

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOCURATION



After Biocuration 2012

Let us once again congratulate the winners of ISB Travel Fellowships: Wang Jun, Cui Tao, Lakshmi Muralitharan, Preeti Jain, Lakshmi Pillai, Asuka Bando, Caitlin Murphy, Daniel Jamieson, Nives Skunca and Mike Bowen. Attendees at Biocuration 2012 voted Nives Skunca as the winner of the Best Poster Award, sponsored by ELSEVIER.

May, 2012

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Thank you all for attending Biocuration 2012! Twenty two papers were included in the Special Biocuration Virtual & Printed issue of the Journal DATABASE, which can be found at <http://goo.gl/IFM24>. Together we have built incredible momentum that has all ISB members already looking forward to meeting in Hinxton (UK) in April, 2013!

Thank you also for taking the time to give us your feedback; your suggestions and comments are an integral part of the planning process for next year. See the results of the post-conference survey at <http://goo.gl/C8mEo>

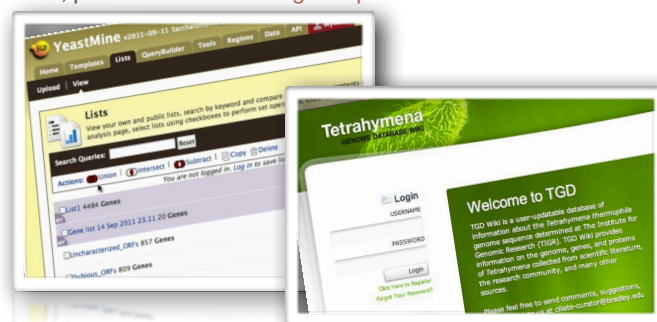
News from ISB Member Groups

Video Tutorials, a Great Way to Convey Information

Video tutorials are becoming increasingly helpful tools in both academic and commercial settings. They allow for discovery and learning while saving the user from reading through dense documentation or performing extensive site exploration. The Saccharomyces Genome Database (SGD) recently produced around 20 video tutorials that highlight or describe new site features and their use. Among the most popular are videos tutorials that provide quick illustrations of new site content or introductions to using specific features within a tool.

We produce our videos using either Screenr (www.screenr.com/) or ScreenFlow (www.telestream.net/screen-flow/). Screenr is a free, web-based resource that allows simultaneous screen and audio capture, but requires additional software to voiceover screen captures. ScreenFlow (\$99 fee) allows both screen and audio captures, as well as video voiceover. We find adding enhancements such as zooming, speeding up video, annotation (e.g. adding arrows or text), transition effects, and title pages that divide the video into short sections produce a tutorial that flows smoothly and has extra visual interest.

In our experience, Vimeo (<http://vimeo.com/>) provides the best platform for storage and distribution, and offers the highest play resolution. To minimize loading time we have created thumbnail images that link directly from SGD to their corresponding video on Vimeo. These linked images can be found within the Video Tutorials section at SGD (e.g. <http://goo.gl/b6RZg>). Have fun creating Video Tutorials - they are a great way to highlight features and offer specific help! For more information on producing educational tutorials, or on resources available at SGD, please contact us at sgd-helpdesk@lists.stanford.edu.



Genome Databases – Lite!

You just spent the last decade designing the perfect model organism database. Pages connect to obscure data on a retired researcher's laptop, each curator entry is error checked against fifteen different tables, and the website changes color based on the user's mood. Although this customization may be fabulous for one project, it might not be ideal for another. What happens if you want to set up a user-editable (wiki) version to collect community annotations? What if the genome of a related species is sequenced? Can anyone set up a local version of the data? For these applications, replicating your entire site is probably not the best answer.

For the past few years Ciliate.org has been designing simple, user-editable genome databases for mid-major model organisms (tet.ciliate.org, ich.ciliate.org, and oxy.ciliate.org).

Our sites can be set up using only two FASTA files (CDS and protein), and can be expanded easily to include GO and other annotations, GBrowse and BLAST servers. Two strategies keep our design portable: First, common home page features, website templates and resources (edit guide, registration), greatly facilitate building a new site. Second, our use of a LAMP stack design (<http://goo.gl/VY3TV>), CodeIgniter framework (<http://codeigniter.com>), and model-view-controller architecture allows the code to run from any webserver and simplifies adding new features. If you're looking for a way to set up a new "lite" version of your favorite MOD, or start one for some lucky critter that just got its genome sequenced, we'd be happy to talk with you at ciliate-curator@bradley.edu.



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Upcoming Conferences

- The 2nd IEEE Conference on Healthcare Informatics, Imaging, and Systems Biology (HISB): Analyzing Big Data for Healthcare and Biomedical Sciences. UCSD, La Jolla, California, September 27-28, 2012.
<http://www.ittc.ku.edu/HISB12>
- Automated Function Prediction: and ISMB Special Interest Group Meeting. Locale: Long Beach, California USA. July 14, 2012 (Just before ISMB 2012).
<http://biofunctionprediction.org>



Job Opportunities

- The ETH Zurich and Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, Zurich, Switzerland are looking for a Project Leader for OMA (Orthologous MAtRix Project) - Details available at <http://biocurator.org/jobs/OMA.pdf>
- Journal-Database is searching for an Integration Specialist (UniProt Content Team) - Details can be found at <http://goo.gl/P4OoM> Posted May 5, 2012. Closing date: May 27, 2012.
- Scientific Training Officer (BioMedBridges) needed at EMBL-EBI - Hinxton near Cambridge, UK - Details available at <http://goo.gl/3UjMA> Posted May 5, 2012
- A Postdoctoral Position is available in the LIFE and BioAssay Ontology (BAO) Projects at the University of Miami Center for Computational Science, FL, USA - For more details, visit <http://goo.gl/IJQNR> - Apply at http://um.hodesiq.com/job_start.asp (use keyword 043488) Posted April 18, 2012
- A Scientific Database Curator/Annotator is needed at the ChEBI team, EBI, Hinxton, UK - Details at <http://goo.gl/92TyH> Posted April 17, 2012
- A Post-Doc Position is available at University of Arizona - More information found at <http://biocurator.org/jobs/UArizona.pdf> Posted April 17, 2012
- Postdoctoral opportunity at Phenoscope, National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent), Durham, NC, USA - To learn more, visit http://biocurator.org/jobs/Phenoscape_postdoc.pdf Posted March 8, 2012
- The Zebrafish Model Organism Database in Eugene, Oregon is looking for a Software Development Project Manager. - Details can be found at <http://goo.gl/ckmHT> Posted March 16, 2012
- Mouse Genome Informatics is looking for an Outreach Coordinator in Bar Harbor, Maine. - Details available at <http://goo.gl/viytw> Posted March 8, 2012
- Scientific Software Engineer needed at Princeton University, NJ. - More information available at <http://goo.gl/Glq5W> Posted Feb 16, 2012
- A PhD position in Biological Informatics is available at the Center for Plant Biotechnology and Genomics (CBGP), Technical University of Madrid (UPM) - Learn more at <http://biocurator.org/jobs/PhD-Madrid.pdf> Posted Feb 16, 2012
- SGN MetaCyc Curator position available in Ithaca, NY - Details at <http://biocurator.org/jobs/SGN.pdf> Posted Feb 6, 2012
- The Database of Interacting Proteins is looking for a software developer - Learn more at <http://dip.doe-mbi.ucla.edu/dip/Jobs.cgi> Posted Feb 6, 2012
- Mike Tyers group at University of Montreal (Canada) is looking for a Scientific Programmer for the Synthetic Biology and Scientific Data Management team. More information available at <http://biocurator.org/jobs/Tyers.pdf> To apply, email your cover letter and CV to Raik Grünberg (raik.grunberg@umontreal.ca); subject: "Reference PLMT230412". Selection process starts May 21, 2012.



ISB Newsletter Archive

Previous issues of this Newsletter can be found on the ISB website at <http://biocurator.org/newsletter.shtml>

Executive Committee Meetings

The ISB Executive Committee meets monthly. Minutes from the meetings are posted on the ISB website
http://www.biocurator.org/executive_committee_minutes.html



Do you have new ideas to share with members of ISB?

Send us a news article written to biocurators as the audience. In 260 words or less, tell us about the tools used in your site, or those offered for distribution to the community. Broadcast announcements and advances from your team to all the members of ISB by sending an email to intsocbio@gmail.com.

All comments and suggestions are welcome!

Kind regards,
The ISB Executive Committee.

