EXPLAIN IT

WHY YOUR RESEARCH DESERVES GOOD DOCUMENTATION AND METADATA

Question Mark Sign by Colin_K on flickr:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/colinkinner/2200500024/

Why create documentation?

Make material understandable

Image: http://www.flickr.com/photos/archer10/5692813531/
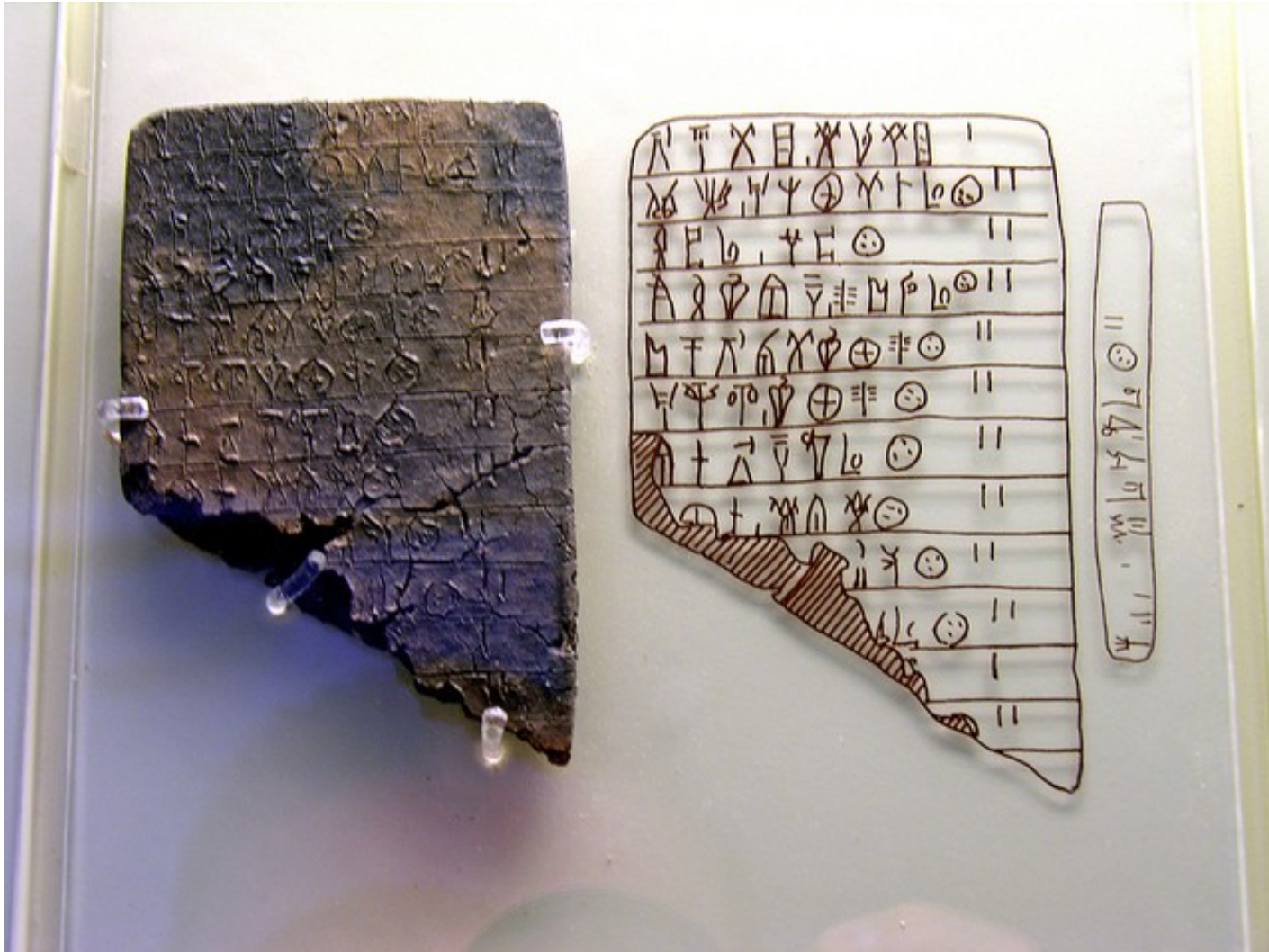
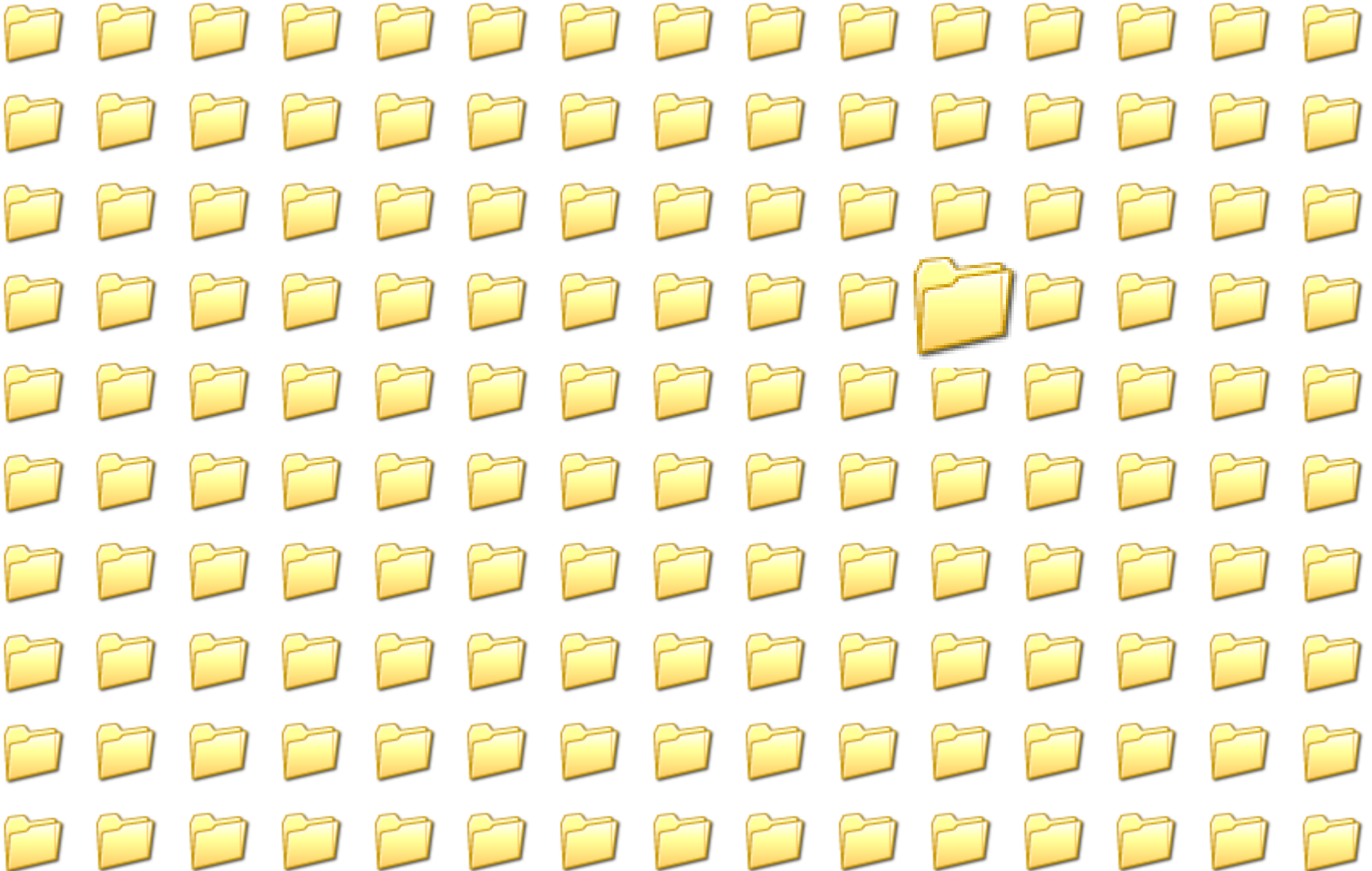# Make material reproducible

Make material re-usable
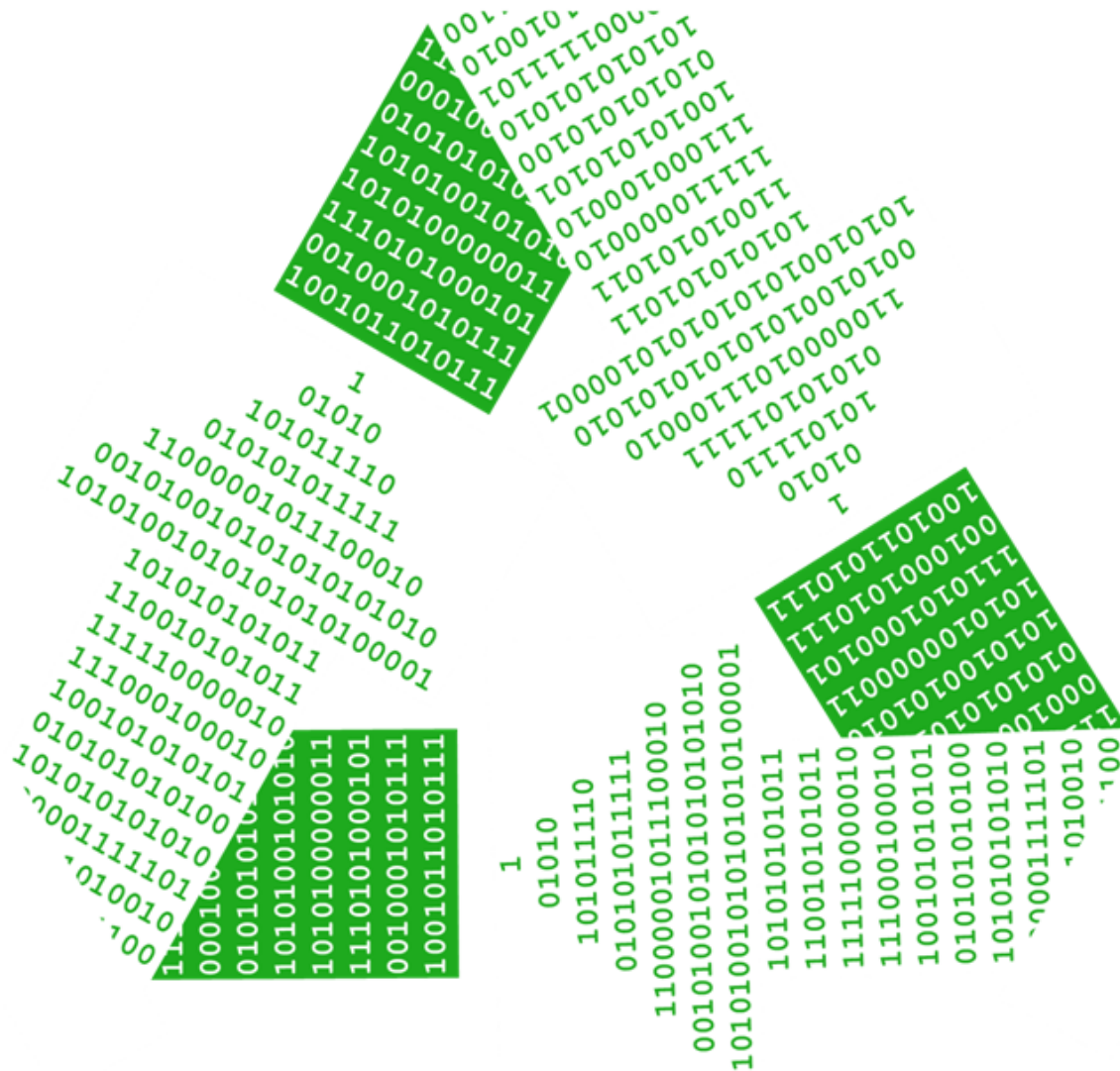
Documentation & Metadata

"I guess it makes sense for a robot to read an e-book [401]" by brianjmatis on flickr
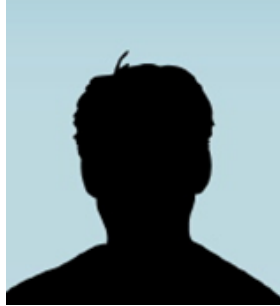
- Metadata are:
  - Machine readable
  - Written according to standards
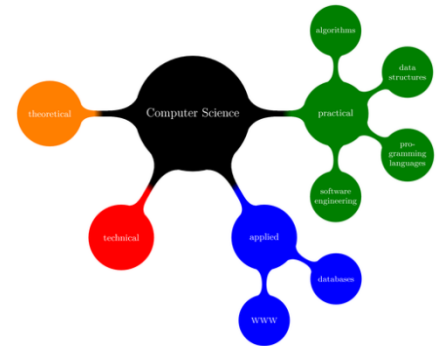
Make material findable

What to include (I)
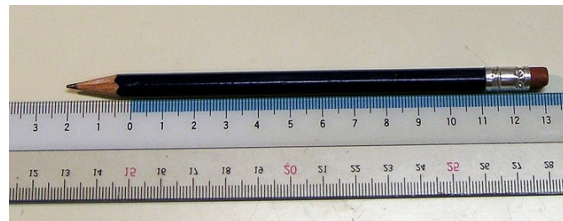
- **Who** created it, **when** and **why**

- Include:
  - **Description** of the item
  - **Method or theoretical approach**
  - **What** is being **measured**
  - **References** to related data

description *n.*
A set of characteristics
by which something can
be recognised

By mdxdt on flickr: www.flickr.com/
photos/dxdt22/177749386/

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Vector construction, virus production

The lentiviral vector pLVPRT-tTRKRAB [23] wa
and pLVPRT-tTRKRAB-PP1α-EGFP for inducible
sequence of human (mutated rabbit) PP1α a
pEGFP-C1-PP1α [24] was subcloned betwee
constructs were sequenced before virus prod
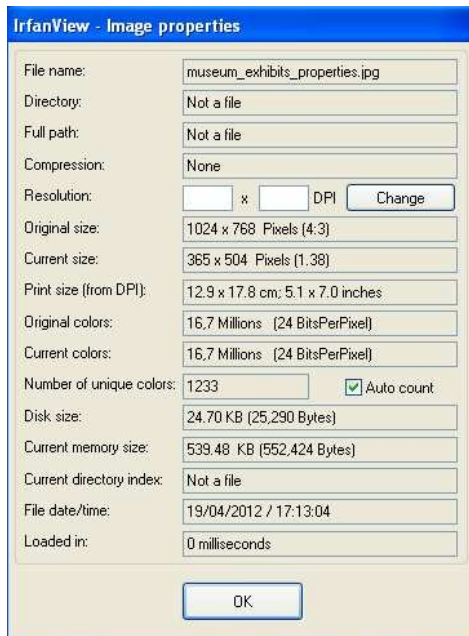
www.texample.net

M. Farinelli et al. (2012)
PLoS ONE 7(3): e34047

What to include (II)

- **Define** jargon, acronyms and code

By Gavin Llewellyn
http://www.flickr.com/photos
/gavinjllewellyn/6826303487/

IrfanView - Image properties

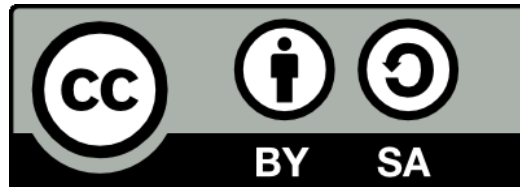|	
File name:	museum_exhibits_properties.jpg
Directory:	Not a file
Full path:	Not a file
Compression:	None
Resolution:	[ ] x [ ] DPI Change
Original size:	1024 x 768 Pixels (4:3)
Current size:	365 x 504 Pixels (1.38)
Print size (from DPI):	12.9 x 17.8 cm; 5.1 x 7.0 inches
Original colors:	16,7 Millions (24 BitsPerPixel)
Current colors:	16,7 Millions (24 BitsPerPixel)
Number of unique colors:	1233 ☑ Auto count
Disk size:	24.70 KB (25,290 Bytes)
Current memory size:	539.48 KB (552,424 Bytes)
Current directory index:	Not a file
File date/time:	19/04/2012 / 17:13:04
Loaded in:	0 milliseconds

OK

- Provide **technical information** about the file
  (may be generated automatically)

Explain it

- **Create documentation to make data:**
  - Understandable
  - Reproducible
  - Re-usable
  - Findable (and searchable)
- **Explain:**
  - Who created it, when and why
  - Methodologies and analysis techniques
  - Jargon, acronyms and code

Open Access Teaching Materials

for Digital Preservation
Produced for the JISC-funded PrePARe project (2012)