GeneLab Phase 2: Integrated Search & Data Federation of Space Biology Experiment Data

The GeneLab project is a science initiative to maximize the scientific return of omics data collected from spaceflight microgravity and radiation experiments, supported by a data system for a public bioinformatics repository and collaborative analysis tools for these data. The mission of GeneLab is to maximize the utilization of the valuable biological research resources aboard the ISS by collecting genomic, transcriptomic, proteomic and metabolomic data to enable the exploration of the molecular network responses of terrestrial biology to space environments using a systems biology approach. All GeneLab data are made available to researchers worldwide through its open-access data system.

GeneLab is currently being developed by NASA to support worldwide accessibility of biomedical research in order to enable the human exploration of space and improve life on earth. Open access to Phase 1 of the GeneLab Data Systems (GLDS) was implemented in April 2015. Download volumes have grown steadily, mirroring the growth in curated space biology research data sets (80 as of Sept. 2016), now exceeding 10 TB/month, with over 10,000 file downloads since the start of Phase 1. For the period April 2015 to May 2016, most frequently downloaded were data from studies of Mus musculus (39%) followed closely by Arabidopsis thaliana (30%), with the remaining downloads roughly equally split across 12 other organisms (each < 10% of total downloads). GLDS Phase 2 is focusing on interoperability, supporting data federation, including integrated search capabilities, of GLDS-housed data sets with external data sources, such as gene expression data from NIH/NCBI’s Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO), proteomic data from EBI’s PRIDE system, and metagenomic data from Argonne National Laboratory's MG-RAST. GEO and MG-RAST employ different metadata specifications (e.g., ISA-Tab), and the GLDS Phase 2 system will implement a Google-like, full-text search engine using a Service-Oriented Architecture by utilizing publicly available RESTful web services Application Programming Interfaces (e.g., GEO Entrez Programming Utilities) and a Common Metadata Model (CMM) in order to accommodate the different metadata formats between the heterogeneous bioinformatics databases. GLDS Phase 2 completion with fully implemented capabilities will be made available to the general public in September 2017.

For more information please visit the GeneLab project website at: http://genelab.nasa.gov

Explore the GeneLab Data System repository at: https://genelab-data.ndc.nasa.gov/genelab/

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GLDS Phase 1 (aka “C-Gene”) Operational System

GLDS Phase 2 (aka “X-Gene”) Work-In-Progress System

Google-like, full-text search engine with data federation/integration to NIH/NCBI’s GEO database (over 80k GSE metadata records ingested)

GLDS Metrics (As of 9/15/2016)

Data Visualization (GLDS Organisms vs. Assay Types)

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