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Links to molecular biology databases

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Abstract

Finding the relevant database is not always easy, and for some years *Nucleic Acids Research* has dedicated its first issue of the year to information about the most important existing databases.

Content

Finding the relevant database is not always easy, and for some years *Nucleic Acids Research* has dedicated its first issue of the year to information about the most important existing databases. This freely available short article by AD Baxevanis serves as an introduction to the rest of the articles in the issue, each of which deals with individual databases in greater detail (full access to subscribers to *Nucleic Acids Research* only), and provides links to all the databases listed. It includes more than 200 online databases that are related to molecular biology, ranging from sequence repositories such as [GenBank](#) and the [EMBL nucleotide sequence database](#) to highly specialized databases on tissue-specific gene expression data or metabolic pathways, and thus becomes a central point for access to different databases. These are arranged into 18 categories, the largest being protein, mutation, genome, structure, and RNA sequences. Other categories include gene expression, gene identification and structure, protein sequence motifs, varied biomedical content, metabolic pathways and cellular regulation, genetic maps, major sequence repositories, pathology, comparative genomics, proteome resources, intermolecular interactions, retrieval systems and database structure, and transgenics.

Navigation

Navigation is extremely easy. The database listings are arranged in two tables: one for categories and the other for individual databases.

Reporter's comments

Best feature

The comprehensive and categorized list of different sorts of databases.

Worst feature

The main drawback is that there is no review of developments in the field. For example, it would have been interesting to know which databases are new, which areas have seen the greatest increase in the number of databases, and the recent change in size of some of the more important sequence repositories.

Related websites

A number of other sites have links to some of the databases presented here (and to other resources); see, for example, the [Computational biology or bioinformatics references](#) from the Bioinformatics group at the University of California or [Amos Bairoch's compilation of proteins and associated topics](#), which is very thorough.

Table of links

[The molecular biology database collection: an online compilation of relevant database resources](#)

[Nucleic Acids Research](#)

[GenBank](#)

[EMBL nucleotide sequence database](#)

[Computational biology or bioinformatics references](#)

[Amos Bairoch's compilation of proteins and associated topics](#)

References

1. [The molecular biology database collection: an online compilation of relevant database resources.](#)