HELMHOLTZ PROJECT HERMES

HELMHOLTZ RICH METADATA SOFTWARE PUBLICATIONS

HERMES Kickoff Workshop 2021-11-12

Research Software Directory

past - present - future

Carlos Martinez-Ortiz

netherlands eScience center

The early days

2012-2017

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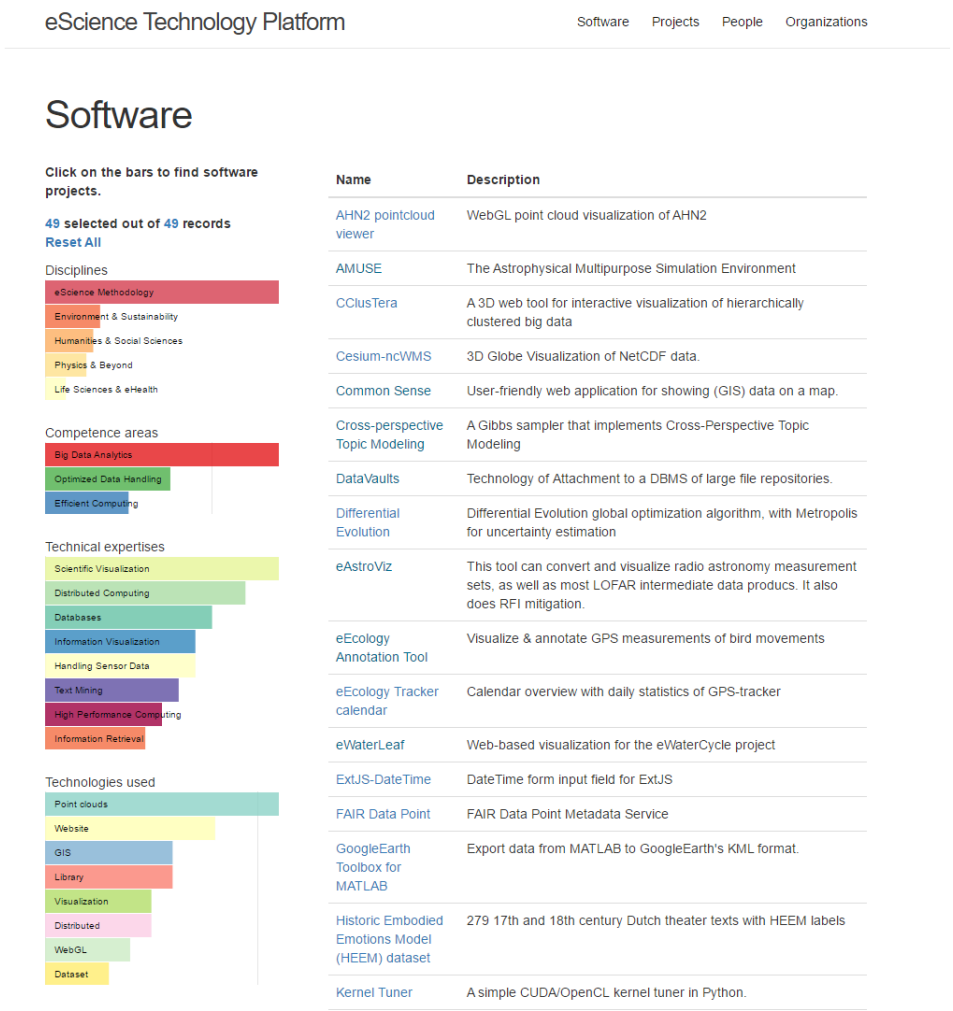
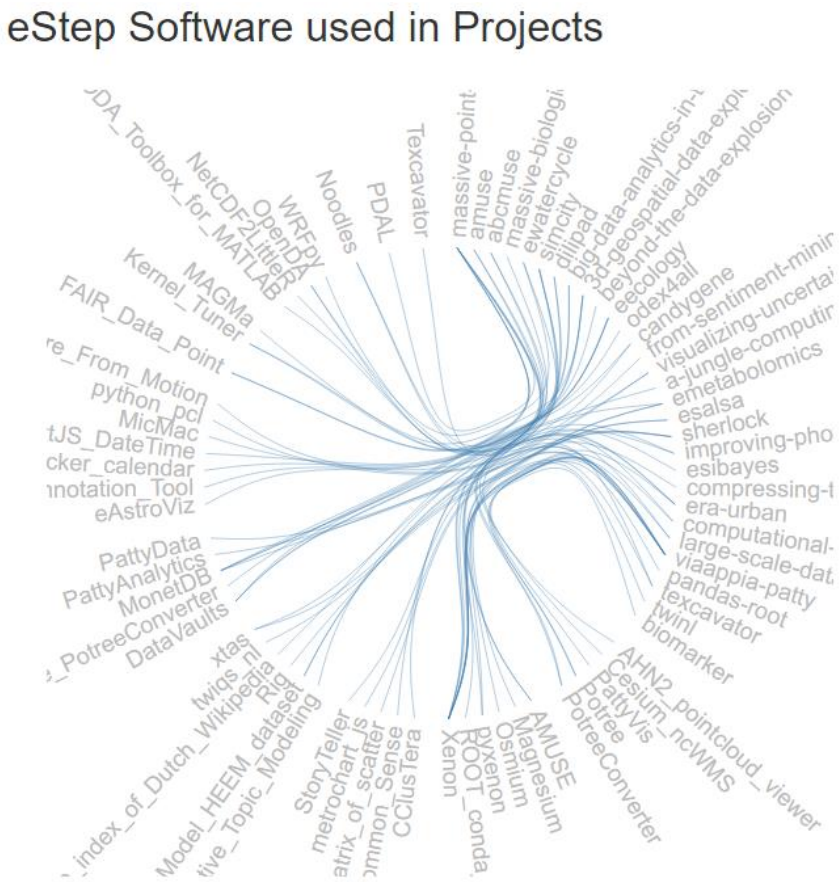
First baby (e-)steps: the eScience Technology Platform





Problem: how do know who we reach?

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eScience self assessment 2017

“We have only just started to quantitively assess the impact of our software. However, it appears to be very challenging – if not impossible – to develop a standard set of reliable measures that provide a representative view of the popularity, usage or impact of our software.”

“To address some of the challenges in quantifying and monitoring the impact of our software activities, we are setting up an Alliance with CWI on the monitoring and assessment of the impact of software.”

“To measure is to know” (Lord Kelvin)

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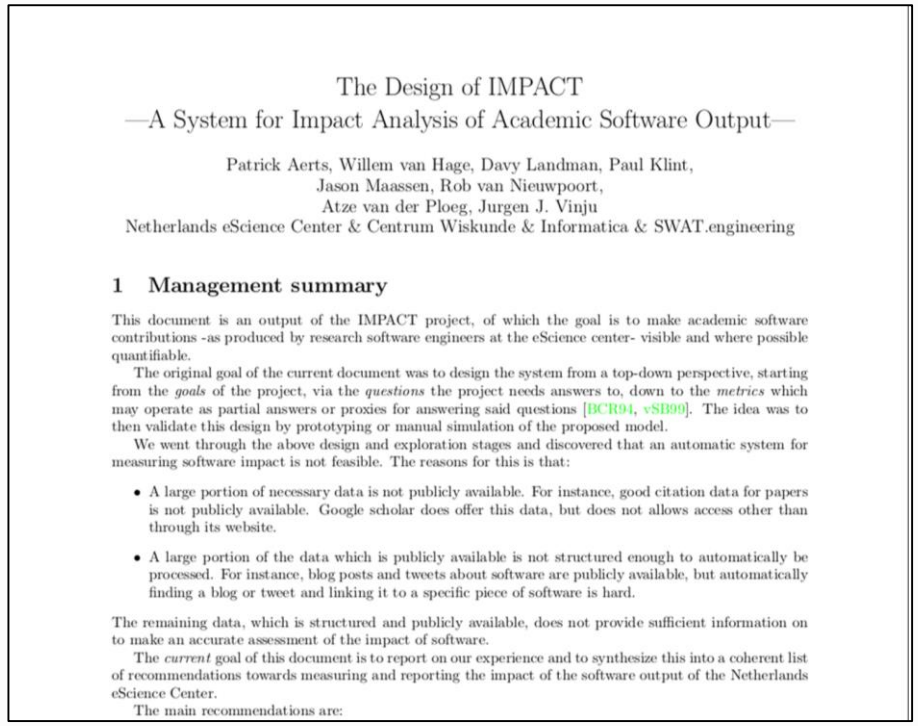
The IMPACT alliance (2017-2018)

Alliance with the Software Analysis and Transformation (SWAT) group of CWI with the goal of making the impact of our software visible and quantifiable.

Conclusion:
Not enough (structured) data available to assess the impact



The Design of IMPACT
—A System for Impact Analysis of Academic Software Output—

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Atze van der Ploeg, Jurgen J. Vinju
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1 Management summary

This document is an output of the IMPACT project, of which the goal is to make academic software contributions -as produced by research software engineers at the eScience center- visible and where possible quantifiable.

The original goal of the current document was to design the system from a top-down perspective, starting from the *goals* of the project, via the *questions* the project needs answers to, down to the *metrics* which may operate as partial answers or proxies for answering said questions [BCR94, vSB99]. The idea was to then validate this design by prototyping or manual simulation of the proposed model.

We went through the above design and exploration stages and discovered that an automatic system for measuring software impact is not feasible. The reasons for this is that:

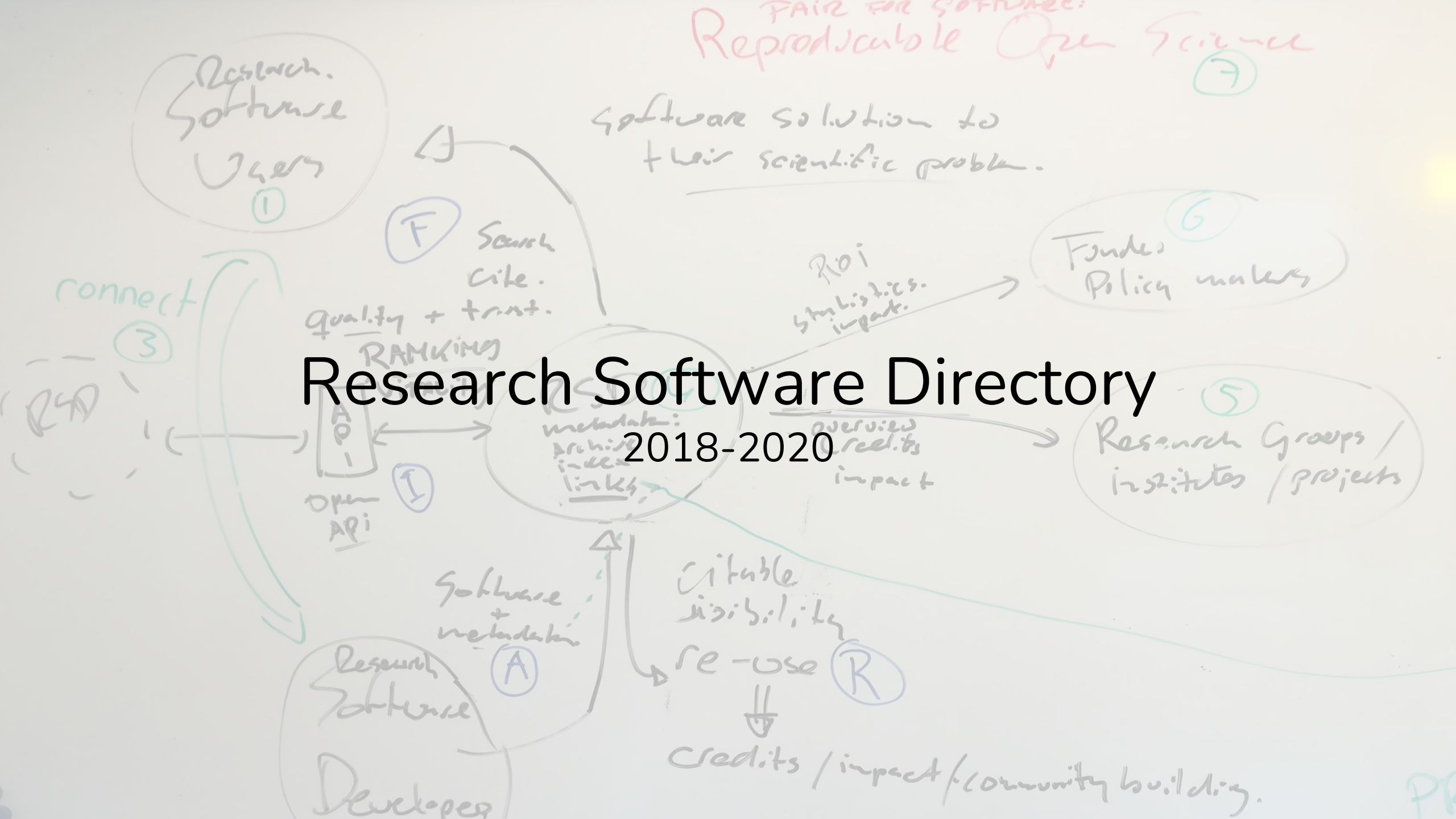
- A large portion of necessary data is not publicly available. For instance, good citation data for papers is not publicly available. Google scholar does offer this data, but does not allows access other than through its website.
- A large portion of the data which is publicly available is not structured enough to automatically be processed. For instance, blog posts and tweets about software are publicly available, but automatically finding a blog or tweet and linking it to a specific piece of software is hard.

The remaining data, which is structured and publicly available, does not provide sufficient information on to make an accurate assessment of the impact of software.

The *current* goal of this document is to report on our experience and to synthesize this into a coherent list of recommendations towards measuring and reporting the impact of the software output of the Netherlands eScience Center.

The main recommendations are:

"To measure is to know" (Lord Kelvin)



Research Software Directory

2018-2020

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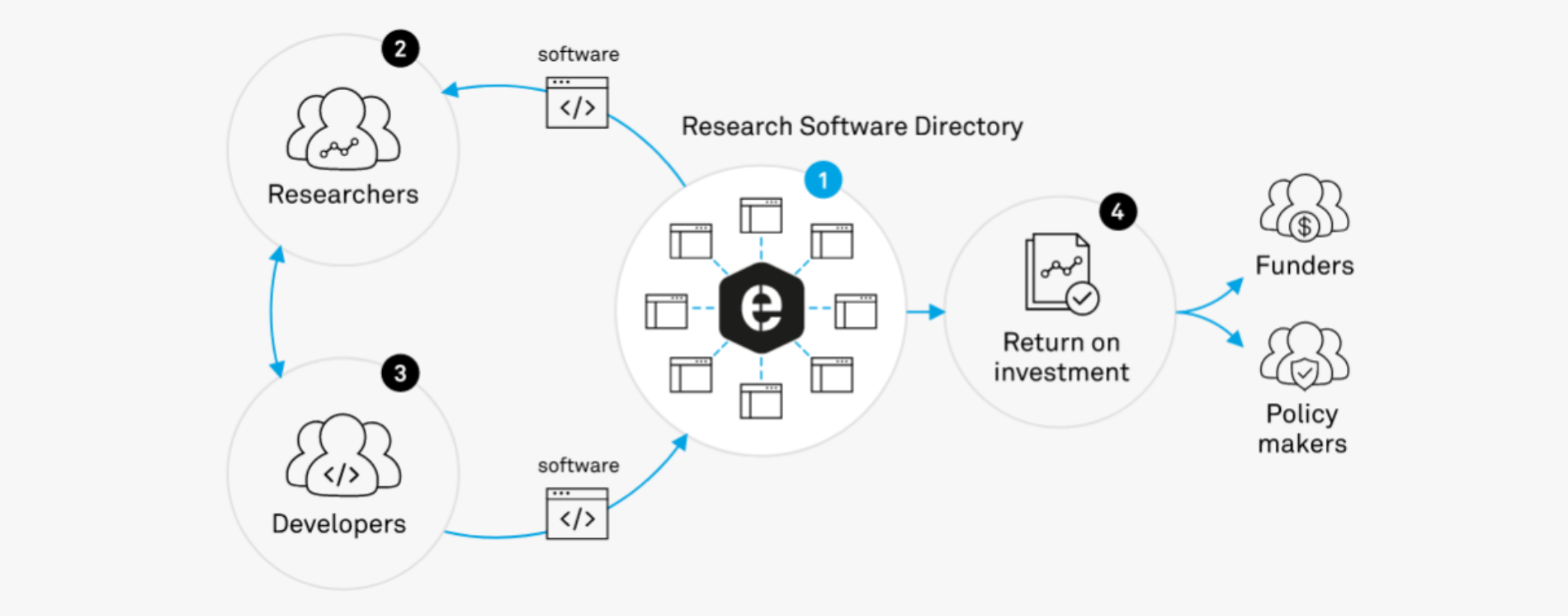
Research Software Directory



Target Groups:

- Researchers, RSEs (2): find, judge relevance, citation info
- Developers, eRSEs (3): encouraging FAIR software development, show impact
- Institutes, funders, policy makers (4): insights into reuse and impact

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Survey eScience Symposium 2017

Q: How do you “find” software

A: context is very important:

- what are my colleagues using?
- who else is using it?
- in which projects?
- what are the results?
- how active is it?
- who is contributing?
- who to contact?

Sources of software:

- conferences
- papers
- google

People are unsure on how to cite software

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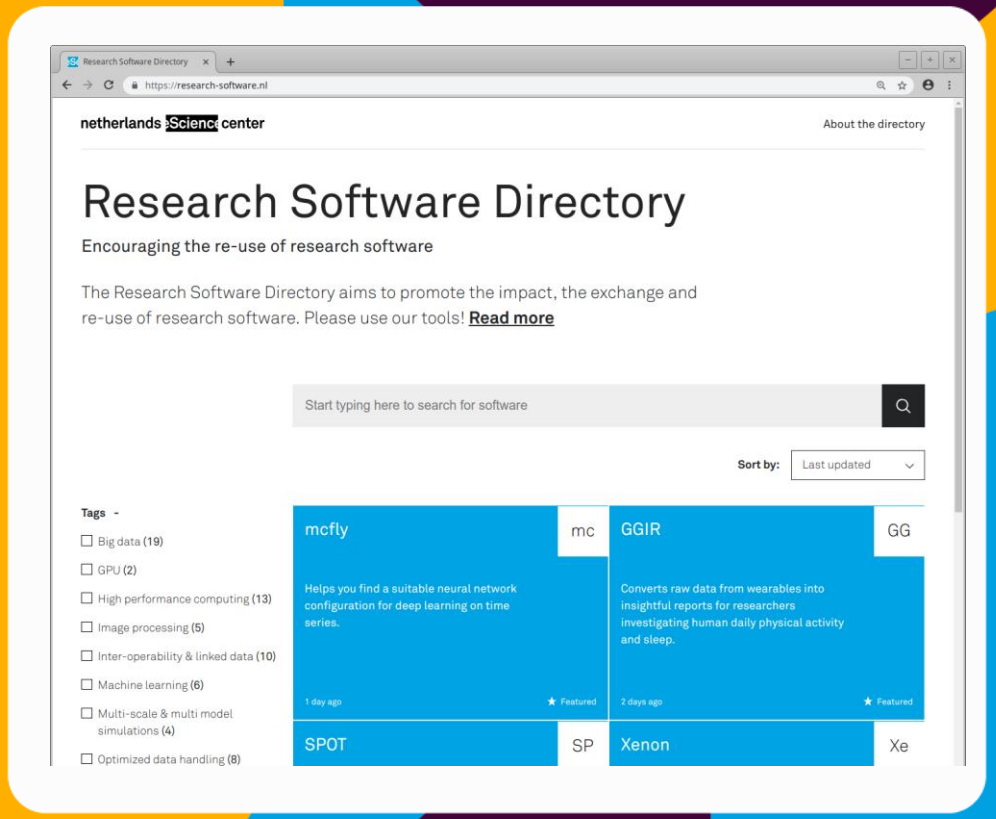
Research Software Directory

- Aggregates data from many sources:
  - RSEs, GitHub, Zenodo, Zotero, CFF, Medium, YouTube, …
- Present this data to humans in a clear, concise, and structured way
- Expose this data using machine readable formats
  - schema.org, CodeMeta, OAI-PMH, …
- Provide citation information:
  - BibTex, EndNote, RIS, …



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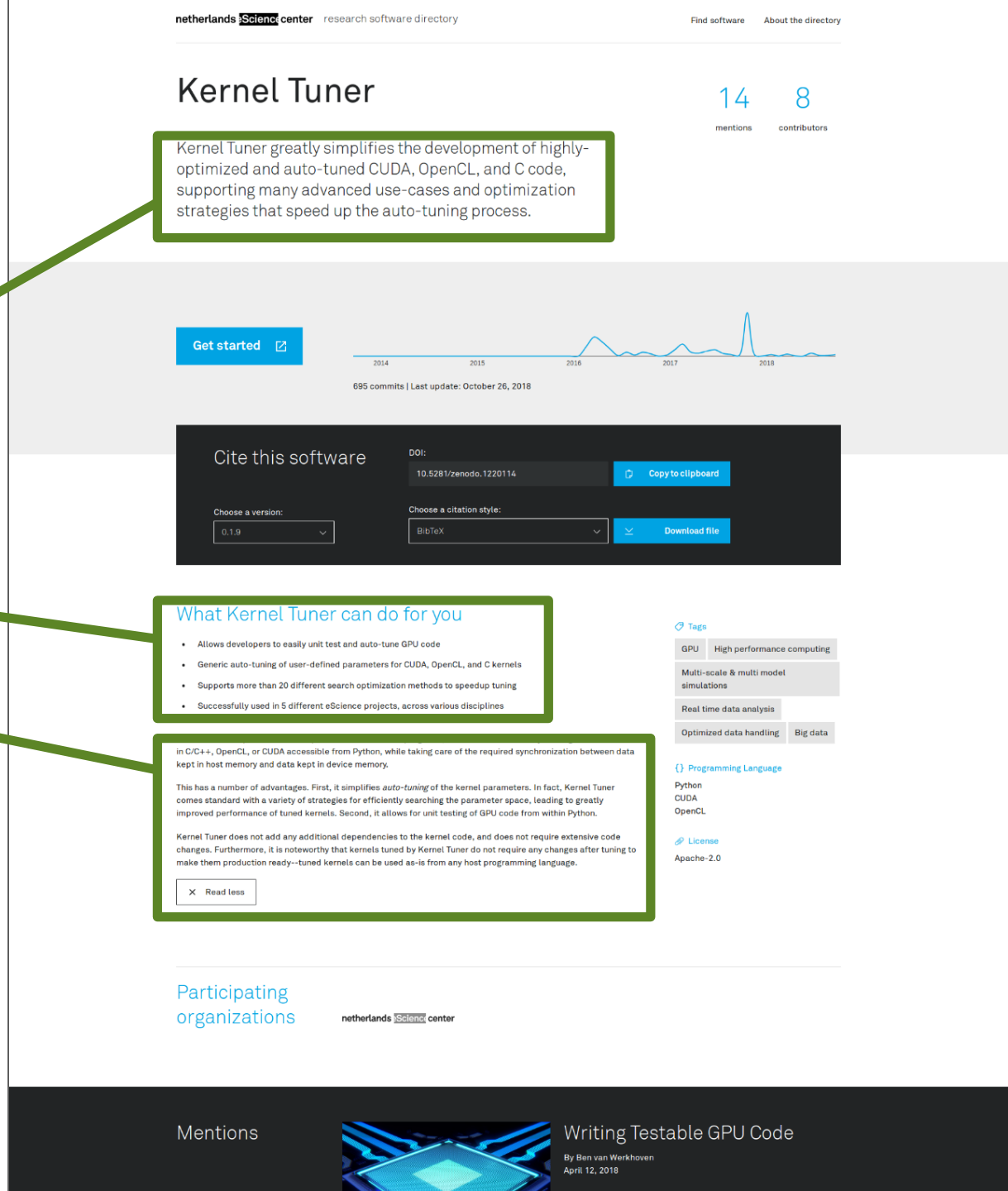
Software findability (for humans)

What is the software for?

What problem does it solve?

For which research domain?



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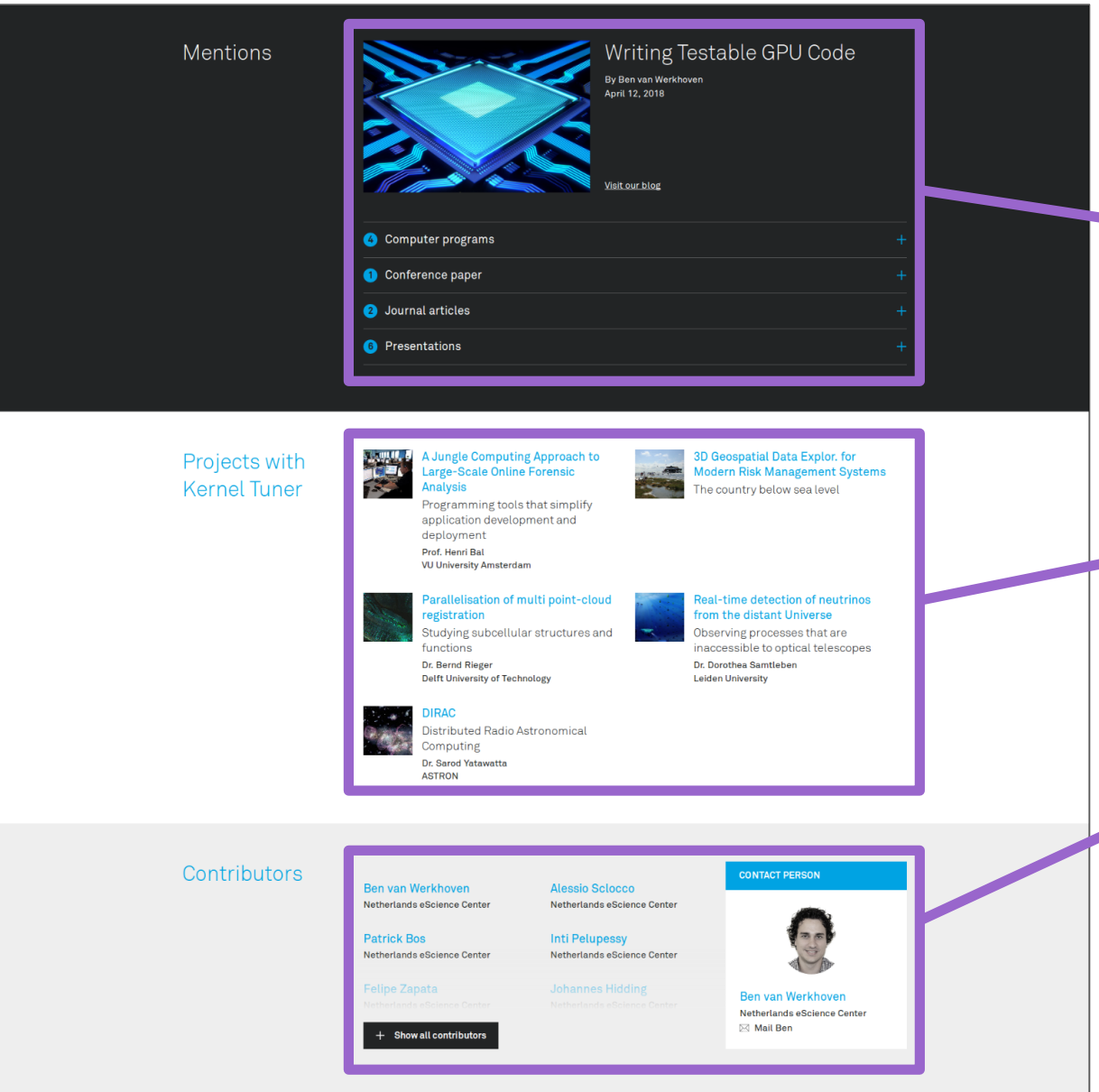
Academic and social context



Papers, presentations, blogs, videos, …

Projects

People

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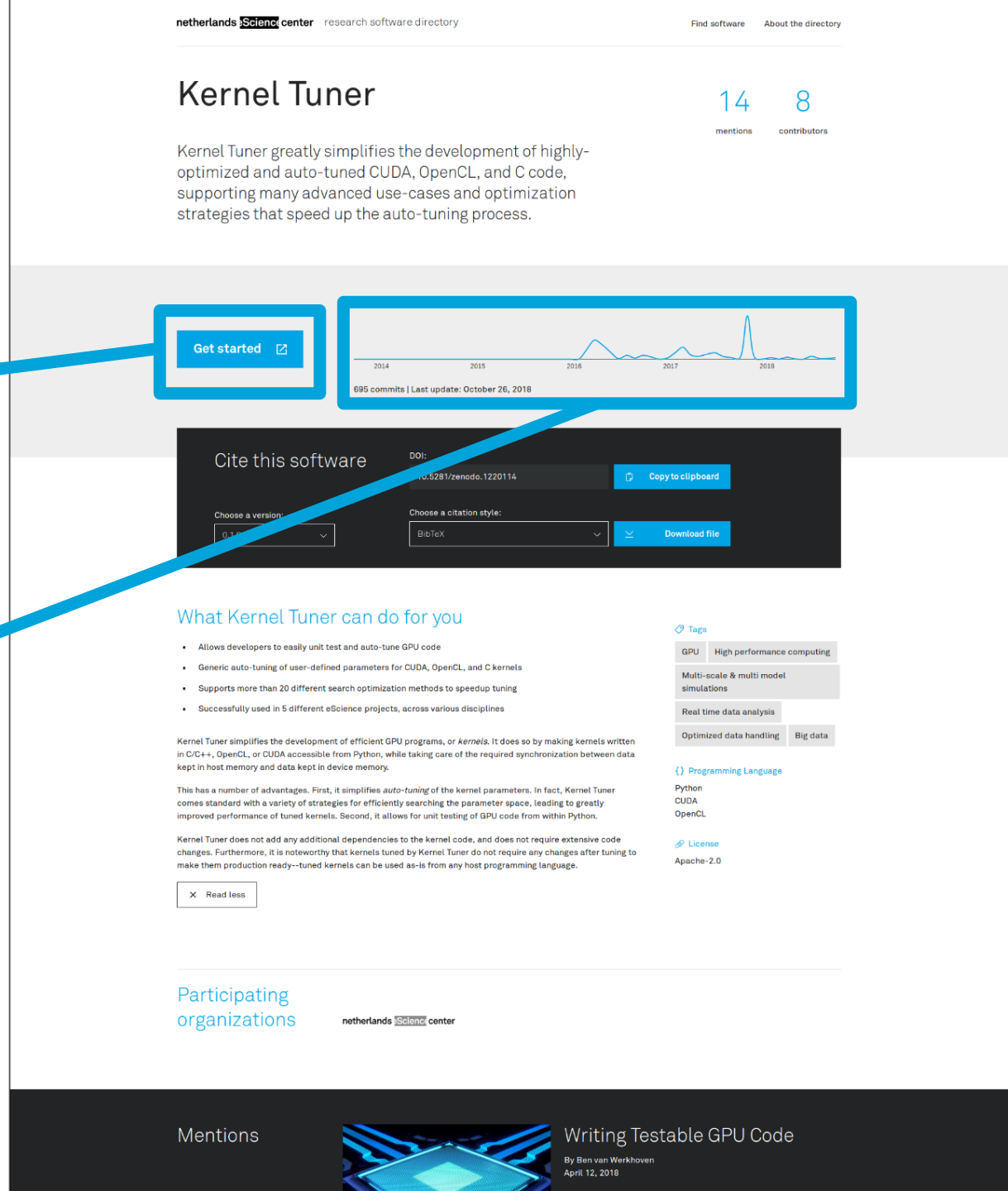
Development activity

How to get started

Development activity



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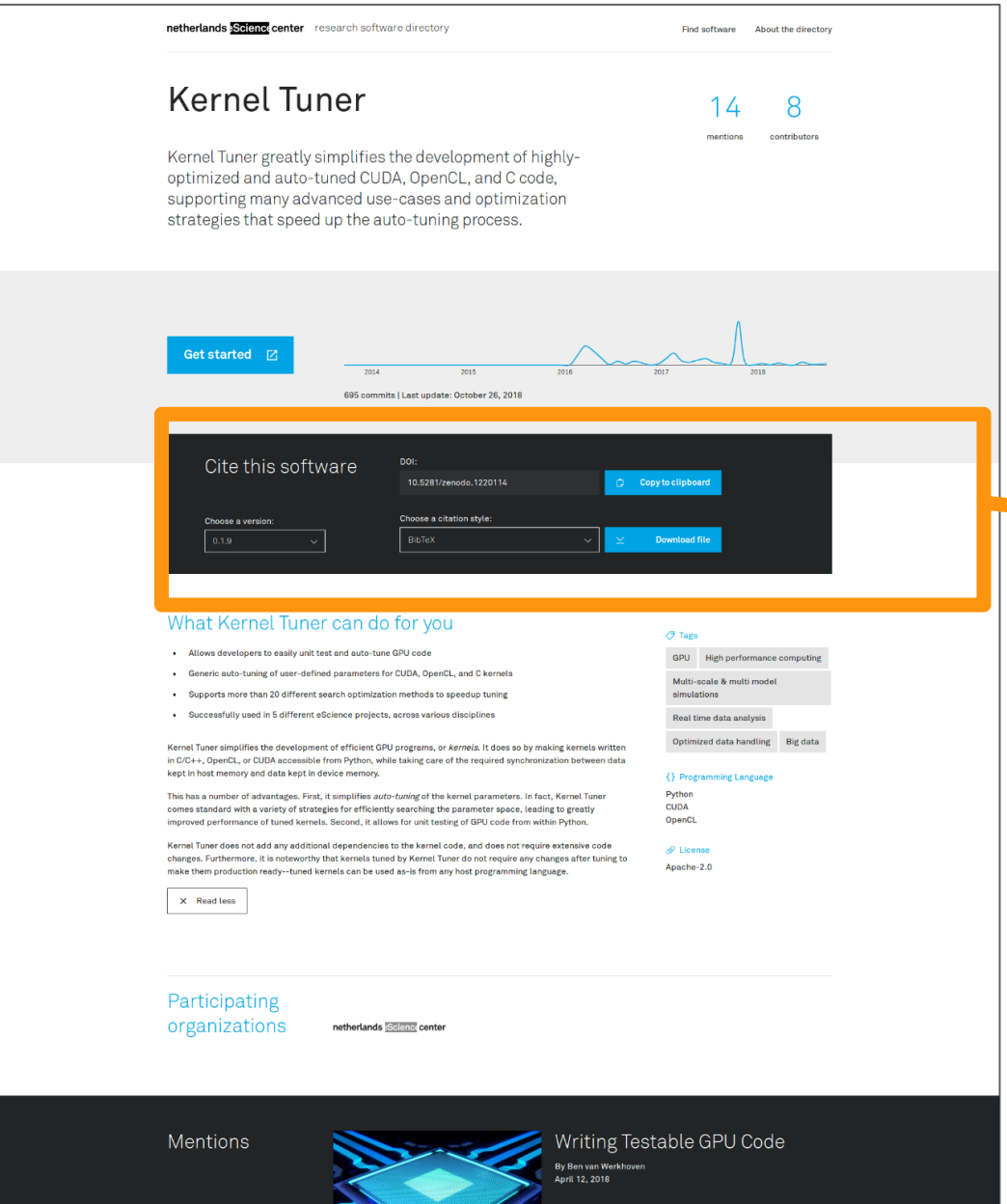
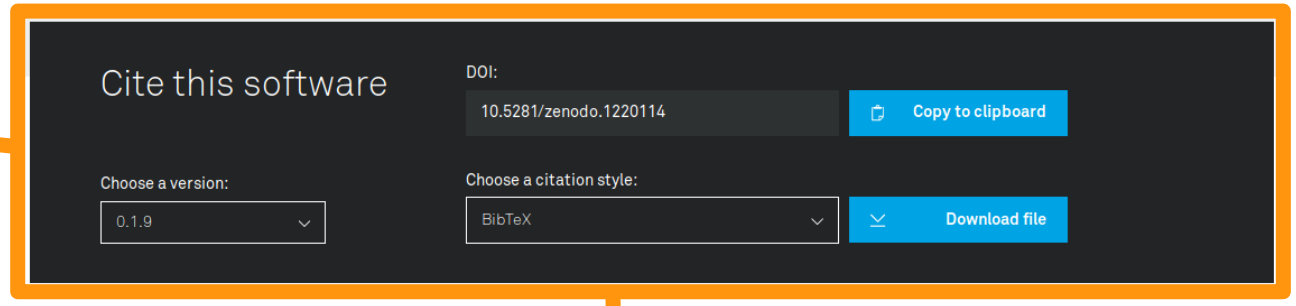
Encourage software citation and reproducibility





Software citation

The reaction

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A lot of interest

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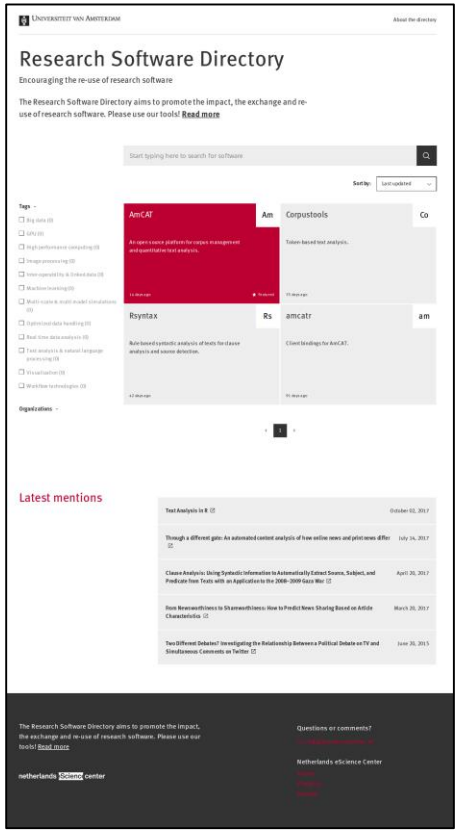
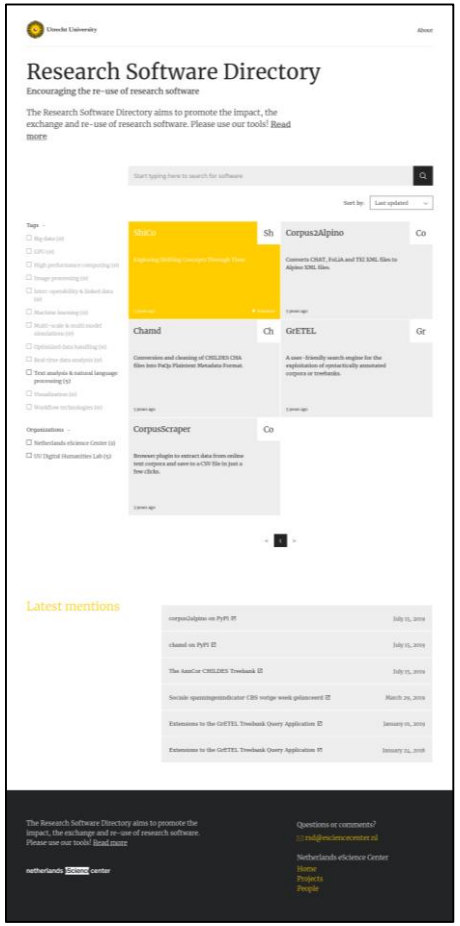
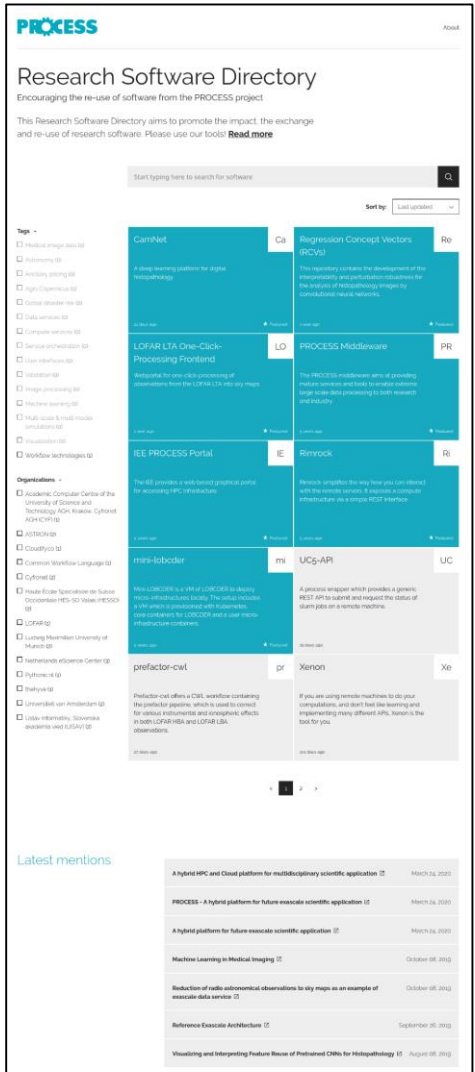
Other RSD-pilots

- We have been asked to setup independent RSDs for PROCESS (H2020), the UU Digital Humanities Lab, and the Communication Science group of the UvA
- These are “proofs of concept” using project or group specific branding
- DLR and Leipzig University Library have set up their own pilot







Open issues

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What is still missing

- Aggregated information on impact and re-use
- The numbers we need annual reports and reviews
- The insight we need for our day-to-day work

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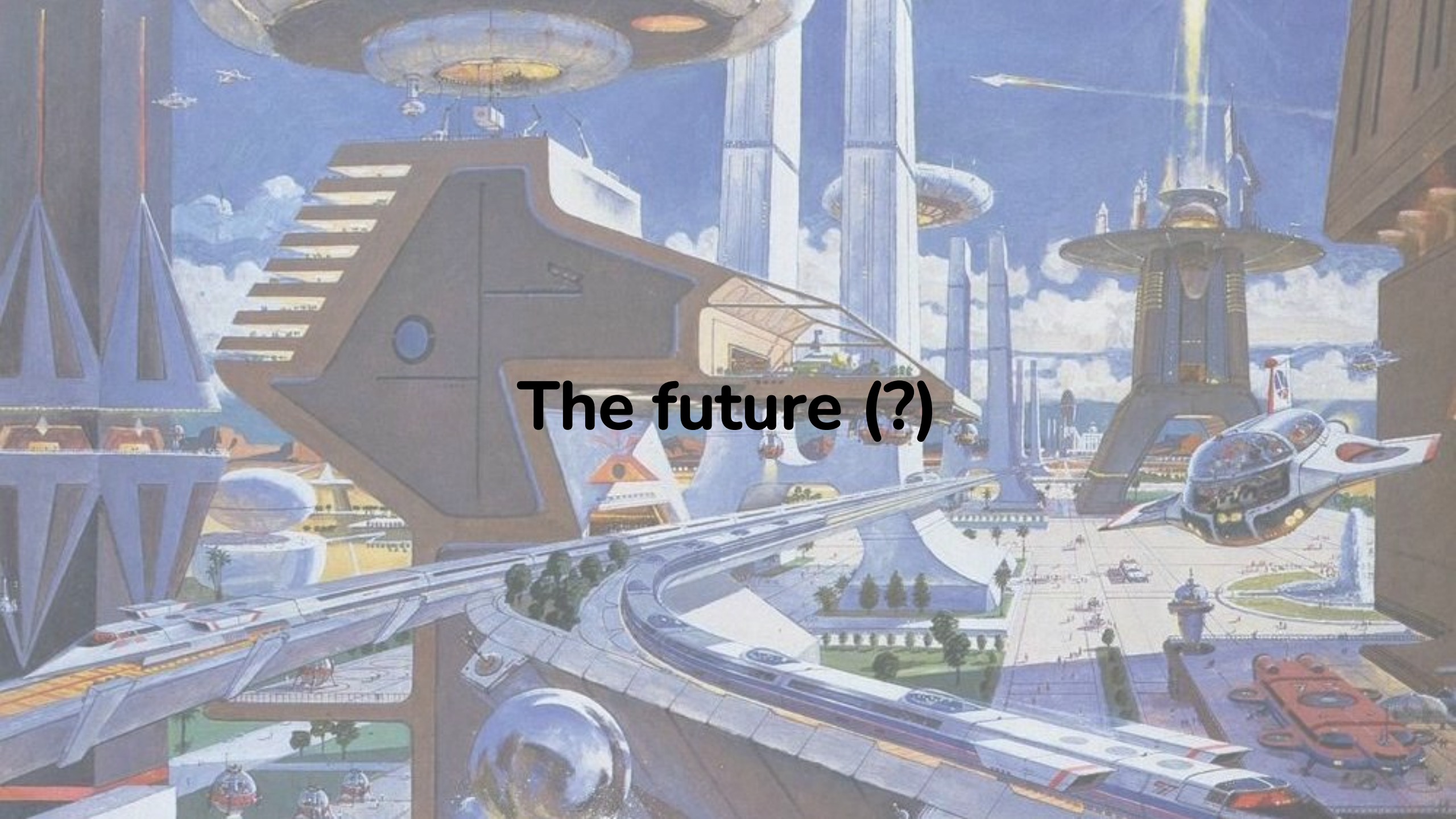
More issues

- Part of the content has to be maintained manually
- Data entry UI is sub-optimal
- Technical stack is too complicated
- Despite the external interest, uptake is not great

- Current “it’s open-source so host your own” approach does not work!


The future (?)

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Lot’s of plans

- Improving the user friendliness for data entry
- Improving the internal data curation procedures
- Post mortem of failed adoptions
- Generated project pages
- Right side – dashboard
- RSD-as-a-service
- Flexible branding
- Improve community engagement
- Support for non-technical users
- Improved authentication
- Technical clean-up
- Support for more data sources
- ….

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Let’s stay in touch

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Thank you!

Where to learn more about project HERMES?


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