The EMBL Network File Server

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The EMBL Network File Server is a facility available on the computing system of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory to enable external users to access files via electronic mail.

CONTENTS
The newest nucleotide sequence database entries are available as soon as they are created by either the EMBL Data Library[1] or GenBank® [2], as well as the latest quarterly release of the EMBL Nucleotide Sequence Database[1]. Indices are available for data created since the latest release and are updated daily to incorporate new data. These include indices for accession number, author name, citation, keyword, species and short description. Unfortunately, indices compiled from the complete database cannot be distributed by the file server: these are too large for transmission over the Bitnet/EARN computer network, but are available with quarterly releases of the database on magnetic tape or CD-ROM.

Also available from the file server are protein sequence data (latest release of the SWISS-PROT Protein Sequence Database[1]), and protein structure data (latest release of the Brookhaven Protein Data Bank[3] and related data). The 'help' documentation from the file server gives further details.

In this and subsequent issues of Nucleic Acids Research, a summary of new nucleotide sequence data available from the file server will be reported. The accession number associated with each database entry can be used to retrieve that entry from the file server (see example below).

USE OF FILE SERVER
Users must have access to the Bitnet/EARN computer network, either directly from a node or via a gateway. The file server is used by sending commands in a standard electronic mail message to the Bitnet/EARN address:

   NETSERV@EMBL

The mail you send to the file server should contain one file server command per line, and can consist of several commands. The subject field of a message can also contain a file server command. For example, to obtain introductory 'help' documentation and the nucleotide sequence with accession number X12399, the following file server commands should be used:

   HELP
   GET NUC:X12399

The requested files will be returned automatically via electronic mail. You should find out locally how you send electronic mail from your own computer to the Bitnet/EARN address above.

ENQUIRIES

General enquiries about the EMBL File Server should be sent by electronic mail to POSTMASTER@EMBL (not to NETSERV please), or otherwise to:

The EMBL Data Library
Postfach 10.2209
Meyerhofstr. 1
6900 Heidelberg
Federal Republic of Germany.

E-Mail: DATALIB@EMBL
Tel. +49 6221 387258
Fax. +49 6221 387306
Telex. 461613 (embl d)

REFERENCES

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2. Bilofsky,H.S. and Burks,C. (1988) Nucl. Acids Res., 16(5), 1861–1863.
3. Abola,E.E., Bernstein,F.C., Bryant,S.H., Koetzle,T.F. and Weng,J. (1987) In Allen,F.H., Bergerhoff,G. and Sievers,R. (eds), Data Commission of the International Union of Crystallography, Bonn/Cambridge/Chester, pp. 107–132