

WHAT ARE HIGH-QUALITY LIGHTHOUSE COLLECTIONS?

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INTRODUCTION

The benefit of biobanks emerges from linking high-quality samples to high-quality data. Access of academic/industrial researchers to cutting-edge samples/data is often hampered by missing transparency regarding the availability of samples and data. Despite huge BBMRI-ERIC efforts (e.g. BBMRI-ERIC Directory, Sample Locator/Negotiator), the support of local researchers and biobanks is needed to feed the platforms with valuable information. BBMRI.at aims to engage highly motivated partners by highlighting "lighthouse sample collections" (LHCs) that serve as best-practice examples and highlight the benefits of (inter-)nationally visible high-quality collections.

This abstract describes the development process of a criteria catalogue that enables the assessment of potential LHCs candidates.

MATERIAL & METHODS

To develop a criteria catalogue for evaluating and identifying LHCs, the following steps were conducted: (1) Nomination of high-quality collections by BBMRI.at partners, (2) SWOT-analysis of nominees and identification of LHC criteria, (3) aggregation of LHC criteria catalogue (initial version), (4) discussion of LHC criteria catalogue in BBMRI.at consortium, (5) refinement of LHC criteria catalogue, and (6) documentation and dissemination of the LHC criteria catalogue (see Figure 1).

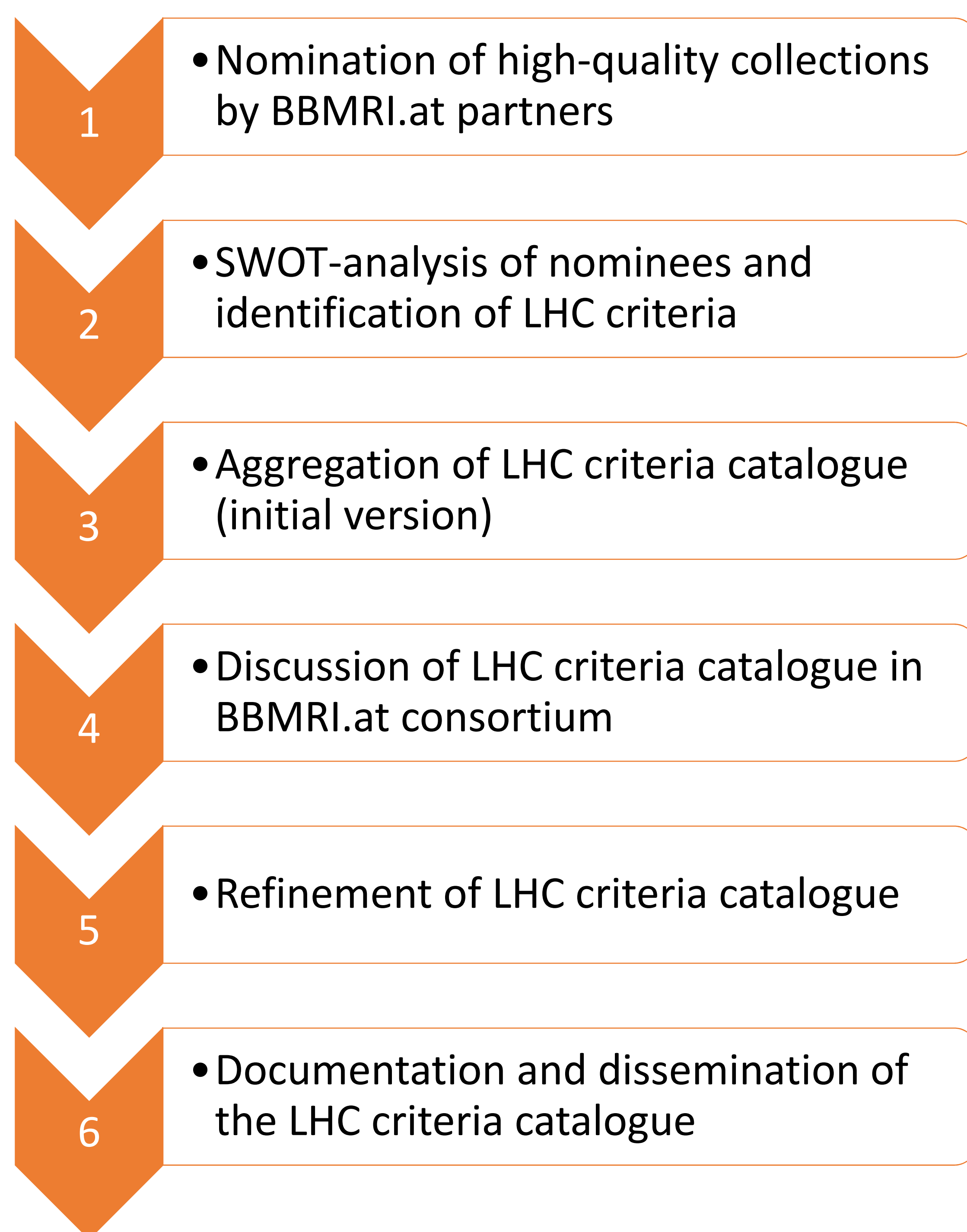


Figure 1. Steps for defining LHC criteria.

RESULTS

The resulting criteria catalogue for LHCs tackles the following criteria dimensions of collections: (1) Translational/international impact, (2) sample quality, (3) sample access, (4) number/types of samples, (5) data availability/quality, (6) legal/ethical standards, and (7) additional characteristics, such as governance, Open Science or a Unique Selling Proposition (see Figure 2).

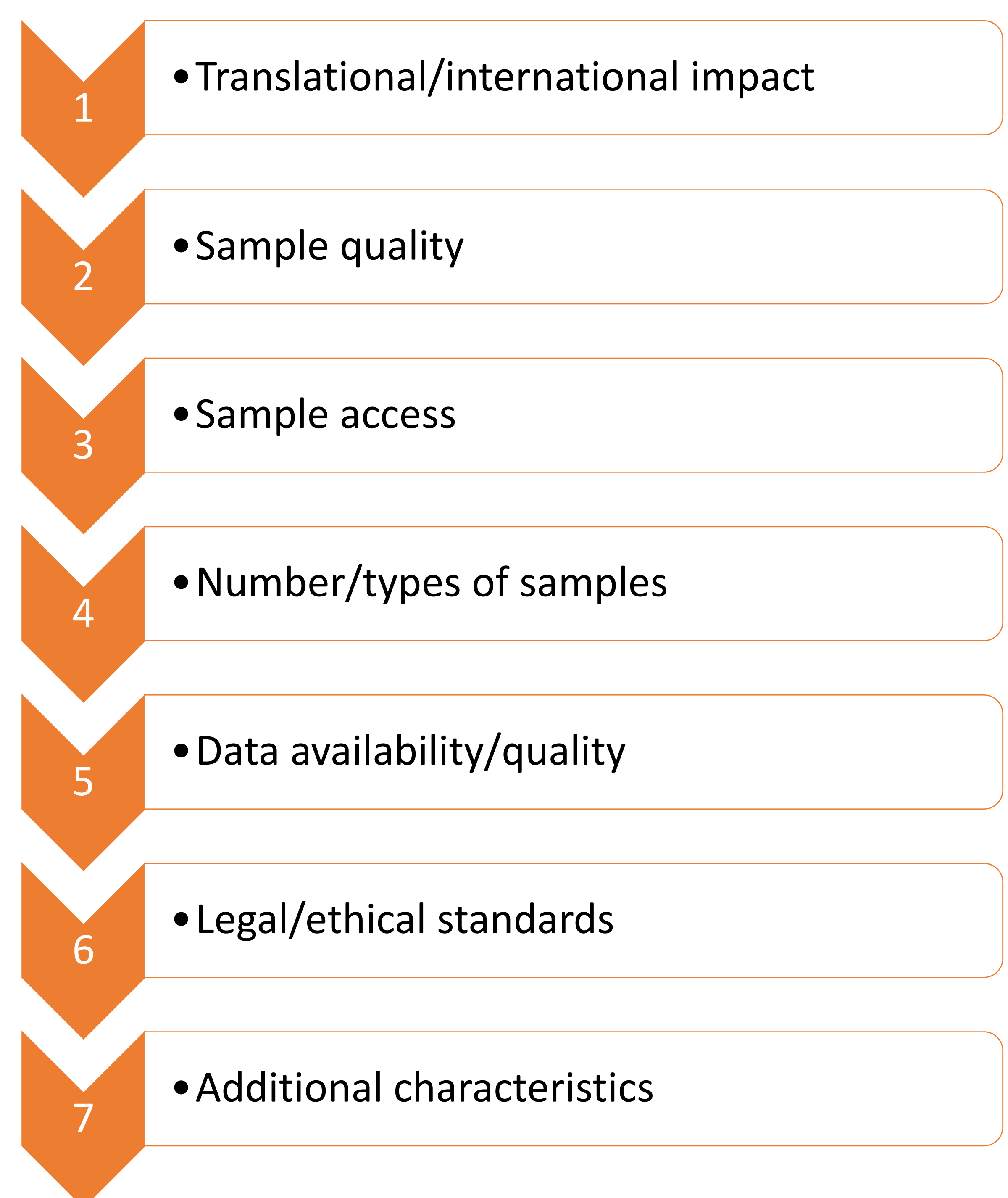


Figure 2. Criteria dimensions of biosample collections.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

A criteria catalogue for LHCs was developed that highlights financial, operational and social sustainability of sample collections and enables the evaluation and promotion of LHC candidates.

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