

The BCM Search Launcher (<http://www.searchlauncher.bcm.tmc.edu/>; Smith et al. 1996) provided improved access to web-based sequence analysis services during the granting period and beyond. The Search Launcher web site grouped analysis procedures by function and provided default parameters that provided reasonable search results for most applications. For instance, most queries were automatically masked for repeat sequences prior to sequence database searches to avoid spurious matches. In addition to the web-based access and arrangements that made using the functions easier, the BCM Search Launcher provided unique value-added applications like the BEAUTY (Worley et al. 1995; Worley et al. 1998) sequence database search tool that combined information about protein domains and sequence database search results to give an enhanced, more complete picture of the reliability and relative value of the information reported. This enhanced search tool made evaluating search results more straight-forward and consistent. Some of the favorite features of the web site are the sequence utilities and the batch client functionality that allows processing of multiple samples from the command line interface. One measure of the success of the BCM Search Launcher is the number of sites that have adopted the models first developed on the site. The graphic display on the BLAST search from the NCBI web site (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST>) is one such outgrowth, as is the display of protein domain search results within BLAST search results, and the design of the Biology Workbench application (<http://workbench.sdsc.edu>). The logs of usage and comments from users confirm the great utility of this resource.

Worley KC, Culpepper P, Wiese BA, Smith RF. BEAUTY-X: enhanced BLAST searches for DNA queries. *Bioinformatics* 1998;14(10):890-1.

Smith RF, Wiese BA, Wojzynski MK, Davison DB, Worley KC. BCM Search Launcher--An Integrated Interface to Molecular Biology Data Base Search and Analysis Services Available on the World Wide Web. *Genome Res* 1996 May;6(5):454-62.

Worley KC, Wiese BA, Smith RF. BEAUTY: an enhanced BLAST-based search tool that integrates multiple biological information resources into sequence similarity search results. *Genome Res* 1995 Sep;5(2):173-84.