

## Contents

The *Journal of biomedical semantics* devotes a yearly issue to the publication of papers describing ontologies and associated infrastructure relevant for biological and biomedical research. The second JBMS Ontology Issue will be published end of 2014 as part of the JBMS Thematic Series "Biomedical ontologies". The 2014 "JBMS Ontology Issue" will contain manuscripts describing software tools, webservers and webservices that are based on biomedical domain knowledge in the form of ontologies, including analysis tools, ontology repositories and editors, or database applications that utilize ontologies. Tools and webservers applicable in multiple domains with relevance to biological and biomedical research will also be considered. The aim of the yearly JBMS Ontology Issue is to provide a comprehensive collection of manuscript describing research centered around biological and biomedical ontologies.

## Submission

Authors wishing to submit manuscripts for the 2014 Biomedical Ontology Issue should read and follow these instructions.

- Authors must contact the organisers at [bmontol@jbiomedsem.com](mailto:bmontol@jbiomedsem.com) to check the suitability of their proposed submission by **21 June 2014** at the latest. A maximum one page summary should be submitted for this purpose, outlining the functionality of the ontology-related software and its applications in biological and biomedical research. Following acceptance of the proposal, the submission of the full manuscripts to the JBMS Ontology Issue will be via the JBMS website by **31 August 2014**.
- We will accept two types of manuscript: *Software Descriptions* and *Software Updates*.
  - A software description can be used to describe a software, webserver or webservice that has not previously been published in a significant journal.
  - A software update describes the recent development and changes to a software tool, webserver or webservice. Software updates are useful when a software has already been published, and the authors wish to make the research community aware of improvement, changes and further development of the tool. The authors should point out the improvements and advancements that have been made since the latest publication of the software (e.g., new functionality, improved coverage of domain ontologies, etc).
- Software, webservers and webservices published in the JBMS Ontology Issue **must** be available free of charge for academic use at the time of submission. They **should** be available under a free software license. The manuscripts **must** contain a description of the restrictions on the use of the software. We will not consider software tools, webservers or webservices that are not available at the time of submission, or which require the payment of a fee. If in doubt, please contact the organizers at [bmontol@jbiomedsem.com](mailto:bmontol@jbiomedsem.com).
- All proposals and articles **must** contain a link to a website at which the software or webserver is available, the names, affiliations, and email addresses of all authors.
- If applicable, the one page summary **should** provide complete citations for previous publications of the software.
- For software that is similar to other existing software, articles **should** include a comparative evaluation to other tools.

## Manuscripts

For proposals given approval, the manuscript submission deadline will be at **31 August, 2014** at the latest.

- Authors should submit their manuscript electronically through the JBMS Manuscripts submission site ([www.jbiomedsem.com](http://www.jbiomedsem.com)). In case of difficulty, queries should be addressed to [bmontol@jbiomedsem.com](mailto:bmontol@jbiomedsem.com)
- The manuscript **must** be uploaded as a .doc, .rtf, or .tex file. PDF format cannot be accepted.
- Authors must supply the names, institutes and email addresses of **four suggested referees**. The suggested referees should be scientists working independently (i.e., not a recent collaborator) who have relevant expertise or who would be likely users of the software.
- Authors should try to use the name(s) of the software, webserver or webservice in the title of their manuscript and should include within the abstract a valid URL from which the software can be accessed. *JBMS* is available in full-text form on the web ([www.jbiomedsem.com](http://www.jbiomedsem.com)), and each published article will contain a link to the software.
- The online version of the Biomedical Ontology Issue will offer the opportunity to the authors to provide supplementary data if appropriate. Such material could include an example dataset that can be used to demonstrate the functionality of the webserver.
  - For formatting instructions, please consult the Instructions to Authors at [www.jbiomedsem.com](http://www.jbiomedsem.com)

For further information please contact Dr Robert Hoehndorf or Dr. Dietrich Rebholz-Schuhmann at [bmontol@jbiomedsem.com](mailto:bmontol@jbiomedsem.com).