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Cooperation between ZB MED and Bioinformatics Network

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Joint development of information services planned for life sciences

For some time now ZB MED - Information Centre for Life Sciences and de.NBI - German Network for Bioinformatics Infrastructure have been planning a strategic and content-related cooperation in various areas of the life sciences. The office of the de.NBI network is located at the Center for Biotechnology at Bielefeld University. ZB MED and Bielefeld University have now signed a cooperation agreement cementing their future collaboration. The objective is to work together to provide complementary information services for the life sciences. To this end, the joint appointment of a W3 professorship is envisaged, among other things.

The de.NBI initiative has been funded in the form of a project grant from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) since 2015. The nationwide network provides research in life sciences and biomedicine with high-quality bioinformatics services, in particular a cloud infrastructure. Services include various measures – from user training to special IT services – to support life sciences researchers in making more effective use of their sometimes large amounts of data (big data).

“In recent years, biomedical research has undergone a remarkably rapid development – mainly through improved and generally accessible IT infrastructures, but also through access to important research data. We therefore need innovative information infrastructures for the exploitation and utilisation of research findings. With this cooperation agreement, we have created the best conditions for the development of efficient solutions,” says Professor Dr Dietrich Rebholz-Schuhmann, Scientific Director of ZB MED, about the planned cooperation.

“The de.NBI network was set up by the BMBF to establish a bioinformatics infrastructure in Germany. With its integration into the ZB MED Institute, this bioinformatics infrastructure is now to be put on a permanent footing when the BMBF funding expires. From a scientific point of view, ZB MED and de.NBI are ideal cooperation partners,” explains Professor Dr Alfred Pühler, de.NBI coordinator in Bielefeld.

About de.NBI – German Network for Bioinformatics Infrastructure

The funding measure “German Network for Bioinformatics Infrastructure” was launched in March 2015 as part of the Federal Government’s Health Research/Health Economics Programme and the National Research Strategy BioEconomy. This network consists of eight specialised service centres with expertise in various sub-disciplines of life sciences and biomedicine, which provide and continuously develop specific bioinformatics services based on their respective expert knowledge. They also offer intensive training courses for various user groups from academia and industry. In addition, standards for data storage and analysis, data management and data exchange are to be established. The network is completed by a coordination unit that develops strategies for the long-term and sustainable establishment of the services and data resources offered, and manages the integration of de.NBI into international initiatives.

Find out more at www.denbi.de

About ZB MED – Information Centre for Life Sciences

ZB MED – Information Centre for Life Sciences is a key component of German and European information infrastructure in the field of life sciences. It is also a driving force behind the creation of an interconnected digital ecosystem of knowledge. As one of the leading service providers in its field, ZB MED is the perfect partner for anyone looking to take a more innovative approach to acquiring, processing and exploiting scientific information and research data. The Information Centre offers literature, specialist information and associated value-added services, primarily in a digital format. These are available through its semantic-based search portal LIVIVO and its publishing portal PUBLISSO, as well as at its sites in Cologne and Bonn. ZB MED firmly believes in encouraging a steady supply of high-quality scholarly and scientific resources, which is why promoting and supporting open access (OA) is one of its top priorities. The Information Centre also conducts applied research in the field of knowledge discovery.

Find out more at www.zbmed.de

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