

Activity Proposal

Minimal content for gene variant databases (LSDBs)

Need

Quality of gene variant databases (LSDBs) is highly desired, and heavily discussed. To indicate their quality, curators of gene variant databases (LSDBs) would like to state that they follow the HVP/HGVS recommendations regarding data content and display. However, such recommendations do not yet exist.

Existing recommendations would also help gene variant database software developers, ensuring that their design includes all minimal requirements.

Scope

The “*Minimal content for gene variant databases (LSDBs)*” should cover at least;

- data fields to be included describing the variant(s) detected, method used, individuals analysed and associated phenotype.
- standards to follow for data entry & storage

It should be discussed whether the recommendations should be extended to include;

- minimal homepage description of the background and purpose of the database
- minimal requirements for back-ups and data safety
- minimal summary data that should be displayed
- minimal data displays that should be offered
- minimal query options that should be offered
- required copy right statements, databases policy document, etc.
- data curation
- additional recommended data fields

Since these recommendations are new, allowing existing databases to cope with the new demands, it seems appropriate to come to a set of “minimal requirements” and a set of “highly desired requirements”. Databases can then choose to follow either the minimal or extended requirements.

Plan of action

Assign a group of experts (3-5) that write a draft of the document suggested under “Expected deliverables”, give HGVS/HVP members a chance to comment on the proposal and finally complete the document and submit it for publication.

Resources required

Time, administrative support from HVP, a room to meet & discuss during an upcoming meeting (first within the group of experts, next with HGVS/HVP members).

Expected deliverables

A document describing the “*Minimal content for gene variant databases (LSDBs)*”. Preferably the document will be published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Recommendation

The “*Minimal content for gene variant databases (LSDBs)*” should become the (minimal) standard for gene variant databases and allow them to state that they follow the HVP recommendations.