

Additionally, Maestro allows queries with mixed Boolean operators for a more refined search. For example, a user may wish to compare relatively long mouse and human sequences that do not contain identified coding regions. To obtain all sequences meeting these criteria, the scientific name field would be searched first for "Mus musculus" and then for "Homo sapiens" using the Boolean term "OR." Then the sequence-length filter could be used to refine the search to sequences longer than 10,000 base pairs. To exclude sequences containing identified coding-region features, the "BUT NOT" term can be used with the Feature query field set equal to "coding region."

With Maestro, users can view the list of search matches a few at a time and retrieve more of the list as needed. From the list, users can select one or several sequences according to their short descriptions and review or download the sequence information in GIO, FASTA, or GSDB flatfile format.

Future Plans

Although most pieces necessary for operation are now in place, GSDB is still improving functionality and adding enhancements. During the next year GSDB, in collaboration with other researchers, anticipates creating more discontinuous sequence maps for several model organisms, adding more functionality to and providing a Web-based submission tool and tool kit for creating GIO files.

Microbial Genome Web Pages

NCGR also maintains informational Web pages on microbial genomes. These pages, created as a community reference, contain a list of current or completed eubacterial, Archaeal, and eukaryotic genome sequencing projects. Each main page includes the name of

the organism being sequenced, sequencing groups involved, background information on the organism, and its current location on the Carl Woese Tree of Life. As the Microbial Genome Project progresses, the pages will be updated as appropriate.

Genetics and Public Issues Program

GPI serves as a crucial resource for people seeking information and making decisions about genetics or genomics (<http://www.ncgr.org/gpi>). GPI develops and provides information that explains the ethical, legal, policy, and social relevance of genetic discoveries and applications.

To achieve its mission, GPI has set forth three goals: (1) preparation and development of resources, including careful delineation of ethical, legal, policy, and social issues in genetics and genomics; (2) dissemination of genetic information targeted to the public, legal and health professionals, policymakers, and decision makers; and (3) creation of an information network to facilitate interaction among groups.

GPI delivers information through four primary vehicles: online resources, conferences, publications, and educational programs. The GPI program maintains a continually evolving World Wide Web site containing a range of material freely accessible over the Internet.