Semantic-Web Access to Patent Annotations

SureChEMBL

SureChEMBL (https://www.surechembl.org) is a patent chemistry resource, originally a commercial product developed by SureChemDigital/Science, and recently donated to EMBL. SureChEMBL uses a live and fully automated pipeline that combines text-mining and chemistry tools to extract compounds named or depicted in patent documents and make them structure searchable by users.

- Over 50k new patent documents and 80k new compounds are entered into the system per month.
- New chemical annotations are usually available in the SureChEMBL interface within 1-7 days of the patent being released by the patent office.

Open PHACTS

The Open PHACTS Discovery Platform is a semantic-web data integration platform, developed for the purpose of providing both the pharmaceutical industry and academic researchers with open access to interoperable drug discovery information.1

The platform currently includes data from a wide variety of public databases and provides API access to the integrated information. However, the further addition of biological and chemical patent information to the platform was considered to be of great potential utility. Much of this information will never be published elsewhere and may be of great value to the drug-discovery and broader life-science community.

Biological Annotation & Relevance

A pipeline was developed to identify and annotate additional entities (namely genes and diseases) within the SureChEMBL patent corpus using the Termite text-mining tool (https://scibite.com/content/termite.html). Since patent documents are often designed to obfuscate the key subject matter, it was essential to also develop an algorithm to assess the relevance of each entity within a particular patent document, allowing users to restrict results to only highly relevant entities if they wish.

Gene/Disease relevance:
Various features such as term frequency, position and distribution were used to create a biological relevance score for each entity, indicating the importance of that entity in the patent.

- Compound relevance:
  A set of chemical and frequency filters were applied to remove likely ‘irrelevant’ compounds (e.g., buffers, ions, fragments). A method has also been developed to identify the likely ‘claimed’ compounds within a patent based on scaffold and similarity analysis. This will be applied to all SureChEMBL patents/compounds and included in API results.

- Patent relevance:
  Patents were also filtered according to International Patent Classification codes to remove non-life-science documents.

KNIME Workflows

Open PHACTS provides KNIME nodes and Pipeline Pilot components to facilitate the development of complex workflows using the Open PHACTS API (see https://dev.openphachts.org/resources for more information):

- KNIME nodes: https://github.com/openphachts/OPS-Knime

Example KNIME workflows have also been constructed to demonstrate the use of the patent data API calls, for example, identifying the most relevant targets or diseases for a compound from the patent corpus. These workflows will be made available alongside other Open PHACTS example workflows:

- Open PHACTS KNIME workflows: http://www.myexperiment.org/groups/1125.html

Patent Data Integration

A series of API calls have been developed to allow users of the platform to query the data. Interoperability with other data sets is provided by the Open PHACTS Identifier Mapping Service and Chemistry Registry Service, and users to integrate patent data with the extensive range of other resources included in the platform (e.g., protein, pathway, bioactivity and disease information).

References and Acknowledgements


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