

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450376903321
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Titolo	Biological resource centers [[electronic resource]] : knowledge hubs for the life sciences // Scott Stern
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : Brookings Institution Press, c2004
ISBN	1-280-81310-5 9786610813100 0-8157-9754-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (140 p.)
Disciplina	338.064 570/.72
Soggetti	Biological resource centers Biology - Research Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 117-122) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title Page; Contents; Acknowledgments; 1. Introduction; 2. Evolution and Adaptation: A Short History of Biological Resource Centers; 3. Climbing atop the Shoulders of Giants: BRCs as Cumulative Knowledge Hubs; 4. A Penny for Your Quotes? The Impact of BRCs on Life Sciences Research; 5. Policy Challenges and Principles: Implications for BRC Stakeholders; 6. Future Challenges; Appendix A: Econometric Results; Appendix B: Biological Resource Centers: Policy Implications for Stakeholder Communities; References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Biological resource centres (BRCs) collect, certify and distribute organisms for use in research and in the development of commercial products. This text looks at the impact of BRCs through their role in facilitating cumulative knowledge in the life sciences and their roles as knowledge hubs.