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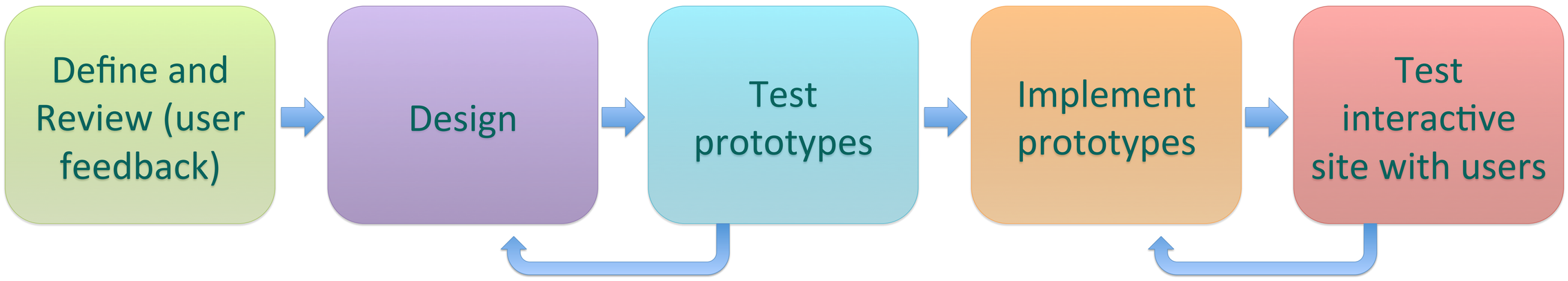
User Centered Design in UniProt



User centered design

- User workshops and usability testing to gather feedback and new requirements
- Identify usability issues and design solutions
- Iterate by testing paper prototypes with users
- Implement designs and test beta site with users to refine further

Participants

- Define the profile of users to target (e.g. uses the web interface, wet lab based, supports researchers as bioinformatician…)
- Recruit users from help request logs, recommendations, web based research
- Set up a screening survey to get more information about user backgrounds

Analysis

- Complement qualitative research with quantitative data
- Integrate information from within the team (e.g. trainers, outreach)
- User emails, logs and web analytics to understand the bigger picture

Sequence Feature Viewer Case study

Review

- In case of well-studied proteins, difficult to get an overview when having to scroll long feature tables
- Inconsistent representations for shared sequence features across resources confusing
- A summary of the relative distribution of features on the sequence needed

Design

- A summarised view of sequence features by collapsing them into categories
- Users can expand individual categories to show further detail
- Selecting sequence features highlights them in sequence and structure
- Users can switch between the canonical sequence and isoforms
- Collaboration with other groups at the EBI to agree on consistent representations of common sequence features

Testing Prototypes

- In case of well-studied proteins, difficult to get an overview when having to scroll long feature tables
- Inconsistent representations for shared sequence features across resources confusing
- A summary of the relative distribution of features on the sequence needed

Design Revisions

- Refining categorisation of features to make it intuitive for users through a card sorting exercise with UniProt curators
- Curators sorted sequence features into categories and names the categories, the consensus was used

Future plans

- Integrating the feature viewer into the UniProt entry view to test with users
- Continued collaboration with other groups at the EBI to use shared representations for shared features

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