

Funding Directions & Philosophical Axes

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Funding Directions ???

1. Funding Agencies' Choice:

A: Fund “Hot, New Directions”

- Fashionable
- Looks good on CV

vs.

B: Fund “Infrastructure”

- No Glory
- long term impact

Funding Directions ???

2. Suggested Goal:

Fund breakthroughs **before recognition**

Food for Thought:

Big Centers,... (eggs in few baskets)

vs.

Spread funding widely (many baskets)

Best Use of Resources ????

Funding Directions ???

3. Known Hot Topics:

- *Interdisciplinary:*
 - + a cliché
 - + but they're right
- *Bioinformatics*
- **Data Mining**
- **Network Data Analysis**
- *Finance*

Challenge for Statistics:

Strive for **Central** Role

(remember Neural Nets!)

Funding Directions ???

4. Really New Directions?

Steve Eick (Visual Insights):

“Statistics should **target the center**
not nibble at the edges”

- + “Business Information”
- + “Enterprise Resource Management”

Major Players:

- SAP
- Cognos
- BRIO

(“statistics” repackaged as “data mining”?)

Axes to Grind

1. Polarity in Statistics:

Theory vs. **Applications**

Problem: loss of what should be “subsets”

- Neural Nets
- Data Mining

Solutions:

- + Department Level
- + Individuals within Depts.
- + Cherish the Bridge Builder

Axes to Grind

2. Role of Statisticians

Litmus Test:

React to term “Creative Statistician”

Reaction 1: **Horror**

Creative Statistics = Creative Accounting

Reaction 2: **Exultation**

Creative Statistics = Breakthrough Ideas

Big Picture:

- + we need all types
- + respect and appreciate each other