Designing the EMBL Archive with and for Scientists

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23 October 2019 – Adelaide, Australia
Presentation outline

- EMBL
- Designing the EMBL Archive
- Designing the EMBL Archivist
- Looking forward
No. 13668

MULTILATERAL

Agreement establishing the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (with annex). Concluded at Geneva on 10 May 1973

Authentic texts: French, English and German.
Registered by Switzerland on 14 November 1974.

MULTILATÉRAL

Accord instituant le Laboratoire européen de biologie moléculaire (avec annexe). Conclu à Genève le 10 mai 1973

Textes authentiques : français, anglais et allemand.
Enregistré par la Suisse le 14 novembre 1974.
Technology Development & Transfer

Basic Research

Advanced Training

Integration of Life Science Research

Scientific Services
Save your notes, drafts and printouts: today's work is tomorrow's history

SIR — Science is one of the greatest cultural achievements of humankind. And yet — although we assiduously preserve the preparatory sketches of artists, the drafts of novelists and the manuscript scores of composers — there is little systematic preservation of the workings of scientists. This is certainly regrettable for historical studies of modern experimental biology. Since the discovery of the double helix in 1953, biological research has flourished at an ever-increasing pace and many basic insights continue to emerge. Our knowledge of the workings of organisms from all branches of life is increasing at an unprecedented rate, making it imperative that we document the history of these discoveries.

Several important collections, including Jim Watson's and S. B.'s personal papers, are already in the archives or pledged for the future.

We encourage all who have played a part in the developments of molecular biology and biotechnology over the past 50 years, and who are continuing this remarkable journey into the future, to preserve their papers and donate them to institutions that are committed to making them freely accessible to scholars. Let's not wait until memories have faded and papers been discarded at the end of a career before deciding to save our heritage. Future historians of science and social science should not have to look back and wonder how it was possible that we discarded the records of our lives in science.

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Headquarters Agreement
between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany
and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory

Artikel 5
Unverletzlichkeit der Archive
Die Archive des Laboratoriums sind unverletzlich.

Article 5
Inviolabilité des archives
Les archives du Laboratoire sont inviolables.

Article 5
Inviolability of archives
The archives of the Laboratory shall be inviolable.

(1974)
In alignment with this institutional mission, the EMBL Archive’s vision is to provide a resource that supports and documents European research, instrumentation and training in the field of molecular biology. It will do so by capturing, processing (see § 5. B) and making accessible EMBL’s scientific records and archives, and institutional documentary heritage of enduring historical value created (naturally or necessarily) or received by EMBL as a product of its activities at any of its current and future sites. This specifically includes material from persons (e.g. current or former staff), and can include material from organizations closely associated to EMBL and/or the life sciences.
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Workshop on Scientific Archives

Keynotes
Jenny Shaw
Wellcome Trust, United Kingdom
Giulio Superti-Furga
Research Council for Medical Sciences, Austria

Round-table discussion
Theodore Alexandrov
EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany
Anne-Claude Gavin
EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany
Nick Goldman
EBI, Oxford, United Kingdom
Matthew Hentze
EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany

Speakers
Circo Barret
Ecole Normale Supérieure, France
Clare Button
University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Anita Holler
EMBL, Germany
Sally Horrocks
University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Paula Meireles
National University of Science and Technology, Portugal
Melanie Mueller
Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

Klaus Nipper
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany
Frank Norman
Francis Crick Institute, United Kingdom
Ludmila Pollock
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, United States of America
Kathryn Rowswell
Max Planck, Germany
Anne Seaward
The Jackson Laboratory, USA

1–2 Nov 2016
EMBL Advanced Training Centre
Heidelberg, Germany

Online registration via
www.embl.org/archive/workshop
Registration and payment deadline: 10 September 2016

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Group leader departs
- Accessioning and classification of laboratory notebooks to the EMBL Archive

15 years later
- Scientific appraisal of the notebooks (with a scientist) to put the notebooks in an updated scientific context

20 years later
- Further scientific appraisal and archiving

In the future
- Further reappraisal if necessary
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1 turn = 10 base pairs = 3.4 nanometers
Looking forward
Looking forward
Thank you for your attention.

www.embl.org/archive

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@ItStartsWithARC / #EMBLArchive