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BEIJING INSTITUTE OF GENOMICS CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



国家基因组科学数据中心  
National Genomics Data Center

# Curation Model and Curation rules of Database Commons

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2022-10-10

Database Commons, Launched in 2015  
<https://ngdc.cncb.ac.cn/databasecommons>

国家生物信息中心

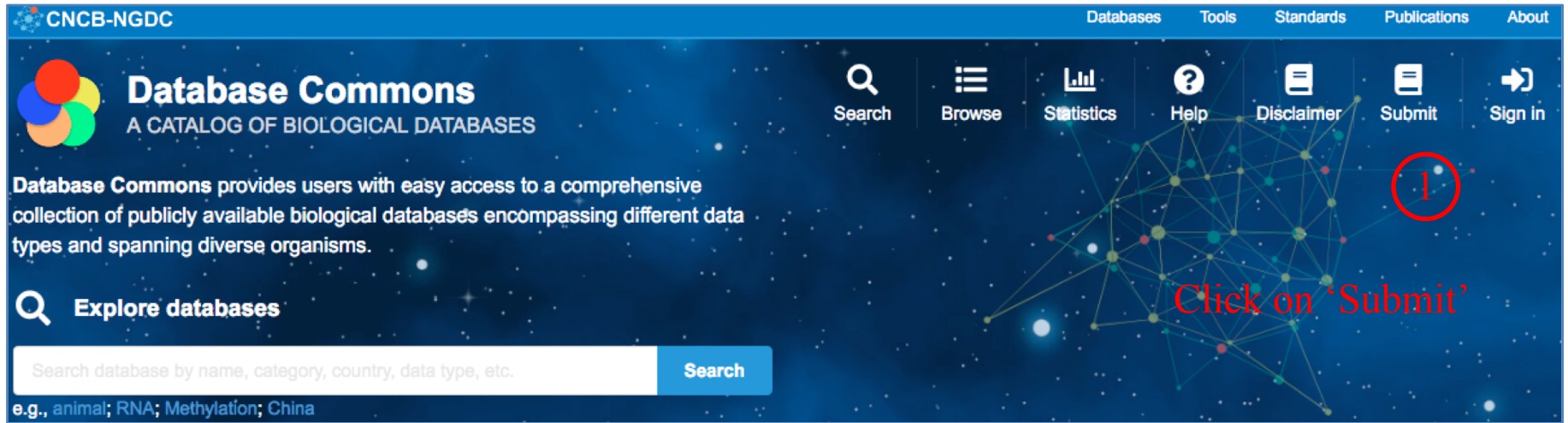
China National Center for Bioinformation

# About Database Commons

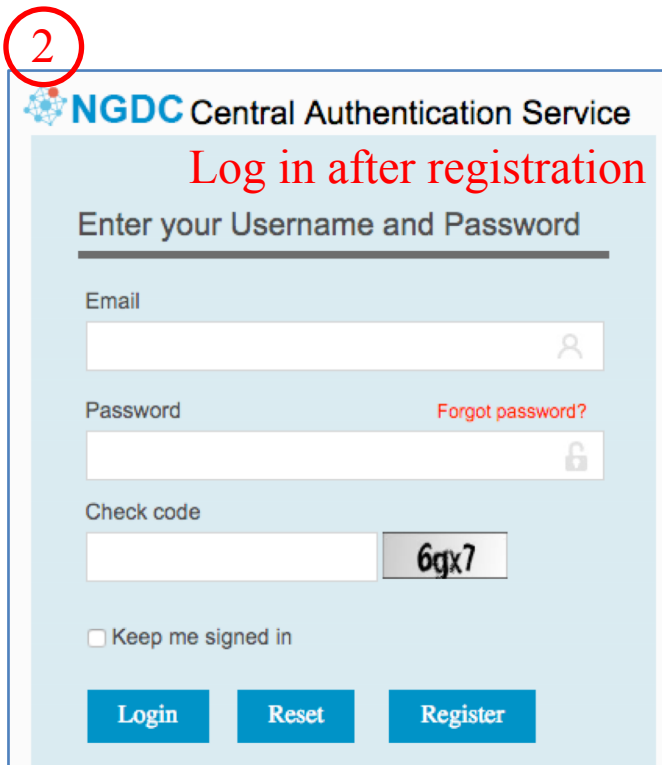
- Database Commons is a manually curated catalogue of worldwide biological databases. It aims to make users easily access to a comprehensive collection of publicly available biological databases, conveniently capture a specific collection of databases of interest, and also efficiently retrieve the popular or high-quality databases.
- Based on literature curation, Database Commons integrates relevant information for all collected databases and catalogues each database in terms of data type, organism, subject, hosted institution and location, etc., accordingly enabling people to easily find a specific collection of databases of interest. Moreover, all collected databases are ranked by z-index as well as total citations. Meanwhile, it allows users to rate any database by considering different aspects, facilitating efficient location of appropriate databases of interest.
- Database Commons can be served as both a valuable resource and a comprehensive search engine involving all biological field. It benefits all users in selecting from all publicly available databases for their effective and efficient exploitation.



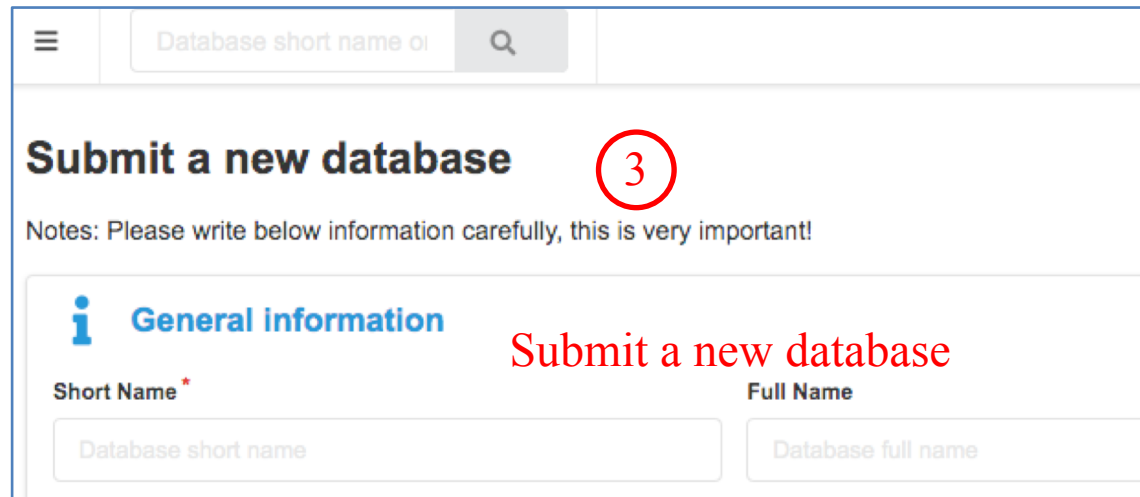
Submit a new database in [Database Commons](#)



The screenshot shows the Database Commons homepage with a blue header and a dark blue background featuring a network diagram. The header includes the CNCB-NGDC logo and navigation links: Databases, Tools, Standards, Publications, and About. Below the header, the 'Database Commons' logo is displayed with the tagline 'A CATALOG OF BIOLOGICAL DATABASES'. A navigation bar contains icons for Search, Browse, Statistics, Help, Disclaimer, Submit, and Sign in. The 'Submit' button is circled in red with the number '1' and the text 'Click on \'Submit\'' in red. A descriptive paragraph states: 'Database Commons provides users with easy access to a comprehensive collection of publicly available biological databases encompassing different data types and spanning diverse organisms.' Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search database by name, category, country, data type, etc.' and a 'Search' button. Examples of search terms are provided: 'e.g., animal; RNA; Methylation; China'.



The screenshot shows the NGDC Central Authentication Service login page. The title is 'Log in after registration' in red. The form prompts the user to 'Enter your Username and Password'. It includes input fields for Email, Password, and Check code. The Password field has a 'Forgot password?' link. The Check code field displays '6gx7'. There is a checkbox for 'Keep me signed in'. At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Login', 'Reset', and 'Register'.



The screenshot shows the 'Submit a new database' form. The title 'Submit a new database' is circled in red with the number '3'. Below the title, a note states: 'Notes: Please write below information carefully, this is very important!'. The form is divided into sections. The 'General information' section has two input fields: 'Short Name\*' and 'Full Name'. The 'Short Name\*' field has a placeholder 'Database short name' and the 'Full Name' field has a placeholder 'Database full name'.

Alternatively, you can submit your database through “Curator Home”.

The image shows a screenshot of the Curator Home web interface. On the left is a dark sidebar menu with the following sections: **User** (User Home), **Curator** (Curator Home, View Databases), **Administrator** (Administrator Home, Update all DB citations and zindex), and **Logout**. A red arrow points from the 'Curator' section to the main content area. The main content area has a top header with a search bar labeled 'Database short name or' and a hamburger menu icon. Below the header is a user profile for 'Lina Ma' (malina@big.ac.cn, Beijing Institute of Genomics, Chinese Academy of Sciences). Under the profile is a 'Recent update' section with 'Released' and 'Finished' buttons. A second red arrow points from the 'Submit' button in the 'Curation' section to the 'Submit' button. The 'Curation' section includes: **Publication** (Create a new database based on publication), **Unfinished Databases** (Curate the unfinished databases), **Submit** (Submit a new database), and **Update** (Update the released databases). At the bottom is a 'Curation history' section.





## 1. Start from “General Information”

For each database, there are four sections to be curated: general information, data information, contact information, publication.

The screenshot shows a web form titled 'General information' with an information icon. The form contains several input fields and a dropdown menu, with red callout boxes providing instructions:

- Short Name \***: Input field with placeholder 'Database short name'. A red arrow points to it from the top callout box.
- Full Name**: Input field with placeholder 'Database full name'. A red arrow points to it from the top callout box.
- Year founded**: Input field with placeholder 'Database year founded'.
- Last updated**: Input field with placeholder 'Last updated'. A red arrow points to it from the middle callout box.
- Current version**: Input field with placeholder 'Current version'.
- URL** (with a link icon and asterisk): Input field containing 'https://www.dh.aist.go.jp/database/face2017/'. A red arrow points to it from the middle callout box.
- Availability \***: Dropdown menu with the selected option 'Free to academic users only'.
- Description \***: Large text area with placeholder 'Description'. A red arrow points to it from the bottom callout box.

**Callout Box 1 (Top):** Copy from the database homepage or abstract. Check first if the database is already included in Database Commons.

**Callout Box 2 (Middle):** Input the URL for database homepage

**Callout Box 3 (Bottom):** Should be concise and clear (1-3 sentences are OK). You can copy from the database homepage or paper abstract.



## 2. Classification and Labelling

- All the items are required for this section. “Data type”, “Object”, and “Category” are selected from the drop-down box. Explanation for each database category is attached.
- A database may cover multiple data types, or objects, or categories.



### Classification and Labelling

**Data type (Multiple) \***

**Object (Multiple) \***

**Category (Multiple) \***

A database may involve multiple data types/objects/categories. If there is no applicable item, please select "Other" or "NA".

**Species (Multiple, Latin name) \***

**Keyword (Multiple) \***

- Input the Latin name of the major organisms if the database covers quite a large number of organisms.
- If no species information is available, input 'NA'.

- Input 1-3 keywords which could represent the primary features of the database. Please use the singular form rather than plural form.
- All letters are in lowercase.



## Data Type:

- **DNA:** gene/chromosome/genome sequence, DNA mutation/modification, DNA structure, DNA elements including probe, primer, motif, repeat sequence, etc.
- **RNA:** RNA sequence, coding & non-coding transcripts, alternative splicing, RNA editing/modification, RNA probe and primer, RNA motif and structure, RNA expression
- **Protein:** protein sequence, protein motif and domain, protein structure, protein modification, protein-protein interaction, protein expression

## Object:

- **Animal**
- **Plant**
- **Fungi**
- **Bacteria**
- **Archaea**
- **Virus**



**Category** (examples):

**Raw bio-data:** raw data of nucleic acid/protein sequencing and microarray, and image, digit, video, audio from biological and medical research (SRA, GSA, GEO)

**Gene, genome and annotation:** gene/genetic element annotation, gene structure/family/motif/domain annotation, genome annotation, comparative genome (metagenome, pan-genome) analysis and annotation (GenBank, RefSeq, Uniprot, Pfam, InterPro, miRBase, TRANSFAC, FlyBase)

**Genotype, phenotype and variation:** genotypes, phenotypes, multiple-scale variations (including SNP, INDEL, CNV, chromosomal rearrangement and other structural variation), genotype-phenotype associations (dbSNP, GWAS-catalog, ClinVar, OMIM, HGMD, HPO)

**Phylogeny and homology:** phylogeny reconstruction of genes/species, evolutionary history/process/event among individuals/organisms, homology identification (COG, CDD, InParanoid)

**Expression:** RNA/protein expression, expression abundance and pattern, RNA probe or primer used for gene expression detection, differential expression analysis (GEO, microRNA.org, FlyAtlas, GXD)

**Modification:** DNA modification, post-transcriptional modification of mRNA and non-coding RNA, post-translational modification of protein, modification type/technology/function (RNAMDB, Phospho.ELM)

**Structure:** secondary, tertiary and quaternary structure of DNA/RNA/protein, chromatin structure (CATH)

**Interaction:** direct (physical) and indirect (functional) associations, including protein-protein interaction, RNA-protein interaction, DNA-protein interaction, gene regulatory interaction, biochemical reaction, antigen and antibody, and genetic interaction (STRING, TRANSFAC, miRTarBase)

**Pathway:** biological pathways for metabolic, signaling, gene regulatory analysis (KEGG, TRANSPATH)

**Health and medicine:** disease variation/genotype-phenotype association, immune reaction, disease model, clinical biomarker, therapeutic target, drug & chemical compound, pharmacogenomics and pharmacodynamics, electronic health record (OMIM, HGMD, DrugBank, ChEMBL)

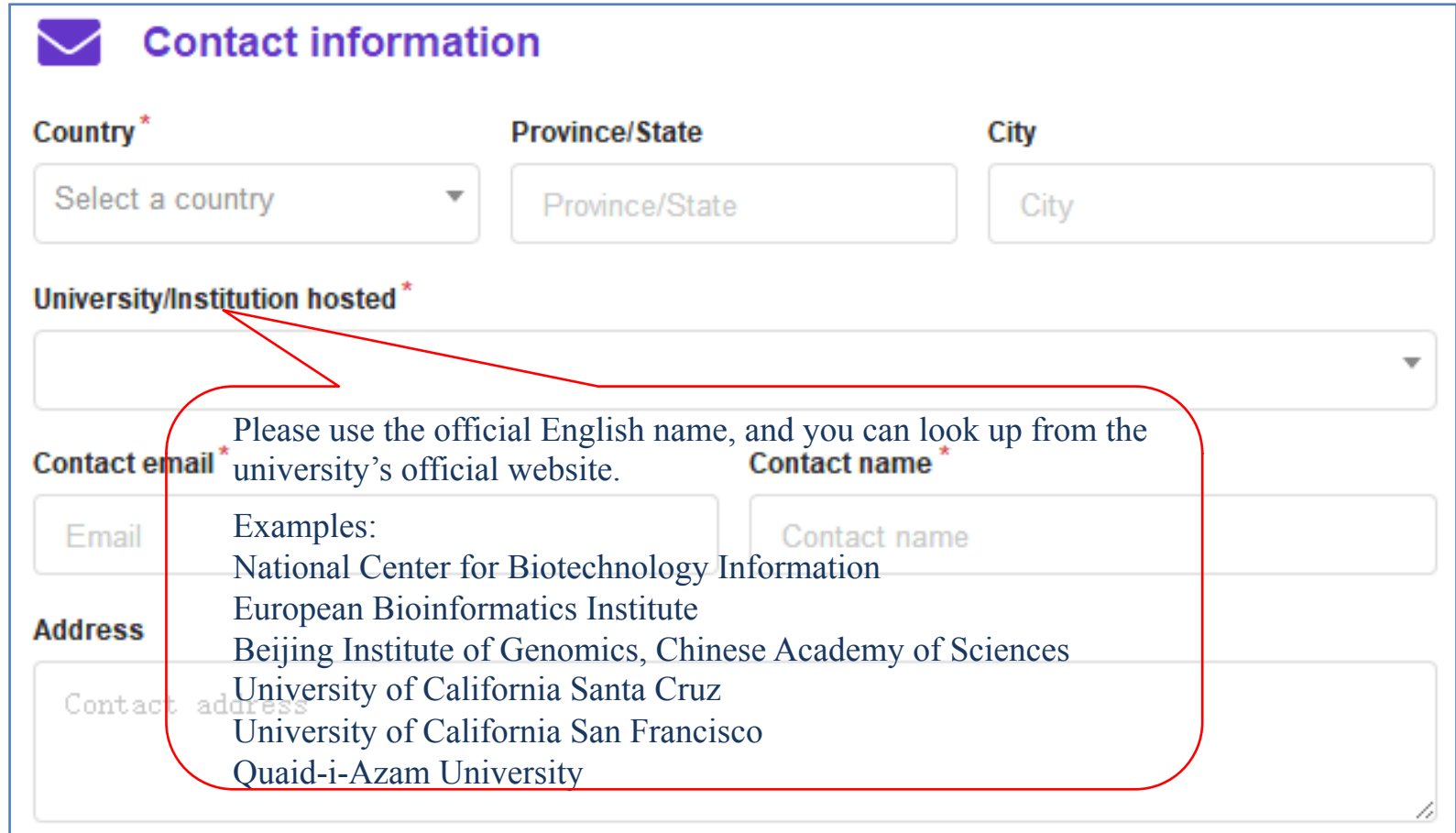
**Standard, ontology and nomenclature:** standard, ontology and nomenclature for biological entities (GO)

**Literature:** literature information, literature/text mining, textual annotation based on literature (PubMed, LncRNAWiki, BioCreAtIvE)

**Metadata:** metadata information for biological entities, e.g., project/sample/experiment/run/database/tool (Database Commons, BioSamples)

### 3. Contact Information

- Refer to ‘contact’ information of the database or input contact information of the corresponding author.
- This is used to contact people who take charge of database maintenance, and they are encouraged to participate in database curation.



The image shows a web form titled "Contact information" with a purple envelope icon. The form includes fields for Country, Province/State, City, University/Institution hosted, Contact email, Contact name, and Address. A red callout box points to the "University/Institution hosted" field and contains the following text:


Please use the official English name, and you can look up from the university's official website.

Examples:  
National Center for Biotechnology Information  
European Bioinformatics Institute  
Beijing Institute of Genomics, Chinese Academy of Sciences  
University of California Santa Cruz  
University of California San Francisco  
Quaid-i-Azam University



## 4. Publication

Make sure that all the publications of the database have been added.  
We rank databases based on total citations of all the database papers.

 **Publications**

Publication information is automatically extracted using PubMed ID. One publication is only allowed to be linked to one database. Please make sure that the database publication(s) has been correctly included in one database.

PMID: 30329098

Title

Authors

Citations

(Sources: 2020-09-12, from [Europe PMC](#))

Journal name

Volume

Issue

Published year

Abstract

http://bigd.big.ac.cn/lncbook), a curated knowledgebase of human lncRNAs that features a comprehensive collection of human lncRNAs and systematic curation of lncRNAs by multi-omics data integration, functional annotation and"/>

To add a publication, input PubMed ID and click on 'add', and the publication information will be automatically retrieved. If the paper is already included in Database Commons, it can not be added.

Note, not all related publications could be considered as database papers. A database paper should mainly describe the database content and data.



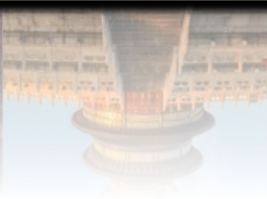
Don't forget to click on “Save” when you have completed all the fields or made any changes.  
Click on “Finished” to Submit.

Your database will be publicly released after manual review by the Database Commons Team.

This page <https://ngdc.cncb.ac.cn/databasecommons/policies> also details the rules for curation.

Any questions, please contact us by emailing to [databasecommons@big.ac.cn](mailto:databasecommons@big.ac.cn)





**THANKS**