



Research  
England



# Octopus: The new primary research record

@science\_octopus

<https://octopuspublishing.org>



# What's wrong with the current system?

- It takes too long to publish anything
- There are no good guides to quality
- Problems of reproducibility, publication bias and 'questionable research practices'
- Problems with discoverability and accessibility



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(Leading to being used as the only record for researchers of their work and its quality)



What can we do?

Split the two jobs

A new 'primary research record'  
digital-first,  
free to read; free to write,  
with automatic language translation.

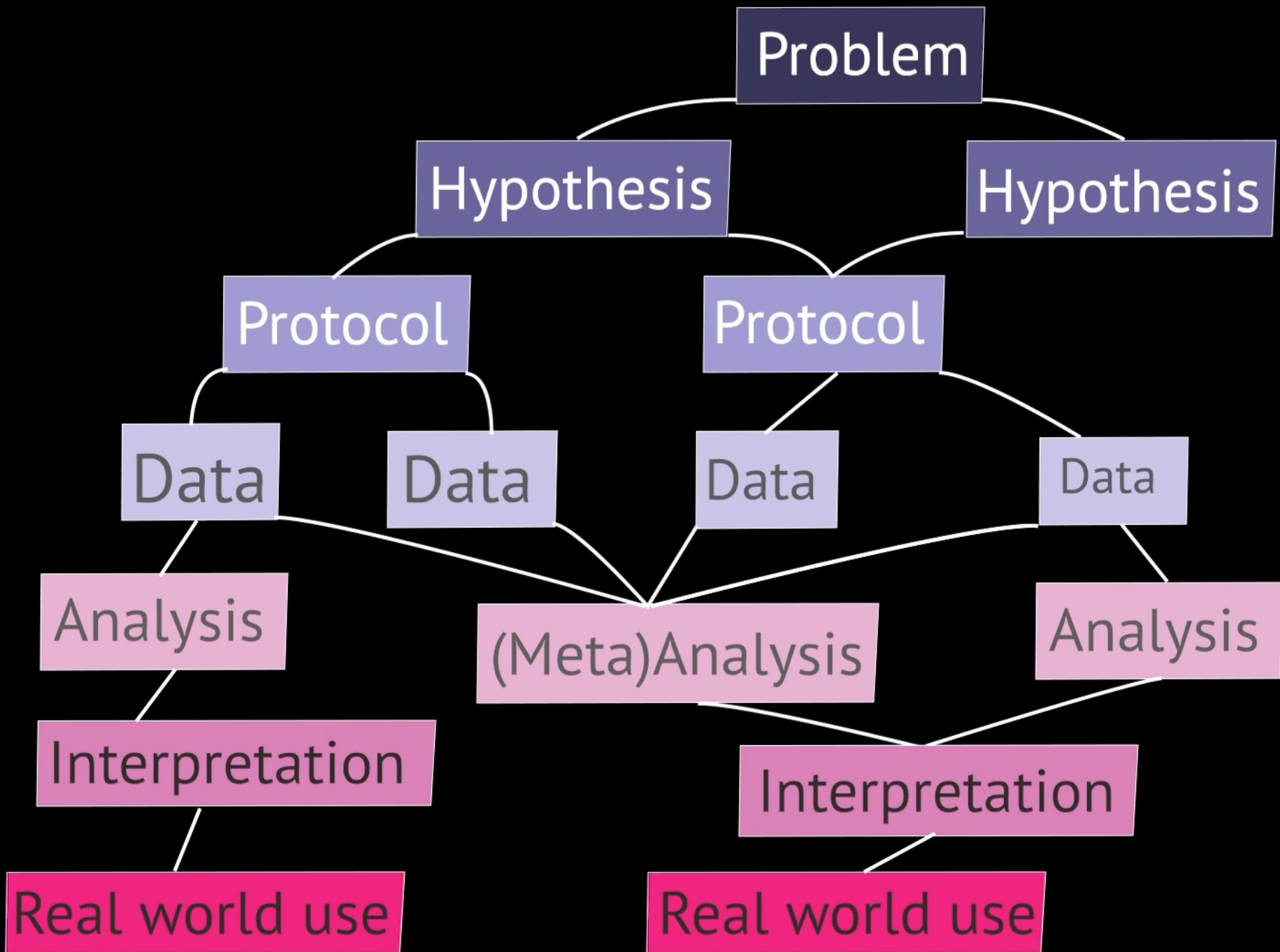
Not based around papers  
but smaller publication units, in a new structure











# How can you tell what's 'good'?

- **Rating system**

- ⇒ Sets the definitions of 'good work' for each kind of publication
- ⇒ Allows a community consensus on what defines 'good'
- ⇒ Makes it easier to sort well-rated publications from poorly-rated
- ⇒ Creates more subtle metrics to record 'success' for individuals



## What's in it for researchers?

- Removes barriers to access, worldwide
- Instant 'priority' and easy to publish
- Easier to find relevant work
- More meritocratic
- Can easily publish all ideas, data etc.

## What's in it for institutions?

- Can instantly assess what type of researcher a candidate is
- Much better way to see what their peers think of their work

## What's in it for funders?

- Can search well-rated publications and offer funding for 'the next bit of the chain' (potentially to multiple groups)  
⇒ Avoiding wasteful grant application process
- Can easily assess individual researchers

## What's in it for journals?

- Become more focused on synthesizing, editorializing and disseminating to their audiences (not expensive primary research publication)



**In partnership with:**



**With support from:**



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A private philanthropist  
(anonymous)



# Governance?

- Octopus CIC is a registered Community Interest Company (UK not-for-profit)
- We don't want hierarchical system and 'editorial board' so what is the best model for governance?

# Long term funding?

- Plan is to get up and running and build momentum quickly as a community service
- Keep running costs minimal (<100k pa)
- Will never charge to read or publish

# Open Source

- All code is Open Source
- All data/metadata is available via APIs
- Authors can choose appropriate CC licences for their work (encouraged to be as open as possible)



# Thank you!

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