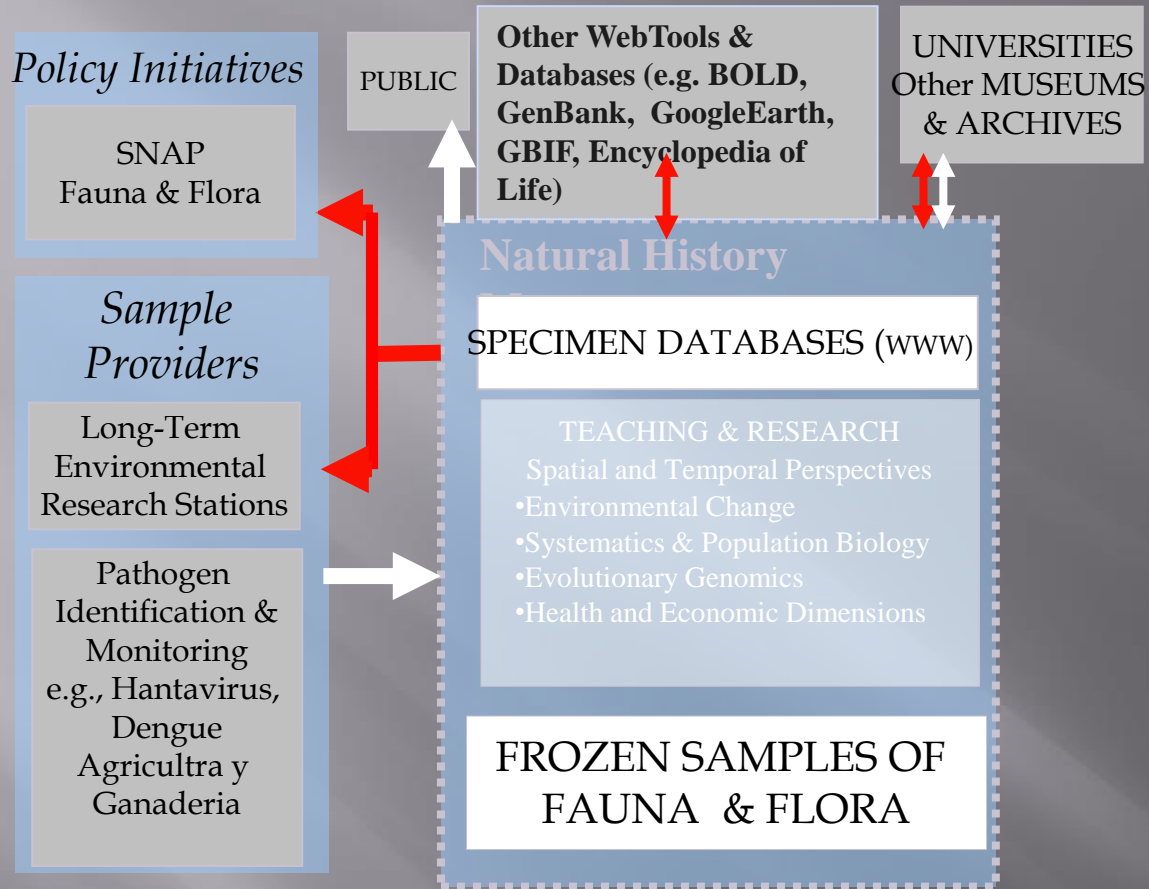




→  
specimens & samples

→  
specimen data and  
project metadata

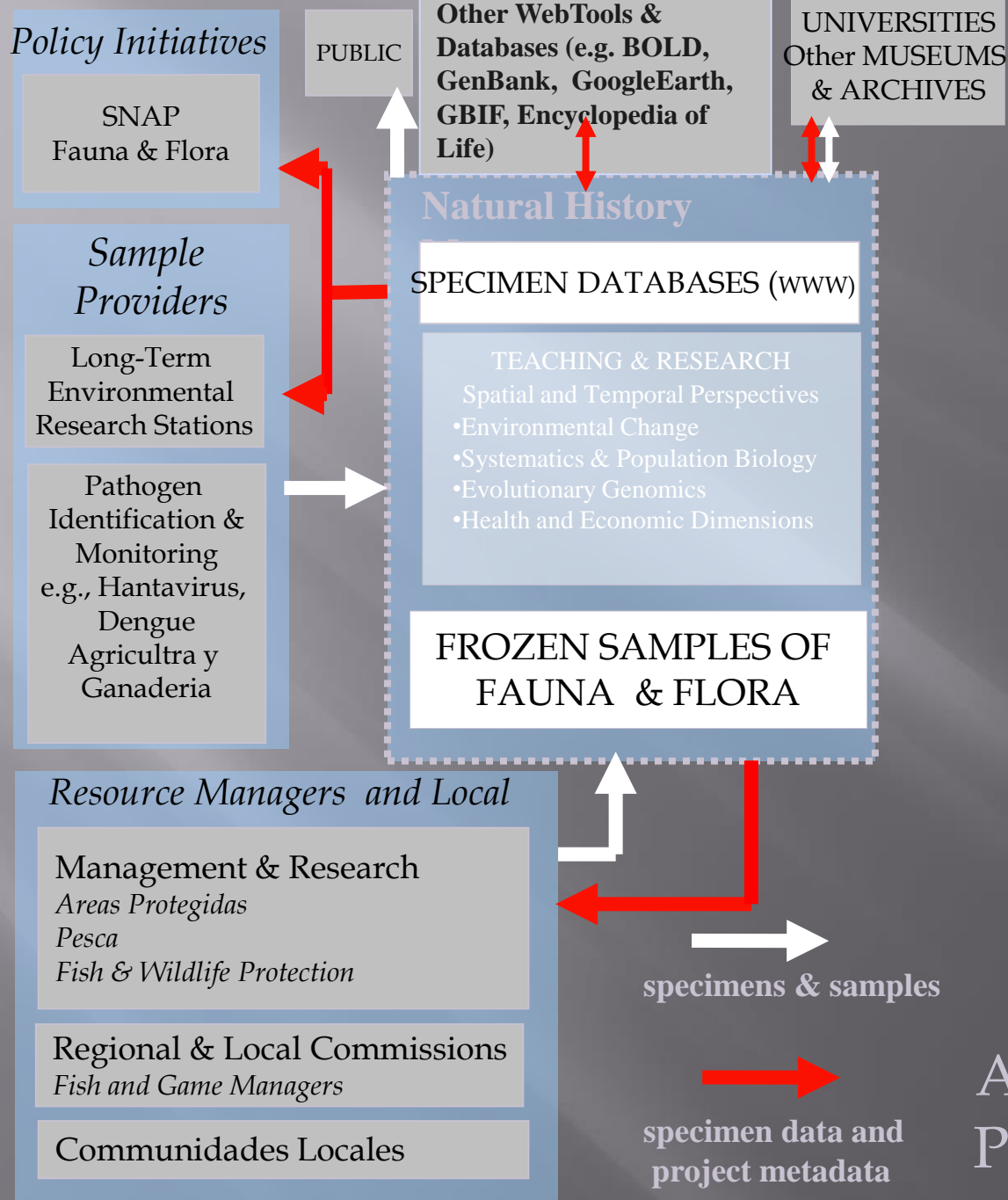
A Museum Approach to  
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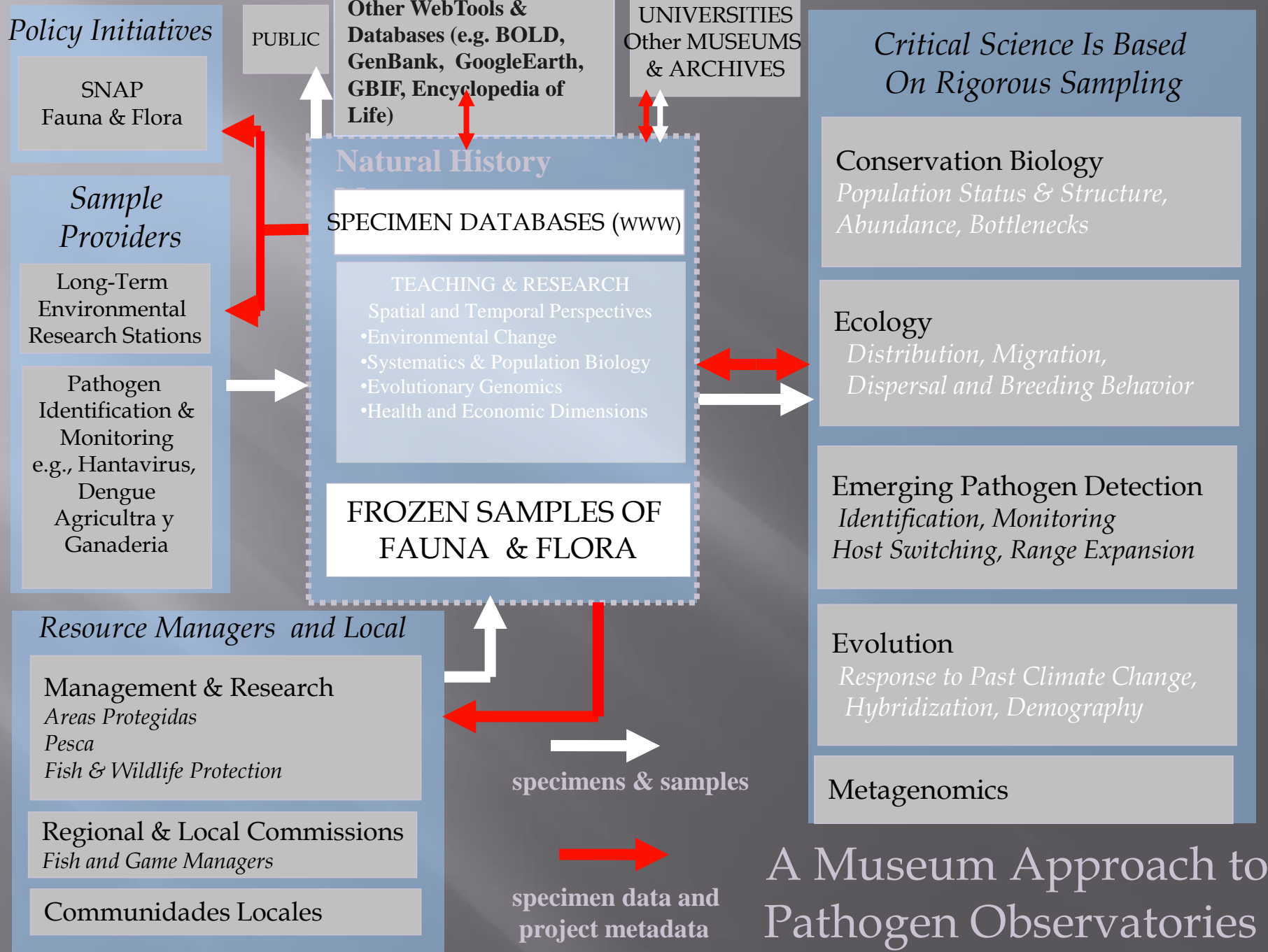
specimens & samples

specimen data and  
project metadata

A Museum Approach to  
Pathogen Observatories



A Museum Approach to  
Pathogen Observatories



*"At this point I wish to emphasize what I believe will ultimately prove to be the greatest value of our museum. This value will not, however, be realized until the lapse of many years, possibly a century, assuming that our material is safely preserved. And this is that the student of the future will have access to the original record of faunal conditions."*

Joseph Grinnell, 1910  
"The Uses and Methods of a Research Museum"  
Popular Science Monthly



# *Next Steps for Pathogen Discovery and Mitigation?*

## Information & Technology Needs

- Increased Growth of Collections
  - Could be stimulated by digitization efforts
  - Unintended Consequences
- Increased Human Capacity
  - Broadening Participation
  - Revitalizing & Integrating Medical & Biology Education



# Travel Channel's Mysteries at the Museum

<http://www.travelchannel.com/shows/mysteries-at-the-museum/video/four-corners-outbreak>