Data Access Applications and Safe Havens

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Talk to people early

Data Access Applications – before you start

- Some access processes defined
- Others are less clear – be prepared for a long process

Data Access Applications – before you start

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- Do your **research**
- Published data dictionaries/direct contact
- Ethics – all access panels will want to know you've considered this

Talk to people early, don't just throw in an application, you'll need help.

Data Access Applications – what to cover

Important: be clear that you have considered for your project:

– **Public good** – how the project could benefit society
– **Scientific advancement** – how the project advances scientific knowledge, understanding and/or methods
– **Privacy and ethics** – the potential privacy impacts or risks and mitigation
– **Public engagement** –the public's view on the project
– **Project Design and Methods** – how the project will be conducted
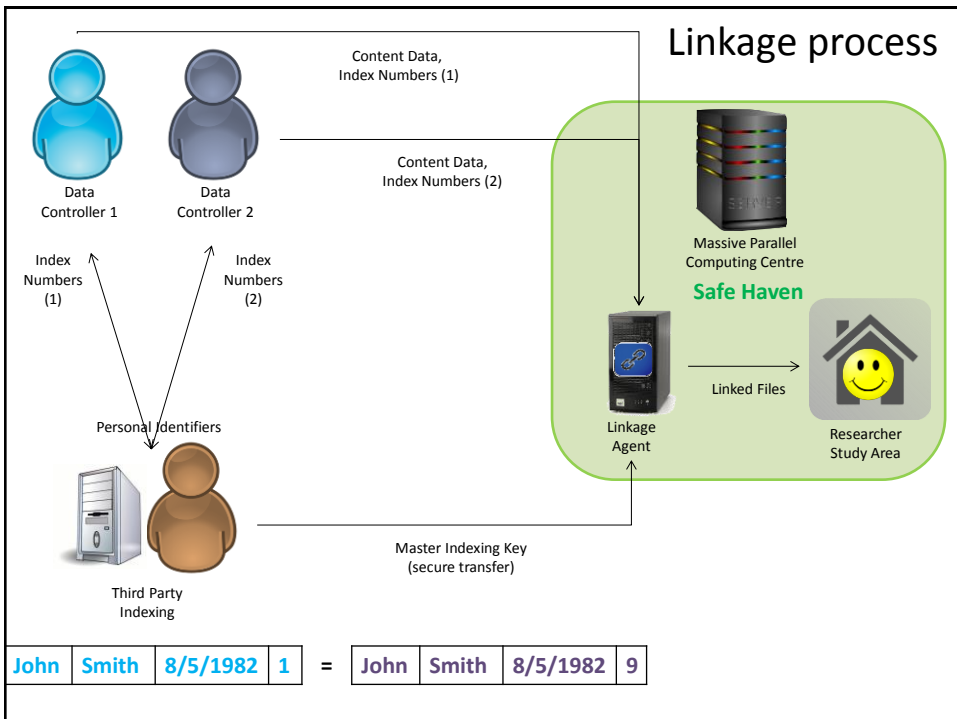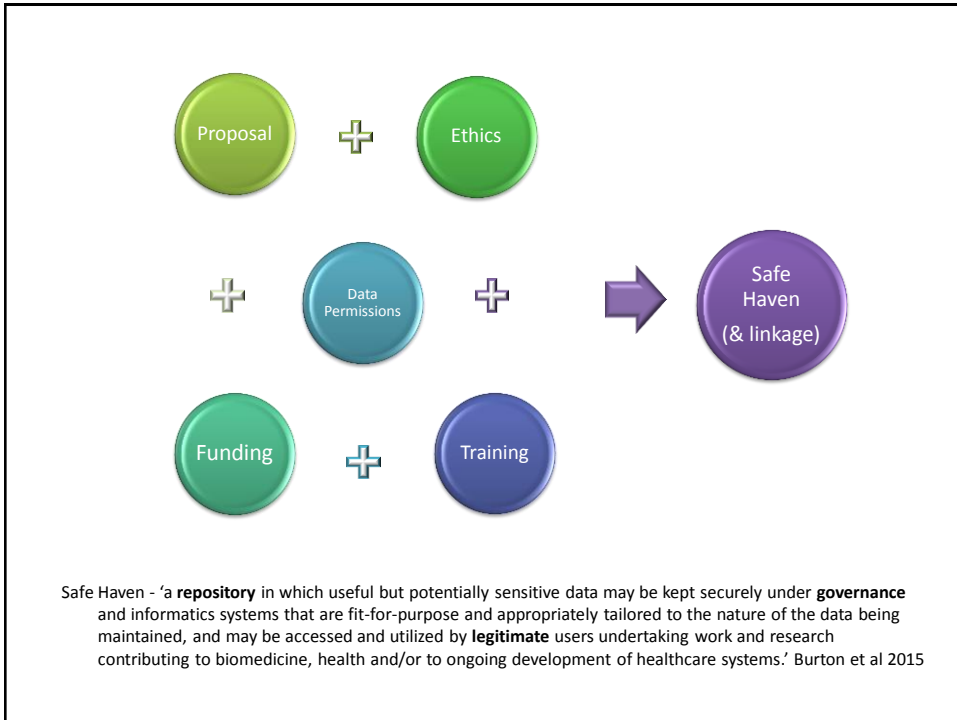
Data Access Applications

1. What do you need each data field for?
   - Justify – is there theory supporting that this variable will be affected?
2. Logistical issues
   - Where are you going to keep it? How secure will it be?
   - If linkage is required, how will that happen? Is it even feasible?
3. Be detailed but not too technical
   - Consider who is on the panel when choosing the language level you use
   - Panels want to know you've considered the methods you will use to analyse, including likely sample sizes, but are unlikely to want to know the exact power calculations
4. Don't assume the panel will know about all of the data
   - E.g. Health panel don't know what education surveys are.

Safe Havens

- A secure virtual repository with restricted access and high levels of security

- On site or remote access – depends on the centre and the data

- Access to single study area with your data

- Usually some statistical software and basic office programmes
  - (e.g. R, STATA, SPSS)
- Other software can be requested (with associated licences)

- You, as a researcher, cannot put files in or out of the Safe Haven
  - All do files, coding etc. will be put in by the safe haven controllers

- No copy/paste/screen prints in or out.

- All outputs scrutinised with statistical disclosure control before being released

Safe Haven - 'a **repository** in which useful but potentially sensitive data may be kept securely under **governance** and informatics systems that are fit-for-purpose and appropriately tailored to the nature of the data being maintained, and may be accessed and utilized by **legitimate** users undertaking work and research contributing to biomedicine, health and/or to ongoing development of healthcare systems.' Burton et al 2015

Linkage process

Any Questions?

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