



# SRA: Sequence Read Archive

Collection of sequence data from next-generation sequencing technology for different organisms

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra/>, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Traces/sra/>

National Center for Biotechnology Information • National Library of Medicine • National Institutes of Health • Department of Health and Human Services

## Scope

Sequence Read Archive (SRA) is the NCBI database which stores sequence data obtained from next generation sequence (NGS) technology. Through this database, the metadata for those sequences can be queried to locate the sequence dataset for subsequent download and further analysis. Specifically, SRA:

- Archives of raw oversampling NGS data for various genomes from several platforms;
- Shares NGS data with EMBL and DDBJ;
- Serves as a starting point for “secondary analysis”;
- Provides access to data from human clinical samples to authorized users who agree to the dataset’s privacy and usage mandates.

## Data access

Metadata from SRA can be queried from Entrez SRA page and the SRA project list plus sequence data can be browsed, searched and downloaded from its homepage at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra/> and <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Traces/sra/>, respectively. For sequence-based search against certain subsets of SRA reads (long reads from 454 platform) using BLAST, a link is listed under the “Specialized BLAST” section in the BLAST homepage: <http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>.

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The screenshot shows the SRA homepage with a search bar at the top. A yellow callout box 'A' points to the search button. Below the search bar, there are links for 'Limits' and 'Advanced'. The main content area has a header 'SRA' and a description. Below this, there are three columns: 'Using SRA' (with links for Handbook and Download), 'Tools' (with links for BLAST and SRA Run Tools), and 'Other Resources' (with a link for SRA Home). A yellow callout box 'B' points to the 'Tools' menu. Below the 'Tools' column, there is a section for 'SRA Advanced Search'. A search query is entered in the search box: ("sra pubmed"[Filter]) AND "biomol rna"[Properties]. A yellow callout box 'A' points to the search button. Below the search box, there are links for 'Limits', 'Details', and 'Help'. A yellow callout box 'E' points to the 'Add to Search Box' button. Below the search box, there is a 'Search Builder' section. A pull-down menu is open, showing a list of categories: biomol genomic (83156), biomol metagenomic (2422), biomol non genomic (5470), biomol other (4401), biomol rna (4721), biomol synthetic (65), and biomol transcript (10023). A yellow callout box 'C' points to the pull-down menu. A yellow callout box 'D' points to the 'Show Index' link. A yellow callout box 'E' points to the 'Add to Search Box' button.

## Querying SRA metadata

Querying SRA metadata can be performed through the Entrez SRA page by entering desired terms and clicking the “Search” button (A). Complex query can be constructed using functions provided by Advanced (B) page, where indexed field and available values can be examined using the pull-down list (C) and the “Show Index” link (D). A selected term can be added to the search box using “Add to Search Box” button (E). An example set of query terms thus constructed in in the search box.

