

Abstract

Reinventing the GDB Human Genome Database

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The human genome project, though it has produced a “final” sequence, is far from meeting the goal of providing an understanding of all human genes and their function. While a completed sequence is the foundation upon which to continue gene elucidation, existing “annotation” processes have lacked one critical element – rigorous human review. Since 1990 the GDB Human Genome Database has been an example of the collection of quality data in a peer-reviewed manner. Though GDB has fallen on hard times including the termination of US funding during the sequencing race, as well as its shutdown in January 2003, there continues to be a large user population. Some have said that GDB is an old, outdated remnant of the human genome project, in a similar way that attacks have been made for the abolishment of HUGO. Arguably, GDB has not evolved to the degree necessary to fit in this modern interval of the human genome project. However, its principle of providing high quality curated data is as fundamental as the scientific method itself. Here we present a vision for the creation of an informatics resource founded on the principles of GDB and relevant to a modern human genome project.