

Infrastructure

als; science writers; and other interested individuals. All 41 issues of *HGN*, indexed and searchable, are accessible via the HGMIS Web site.

Other Publications. HGMIS also produces the DOE *Primer on Molecular Genetics*, progress reports on the DOE Human Genome Program, Santa Fe contractor-grantee workshop proceedings, 1-page topical handouts, and other related resource documents. Expanded and revised by HGMIS from an earlier DOE document, the DOE *Primer on Molecular Genetics* continues to be in demand. It is used as a handout for genome centers; a resource for new staff training by companies that make products for genome scientists; and an educational tool for teachers, genetic counselors, and such organizations as high schools, universities, and medical schools for student and continuing-education curricula. More than 35,000 hard copies have been distributed. The primer also is available in several formats at the HGMIS Web site, including an Adobe Acrobat version that can be used to print "originals" from users' printers.

Distribution of Documents. HGMIS has distributed more than 65,000 copies of items requested by subscribers, meeting attendees, and managers of genetics meetings and educational events. These items include *HGN*, program and workshop reports, DOE-NIH 5-year plans, DOE *Primer on Molecular Genetics*, and *To Know Ourselves*. On request, HGMIS supplies multiple copies of publications for meetings and educational purposes.

Electronic Communications. In November 1994, HGMIS began producing a comprehensive, text-based Web server called Human Genome Project Information, which is devoted to topics relating to the science and societal issues surrounding the genome project. In July 1997, this site was divided to better serve the two diverse audience categories that represent the majority of users: scientists and the public. The sites contain more than 1700 text files that are accessed over 1.2 million times each year. Each month, about 10,000 host computers connect to the HGMIS sites directly and through more than 1000 other Web sites. In addition, HGMIS links to the National Institutes of Health and international Human Genome Organisation sites, as well as to sites dedicated to education and to the ethical, legal, and social implications of the Human Genome Project.

All HGMIS publications are published on the Web site, along with such DOE-sponsored documents as *Your Genes, Your Choices*; the Genetic Privacy Act; and historical and other documents pertaining to the Human Genome Project. HGMIS collaborates with the Einstein Institute for Science, Health, and the Courts to produce *CASOLM*, the online magazine for judicial education in genetics and biomedical issues. HGMIS also maintains the Genetics section of the Virtual Library from CERN (Switzerland) and

the DOE Human Genome Program pages and moderates the BioSci Human Genome Newsgroup.

Information Source

HGMIS answers individual questions and supplies general information about the Human Genome Project by telephone, fax, and e-mail and, as appropriate, links scientists with questions to appropriate Human Genome Project contacts. HGMIS staff exchange ideas and suggestions with investigators, industry representatives, and others when attending occasional scientific conferences and genome-related meetings and displaying the DOE Human Genome Project traveling exhibit. HGMIS staff also make presentations on the Human Genome Project to educational, judicial, and other groups.

HGMIS resources serve as a primary source for the popular media and for discipline-specific publications that broaden the distribution of genome project information by extracting and reprinting from HGMIS resources and by linking to various parts of the HGMIS Web site.

HGMIS continuously monitors changes in the direction of the international Human Genome Project and searches for ways to strengthen the content relevancy of the newsletter, the Web site, and other services.

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The DOE Human Genome Program of the Office of Health and Environmental Research (OHER) has developed a number of tools for management of the Program. Among these was the Human Genome Coordinating Committee (HGCC), established in 1988. In 1996, the HGCC was expanded to a broader vision of the role of genomic technologies in OHER programs, and the name was changed to reflect this broadening. The HGCC is now the Biotechnology Forum. The Forum is chaired by the Associate Director, OHER. Members of the Human Genome Program Management Task group are ex officio members, as are members of the Health and Environmental Research Advisory Committee's subcommittee on the Human Genome. Responsibilities of the Forum include: assisting OHER in overall coordination of DOE-funded genome research; facilitating the development and dissemination of novel genome technologies; recommending establishment of ad hoc task groups in specific areas, such as informatics,