Ref. Zool/Bioin/92-93/249 30th September, 1992

Dr. N. V. Joshi, FASc.
Centre for Ecological Sciences,
Indian Institute of Science,
BANGALORE – 560 012.

Dear Dr. Niranjan,

It is really nice to see your letter. I am aware that CES has lots of interesting data. It will be really very good idea to feed this data into not just the computer readable form but also in a proper database. I am sending along with this letter a copy of our paper which has been accepted for publication in Intervirology Journal. This will give you necessary idea the way we have gone in preparing the virus data bank. I am also enclosing a demo-diskette which runs on IBM Compatible PC.

I will talk with my colleagues at C-DAC and will try and include the options that you want. I do not see any problem. I am writing the manuscript and will send it to Prof. Gadgil for his consideration. We will be quite happy to provide all information to Mr. Murali Nair. I am really happy to note that you had asked him to contact us.

Thanking you and looking forward for your visit and co-operation.

Yours Sincerely,

(signature)

(A.S.KOLASKAR)

Prof. A.S. Kolaskar

University of Poona

Bioinformatics
Distributed Information Centre

Ganeshkhind,
PUNE–411 007 (INDIA).

Date : January 23, 1993

Dear Prof. Niranjan Joshi

As you are aware, the Department of Bio-technology, Government of India, has set up Distributed Information Centre in Bio-informatics at the University of Poona. Over the past few years, ever since this Centre came into existence, it has been indeed very active and is regularly receiving updates of several databanks which the Bio-technologists and Biologists need. The rich repertoire of its information bank includes protein and nucleic acid sequence data banks, structure data banks, just to mention only a few.

We are aware of the problem facing our scientific community owing to the non-availability of suitable software packages for our work. What is available abroad is out of our reach for one reason or the other.

Appreciating the need for such pacakges, I initiated a dialogue with the computer scientists at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing who were busy designing, developing a state-of-the-art supercomputer based on parallel architecture with several application software packages of national relevance. C-DAC has delivered the supercomputer called PARAM and has been busy developing software for various basic disciplines. Our interaction with them have resulted in the development of software packages for Molecular Biology data analysis and Molecular Modelling as follows:

1) MG – Molecular Graphics and Visualization of Biomacromolecules

2) PNAS – For analysis of Proteins and Nucleic Acid Sequence data

3) PRAS – Pairwise and multiple alignment of protein and nucleic acid sequence data

C-DAC has started marketing these packages which can be run on a PC-AT without any extra hardware.

Incidentally, as a result of our in-house efforts, we at the Bio-informatics Centre have also developed the world's largest Animal Virus data bank. At the moment, this databank contains information on more than 800 different animal viruses and is available on-line to Macrobial Strain Data Network (MSDN) and NICNET users.

A small part of the protein and the nucleic acid sequence data bank and the protein structure data bank will be given at media cost to those who wish to make use of the data and the software packages.

I am sure, eager as you are to improve the quality and standard of research and teaching in your organization, you would certainly like to draw on the benefits of our efforts. And nothing will make us more happy than placing these efforts at the disposal of our colleagues in the educational and research organizations. It would be a pleasure to hear from you about the area of your interest in which we should work so that we can strengthen your efforts further.

Very hopefully do I look forward to your response to initiate a long standing academic relationship with you leading to a fruitful spin-off of a high scientific value and content which could place the country in the forefront of this important area.

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

Ashok Kolaskar

Ashok S. Kolaskar

University of Poona

Dr. A. S. KOLASKAR
PROFESSOR

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Ref.: Bioin/93-94/ 781   5/3/94.
Scientist-in-charge
Centre for. Ecological science
Indian Institute of science
Bangalore - 560 012

Dear Sir/Madam

Committee On Data For Science and Technology (CODATA) is a Committee
of International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU).   India is a
member of CODATA.   One of the objectives of CODATA is to increase
communication between scientists those who are involved in data bank
activity and make scientific data available to those who need most.
To achieve this goal it was decided by CODATA in its general assembly
to prepare referral data base.   The first version of such a
computerised data bank is now available to the users.   In India
several scientists are working, including you, in data bank creation
or analysis. We do not see your name in the present version of CODATA
referral Directory,though work done by you is important.

We have already collected the information on various Indian Scientific
databases/databanks in different deciplines which include life scien
ces, Chemical and Physical Sciences, Engineering, Yoga, Ayurveda etc.
The database on Indian Scientific Databanks has information on   58
databanks.   This we hope will be published soon.   CODATA task force
group on survey of datasourses in Asian-ocenic countries have already
published a special bulletine which included the information on Indian
Databanks also.   I have now initiated the preparation of the first
updated version of our database.   Your co-operation and contribution
will allow me to make this version more complete and thus useful.
Several scientists and science admistrator and enterprenurs have found
the information collected by us very useful.   I therefore request you
to fill the attached questionnaire which we kept as simple as
possible. I may point out that I am not collecting the information on
only computerised databanks.

I will highly obliged if you let me know the addresses of your friends
who are engaged in data activity I would appreciate if you send me
the questionnarie as early as possible.

Thanking you in advanced for your active co-operation.

Yours sincerely

A.S.Kolaskar
Encl.: As above.
N.B.: We are looking for factual databanks and not the bibliographof
lib. databases. Please circulate it among the scientists.

MG
RG
NVJ
RS
NHR

CODATA Directory of Scientific data Sources in India

Questionnaires

A. Organisation

1. Title of Organisation :

   Title and acronym :

2. Type of Organisation :

   Institute   University   Association

   Information Centre or Library

3. Name of Parent Institution :

   Name and acronym :

4. Address of organisation (including number,street,city
                            provience and postcode)

   Tel.   Telex :

   Cable: Fax   :

5. Number of staff :
   Full time :   Part time :

6. Director's, Scientist's, Incharge's name :

1

7. Contact person for inquires or services :

     Tel. :

8. Sponsor :

 B.Activities.

9. Principal data activities (check all applicable)

         Scientific/technological data :
             Produce
             Compile
             Evaluate

         Data referral (to assist users in identifying where
         to find requied data) :

10.Volume of data holdings (e.g. xxx items or xx records or xx
    megabytes) on magnetic tape, or xx cards,or xx bound
    vols.,etc

11.Coverage (free text describing the purpose of the
    organisation, the   desciplines   covered and   the possible
    application,etc.)

12. Suggested keywords (5-15 words) (describing subject areas for indexing purposes. Please ensure that these words cover all fields of data available)

13. Output (check one or more)

   a. Publication of printed data compilation

   b. Publication of data bulletines

   c. Periodical or occasional reports containing data

   d. Magnetic media containing data

   e. Microfilms containing data

   f. Other (general description of output. (in English)

14. Database- for each provide (in English) full name and acronym; free text description of its feature :

15. Publication -- for each provide : title, authors (or editors),serial publication in which appearing (including volume,issue, and pages), publisher,data of publication, publication number, periodicity, other

16. Services:

        a. Online system

        b. Provision of specific data upon request

        c. For the work of own organisation

        d. Referral to institutional or published data sourses.

        e. other

17. Online system (for each provide : full name and acronym, details on access procedure and data network.)

18. Availabality (check one or more)

        Ristricted to certain users

        Open to all users

        Fees charged

        Other (in datail)

19. Working langauges

20. Remarks (to present any information which is not included above)

C. Responder

21. Name of person completing questionnaire

   Address: Tele.:

   Date completed: