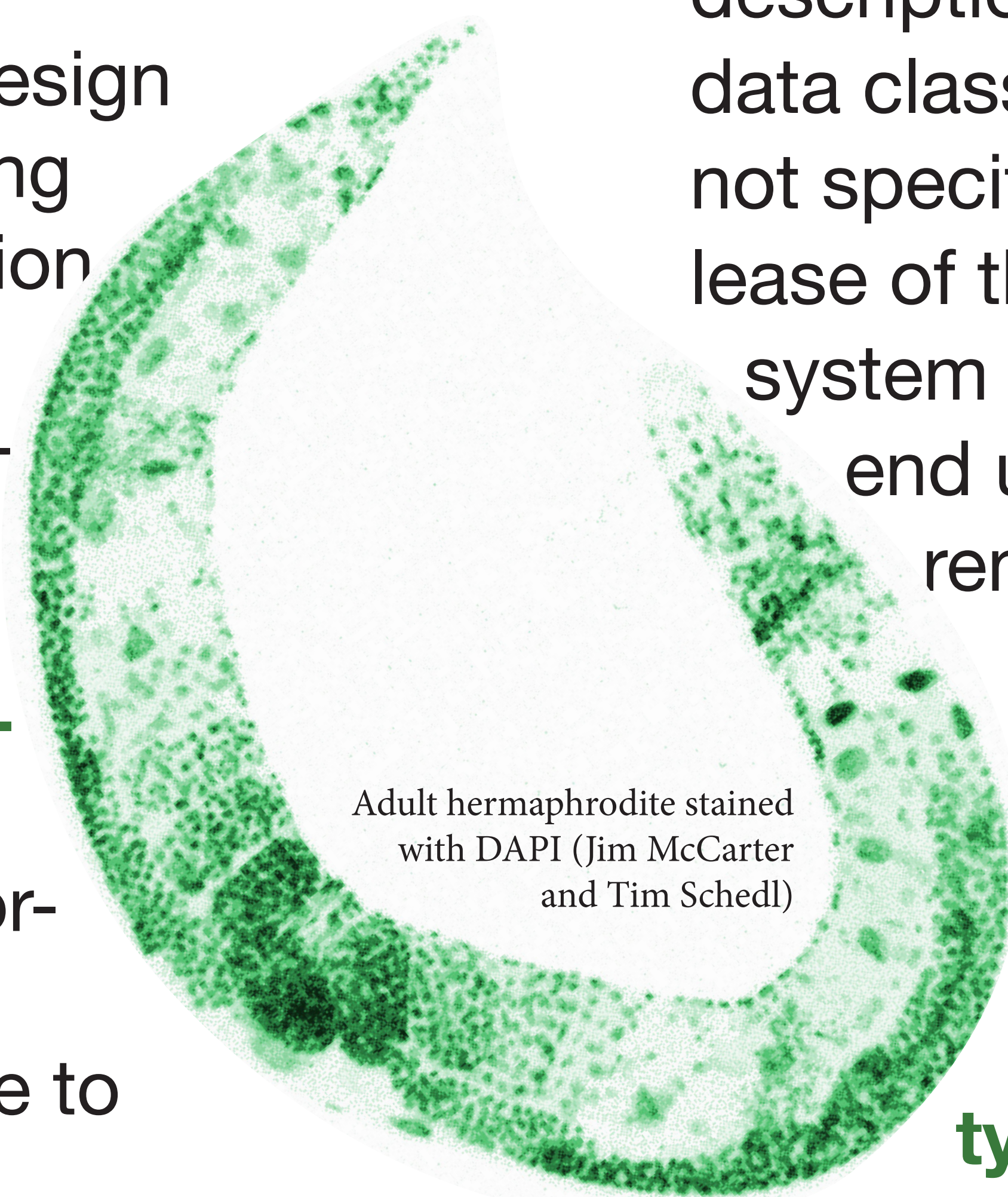# WormBase Website: Supporting the Biocuration Process

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WormBase (www.wormbase.org)

is a highly curated central data repository for Caenorhabditis biology. Our objective is to capture the wealth of experimental data available from *C. elegans* and related nematodes via published literature and personal communication, and present it to the research community in a way that facilitates new biological insights. Although the website is geared towards end users, **we added several features to support the biocuration process.**

Curator specific views

Flexible views were a central design factor in the new website allowing users to customize the information presented to them. We extended this customizability to WormBase curators, with a "Curator only" view. This view allows our curators to **view specific metadata related to the curation process** and use tools for exploring the arcana of the underlying data model that are not available to the general public.
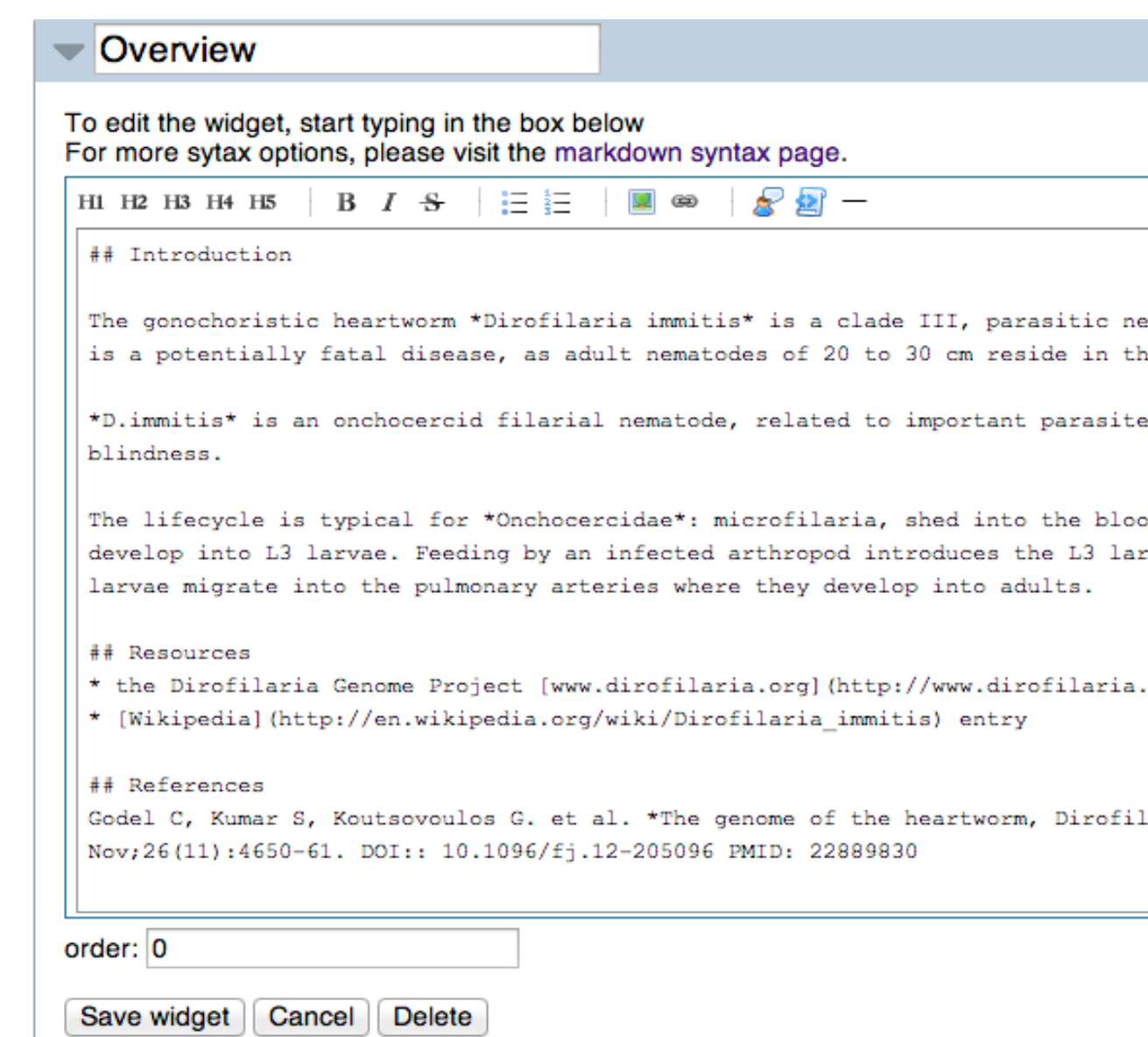

The ACeDB image widget contains a visualization of our underlying database and is only available to WormBase curators

Curators view while editing live content on the website

Real-time annotations

The ability for curators to add **real-time annotations** to the website was added as a response to the current lag between data curation, integration, database build and website display. Curators use this to create up-to-date summaries and descriptions for each species or data class, typically information not specifically tied to any release of the website. Such a system could also be used by end users to annotate current data in real-time.

Adult hermaphrodite stained with DAPI (Jim McCarter and Tim Schedl)
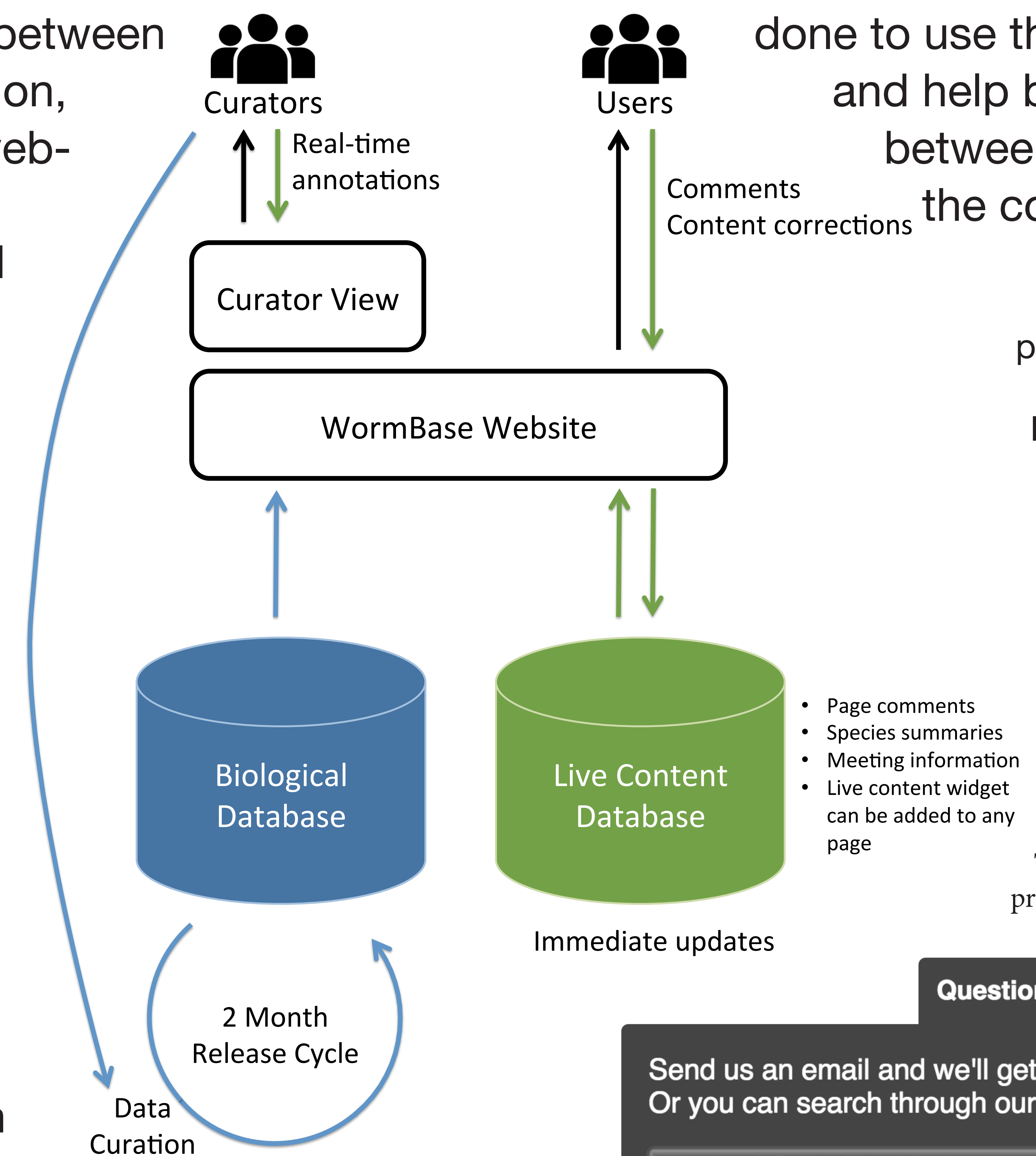
Community

The website was also redesigned to help encourage **community annotations and engage the community in the curation process**. Every page on the site has a tab prompting users to submit any content corrections or feedback they may have. Users also have the ability to create public comments directly on a report page in WormBase.

Aiding biocuration was one of the main goals of the website redesign

This has provided a space for real-time updates, customized views of the data for curators and increased community engagement. While these features are currently available on the website, more work can be done to use them effectively and help bridge the gap between curators and the community.

Tab available on every page prompting users for feedback or content corrections