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CoBRA Guideline

is now available to standardize citations of bioresources in journal articles

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Definition of bioresources

Collections of data and/or samples that are scientifically built and systematically documented. These include physical resources like human biobanks with associated health information, databases, plant and animal repositories, registries, and bioinformatics tools (from BMC, 2015).

References

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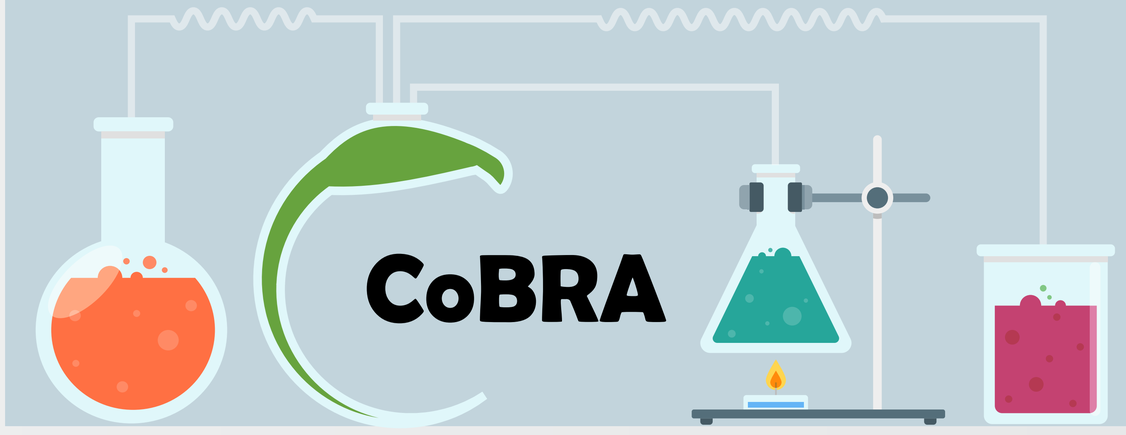
Citation of BioResources in journal Articles



In 2014, at the Rome 14th EAHIL Conference, a poster was presented to illustrate the Bioresource Research Impact Factor (BRIF) initiative aimed at creating an indicator useful to evaluate bioresources (an initiative involving 134 members from 22 countries).

After two years the same authors, who form the "BRIF and journal editors" subgroup, are now able to present to the community of biomedical librarians and information specialists a significant result: the publication of CoBRA, a guideline for Citation of BioResources in journal Articles.

The guideline was published in February 2015 in BMC Medicine. It is now included in the EQUATOR (Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research) network, and shared by international associations like the European Association of Science Editors (EASE).

For the first time a guideline is filling a gap in the scientific literature concerning the lack of a standard for bioresources citation in journal article. A gap which, due to the increasing use of bioresources in scientific research, was seriously mining its good practices.

Considering only human bioresources, it is estimated that about 300 million of tissue samples are stored in the USA and 20 million of biological resources in Europe, for research and market use. The use of the proposed CoBRA citation scheme will permit the traceability of bioresource use in the literature. The application of the suggested standard of citation will also facilitate the retrieval of journal articles based on the use of biological samples/data and their tracing in the scientific literature.

The community of librarians and information specialists should know about the CoBRA guideline. They are called upon to promote its use among different stakeholders and disseminate it as much as possible.

We need the help of the community of librarians and information specialists!
- to include the citation format in the NLM Citing Medicine
- to promote a revision of the MeSH terms related to bioresources and biobanks.
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