What is a tracker?

- A tracker is a place to put a formal ontology request.

- Trackers have long been used in the software community for keeping track of bugs, feature requests, etc.

- In the ontology community, they are quite valuable because they provide a documented, structured requests for changes or additions.

- Tracker IDs can be referenced in ontology metadata—such as in an editor note or definition annotation.
How do you write a tracker request?

- It is important that when you make a tracker request, you provide as much information as possible, in order to facilitate the change you are requesting and future reference.

- For new terms, or term rearrangements, provide the intended hierarchy – both SubClass as well as any other relations required (such as partonomy).

- Provide text definitions, that make sense in the Genus Differentia context, for all new or edited terms.

- Provide attribution for the definitions.

- Some commentary may occur on the tracker item, but can sometimes lead to long listserv discussions before returning to a decision on the tracker.

- Complex issues requiring decision are best first discussed on the listserves or in design documents, but it's always better to say something somewhere!
Example tracker request


Ossification expansion and restructuring - ID: 3456359

Details:

- GO_REF:0000034 – Phenoscape Skeletal Anatomy Jamboree

- Brian K. Hall (Dalhousie University), Matthew Visscherous (Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph), David Blackburn, University of Kansas; Wasila Dahduli, University of South Dakota and NESCent; Alexander Diehl, Mouse Genome Informatics (MGI); Melissa Haendel, Oregon Health & Science University; John G. Lundberg, Department of Ichthyology, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; Paula Mabee, Department of Biology, University of South Dakota; Martin Ringwald, Mouse Genome Informatics (MGI); Erik Segerdell, Oregon Health Sciences University; Ceri Van Slyke, Zebrafish Information Network (ZFIN) and Institute of Neuroscience, University of Oregon., 2010.

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Proposed new hierarchy:

- GO:0001503 ossification
  - i-GO:new direct ossification
    - i-GO:0001957 intramembranous ossification — narrow syn dermal ossification
    - i-GO:new perichondral ossification
    - i-GO:new metaplastic ossification — related synonym metaplasia
    - i-GO:new replacement ossification — exact synonym indirect ossification
    - i-GO:0001958 endochondral ossification
    - i-GO:new ligamentous ossification
    - i-GO:new intratendinous ossification
    - i-GO:0043931 ossification involved in bone maturation
    - i-GO:0043932 ossification involved in bone remodeling
    - p-GO:0001649 osteoblast differentiation

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Definitions:

- GO:0001503 'ossification'
  Current def: The formation of bone or of a bony substance, or the conversion of fibrous tissue or of cartilage into bone or a bony substance. (No change needed)

- GO:new 'direct ossification'
  def: Ossification that does not require the replacement of preexisting tissues.

- GO:new 'replacement ossification'
  def: Ossification that requires the replacement of a preexisting tissue prior to bone tissue formation.
  [exact synonym: Indirect ossification]

- GO:new 'ligamentous ossification'
  def: Ossification wherein bone tissue forms within ligamentous tissue.
  COMMENT: Ligamentous ossification may occur via replacement ossification or metaplastic ossification or both in any one instance.

- GO:new 'intratendinous ossification'
  def: Ossification wherein bone tissue forms within tendinous tissue.
Lists, trackers, ontologies, annotation, oh my!

- Ontology Edited
  - Term requested
  - Term discussed by community
  - Term needed for annotation
- Tracker IDs can be in ontology metadata
- Trackers are often autoemailed to integrated listserves
- Term brokers are being developed to create temp classes during ontology editing or annotation
- Design documents comment on existing ontologies
- Design and requirements analysis
- Term discussed by community