

Data Integration in the Life Sciences

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Data management and data integration are fundamental problems in the life sciences. Advances in molecular biology and molecular medicine are almost universally underpinned by enormous efforts in data management, data integration, automatic data quality assurance, and computational data analysis. Many hot topics in the life sciences, such as systems biology, personalized medicine, and pharmacogenomics, critically depend on integrating data sets and applications produced by different experimental methods, in different research groups, and at different levels of granularity. Despite more than a decade of intensive research in these areas, there remain many unsolved problems. In some respects, these problems are becoming more severe, both due to continuous increases in data volumes and the growing diversity in types of data that need to be managed. And the next big challenge is already upon us: the need to integrate the different "omics" data sets with the vast amounts of clinical data, collected daily in thousands of hospitals and physicians' offices all over the world. DILS 2006 is the third in an annual workshop series that aims at fostering discussion, exchange, and innovation in research and development in the areas of data integration and data management for the life science. DILS 2004 in Leipzig and DILS 2005 in San Diego each attracted around 100 researchers from all over the world. This year the number of submitted papers again increased. The Program Committee selected 23 papers out of 50 strong full submissions.

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