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