

ImageBank – a Valuable Resource for Bioscience Learning and Teaching.

'excellent, valuable, vital.' (Comment from our feedback form 24/04/2011)

ImageBank is an online collection of over 7000 bioscience images available free and copyright cleared for educational use. In many respects it is a unique resource, combining the following features:

- The content covers a **wide range of subjects** and includes images from all the major taxonomic groups. It is specifically aimed at the needs of the bioscience learning and teaching community.
- Images are free, and copyright-cleared, so they are **immediately available** for use.
- Many images are accompanied by a **comprehensive description** and for all images at least the scientific name and common name are given.
- All images and descriptions are **evaluated for accuracy** before they are made live.

Content ImageBank covers 22+ subject areas from Agriculture to Zoology. It is searchable by common or scientific name, subject, collection and contributor. New content is added regularly.

Evaluation Images are accompanied by a description, usually written by the author of the image. All images and descriptions are evaluated for accuracy by a biologist with knowledge and experience to PhD level.

As ImageBank is used by academics and others working in the biosciences, it is in this sense subject to peer review. There is the opportunity for users to notify us of any errors – this happens so rarely that it can be concluded that the evaluation process is thorough and effective.

Contributors Our contributors are academics, researchers, students, Learned Societies, industry, and other individuals. To date we have around 160 contributors. Images may be added quickly online.

Users Our users are lecturers, school teachers, students, researchers and information professionals.

Statistics

Between 1/08/2009 and 31/07/2010 there were **32,308** visitors to ImageBank.

And more recently during the 6 months from 1 August 2010 to 31 January 2011

Number of Visitors to ImageBank	13,359
Number of Images downloaded	15,519

Feedback

We have a great deal of anecdotal evidence of the value and widespread usage of ImageBank. Also we have a feedback form available on the ImageBank website, although this gives us limited information, as not all visitors complete the form. Below is a summary of the information received from feedback forms over a 1 year period.

Feedback February 2010 to January 2011 During this period 86 people returned completed feedback forms

Key Facts from our Feedback forms:

- **90% of our users found the image they were looking for.**
- **64% found our images very useful, and a further 34% found the images useful or fairly useful. Only 2% found our images not useful.**
- **Most of the images (60%) downloaded were used in presentations, 14% for coursework, 12% in educational publications and 15% for other purposes.**
- **51% of our users were teachers, either in universities or schools. 16% were researchers and 13% students. 14% were information specialists and others.**

Some comments from our feedback forms

Thank you! Wonderful images!

Great site!!

What a great resource, thanks

Very good resource, thank you

Very easy to use website, thank you.

In developing open educational resources, these images constitute a really useful bank of materials to direct people to.

A most useful and helpful site.

This is easier than locating the files that I supplied from my hard drive.

Thank you! Very navigable site with great details.

Appendix 1. Summary of information in Feedback forms.

Found Image Yes/No	Yes/No	% Total
Yes	77	90
no	8	9
no reply	1	1
Total	86	100.0

Usefulness of Image	Feedback forms	% Total
Not useful	10	2
Fairly useful	2	12
Useful	19	22
Very Useful	55	64
Total	86	100

Use of Image	No.	% Total
lecture/Presentation	56	60
Website	8	9
Coursework	13	14
Publication	11	12
other	2	2
no reply	4	4
Total	94	100

Note that some images used for more than one purpose

User Type	Number	Group No.	% Total
Lecturer	27		
Teaching assistant,	1		
Teaching fellow	4		
University Staff	1	33	38
Researcher		16	19
Students		13	15
School Teacher		11	13
Librarian/Information Specialist		8	9
Undergraduate Online Resource Creator	1		
Learning Technologist	1	2	2
Other		3	3
Total		86	100