Streamlining Life Sciences Data Curation

THE SITUATION

Searching a wide variety of internal and external research and development data is integral to the drug development process. With the explosion of data in volume and sources, one client organization continued to gather and curate data in silos utilizing many different tools and sourcing models, and aggregation approaches. A more streamlined and harmonized process with supporting technology solutions was required to advance the myriad of programs the company was trying to support.

THE SOLUTION

A process assessment and strategy development project to address data curation was organized and lead by ResultWorks. In the initial stage of the project, a series of stakeholder interviews identified significant variability in the approach to defining, requesting and processing data searches across the development lifecycle from early phase to late phase efforts. Different groups assemble and use the information leading to somewhat duplicative efforts. A planned process for curated data collection for an asset could help minimize duplication of effort, improve data quality and maximize reuse of data.

In parallel to the current state analysis, a modest benchmarking effort was conducted to glean other best practices that might be leveraged. Not surprisingly, other companies were experiencing similar situations with decentralized data curation activities relying on manual efforts and tools, while desiring to improve their own processes and use of technology. Many companies were seeing value in working with third party data curation companies. There was also
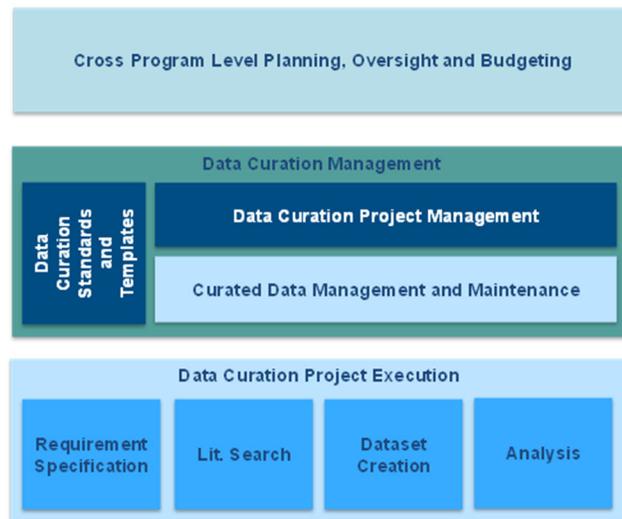
a trend toward accessing and using patient level clinical trial registry data and real-world evidence.

A unified future strategy for data curation was developed accounting for data from a variety of sources: existing datasets, internal data, pre-curated data, and vendor curated data. The strategy included implementation of a common repository for datasets, data standards, and metadata models to improve searching. It also allowed for process variations depending on the data, the sources, and the use of third parties. In the use of third parties, a more structured planning, contracting, and expectation setting approach was defined. This was all summarized in terms of needed business capabilities, information flow, architecture, and partner interaction. Significant organizational alignment work was also undertaken: defining roles and responsibilities, identifying responsible groups, and ensuring that interaction mechanisms were in place.

KEY BENEFITS

Common Understanding: The assessment documented the wide range of processes and tools stakeholders have employed to search for and acquire data for analysis facilitating a common understanding of the issues and obstacles.

Alignment: Clear definition of what stakeholders want to achieve with consistent processes, definitions, and tools allowed people to align on the desired future state.

 Strategy Forward: In order to achieve the agreed future vision, a future process framework, technical strategy and strategy roadmap were mapped out over a three-year horizon.

For more information, visit our website www.resultworksllc.com or contact us at marketing@resultworksllc.com.