
Title	The EDAM Ontology
Author	<i>Hervé Ménager</i> , Matúš Kalaš, Jon Ison
Affiliation	Institut Pasteur, University of Bergen, ELIXIR DK
Contact	edam@elixir-dk.org
URL	http://edamontology.org
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Bioinformaticians handle an increasingly large and diverse set of tools and data. Meanwhile, researchers demand ever more powerful and convenient means to organise, find, understand, compare, select, use and connect the available resources. These tasks often rely on consistent, machine-understandable descriptions of the underlying components, but these have been generally lacking in ad hoc resource descriptions. The urgent need - filled by EDAM - is for an ontology that unifies semantically the bioinformatics concepts in common use, provides the curator with a comprehensive controlled vocabulary that is broadly applicable, and supports new and powerful search, browse and query functions.

EDAM is an ontology of well established, familiar concepts that are prevalent within bioinformatics, including types of data and data identifiers, data formats, operations and topics. EDAM is a simple ontology - essentially a set of terms with synonyms and definitions - organised into an intuitive hierarchy for convenient use by curators, software developers and end-users.

EDAM is suitable for large-scale semantic annotations and categorization of diverse bioinformatics resources, and also suitable for diverse application including for example within workbenches and workflow-management systems, software distributions, and resource registries.

Version 1.9 of EDAM has been released. Contributions and suggestions are welcome!