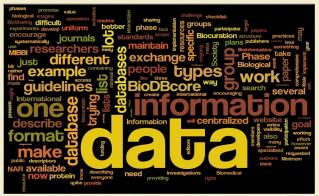
Newsletter of The International Society for Biocuration.



February, 2011

Words that count!

Word cloud of the Q&A piece on BioDBCore published in the GenomeWeb's Bioninformatics Newsletter. January 28, 2011. You may read it at http://tinyurl.com/5unrfhj (free login required).



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www.wordle.net

www.wordie.net

Hold the dates! The 5th International Biocuration Conference will be held on April 1 - 3, 2012. The meeting will take place in Washington, DC and is hosted by the Protein Information Resource (PIR). Details will be announced shortly.

Biocyration 2012

ISB Executive Committee

meetings. The ISB Executive Committee meets monthly. Minutes from the meetings can be found on the ISB website at http://www.biocurator.org/ executive_committee_minutes.html

GMQD Meeting 2011

Registration is Open for the GMOD Meeting!

This year's GMOD meeting will be held on March 5 - 6 as part of GMOD Americas 2011. Events planned include a day of Satellite Meetings, a GMOD Course (already full) and, for the first time, an "Introduction to GMOD" session for GMOD newcomers the night before the meeting. GMOD Americas 2011 will take place at the US National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent) in Durham, North Carolina, United States.

- The registration fee for the GMOD Meeting is US\$80 on or before February 18, and \$95 after that.
- This, and all GMOD Americas 2011 events, are jointly sponsored by **NESCent** and the **Galaxy Project**. More information is available at http://gmod.oicr.on.ca/wiki/March_2011_GMOD_Meeting.

Workshop "Beyond the PDF"

January 19 - 21, 2011. University of California San Diego. Hosted by Phil Bourne and co-organized by Anita de Waard, with support from Gully Burns. A multidisciplinary mix of -90 attendees made for a highly dynamic and successful workshop. Its primary aim was to outline a set of requirements and specifications necessary to improve how science is disseminated and comprehended in the 21st century, making it easier and faster for scholars to extract knowledge and data from scientific literature. To achieve this, participants tried to identify groups of collaborators willing to develop the necessary open source code and platforms for use by the scholarly community (Continues on Page 2).

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Workshop "Beyond the PDF"

(Continued from Page 1) The workshop's main outcome highlighted the need to 1) hold a similar, more inclusive, event (e.g. including members of the NCBO group as well as more biocurators) either later this year or next, 2) publish the conclusions of the workshop, and 3) keep the "Beyond" group together, to maintain the momentum of joint activities and obtain funding. Details of the workshop and its outcomes can be found on the meeting website and in Anita de Waard's thoughtful summary at:

https://sites.google.com/site/beyondthepdf/home

http://elsevierlabs.wordpress.com/2011/01/25/back-from-beyond/

NETT AB 2010 "Biological Wikis"

November 29 - December 1, 2010. Naples. Organized by Angelo Facchiano and Paolo Romano. This annual, Italian meeting focused on the use of Wiki technology and databases in Biology [1, 2]. This reflects the growing importance of wikis in science, especially in biology [3,4]. The rapid growth of Wikibased databases represents an important direction for the Biocuration community. Wiki solutions set a low barrier of entry for community annotation. The consensus of the meeting suggests that some of the major challenges for the field are the social engineering necessary to collect input from the community, and the need to keep the data in Wikis structured. Semantic wikis offer successful guidance to maintain the kind of structured data that database curators have come to know and love. Participants included wiki practitioners, educators, biocurators, and students, who shared ideas and discussed challenges as well showcased the latest developments in the field. Highlights included the Transcription Factor Encyclopedia by Wyeth Wasserman [5], the protein structure annotation system TOPSAN by Adam Godzik [6], and information on the biological content of Wikipedia and how to get involved by Alex Bateman [7-8]. One particularly interesting study from Andrew Su showed that Wikipedia contains many literature references that could be linked to gene ontology terms, suggesting that even relatively unstructured Wikis may become a source of accurate information for our community. The final panel discussion covered, among other topics, new models of scientific recognition for the Wikipedian. generation. An open-access mailing list was created to facilitate active discussion (biowiki-1@googlegroups.com). All interested parties are invited to join! [1] http://www.nettab.org/. [2] http:// www.nettab.org/2010/. [3] http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18769412. [4] http:// www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21085149. [5] http://www.cisreg.ca/cgi-bin/tfe/home.pl . [6] http:// www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20716366. [7] http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21150981. [8] http:// www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20941386

Please email us at intsocbio@gmail.com with announcements you'd like to share with other ISB members.

Comments and suggestions are encouraged!

Kind regards,

The ISB Executive Committee