E-BioSci
a platform for e-publishing and information integration in the life sciences

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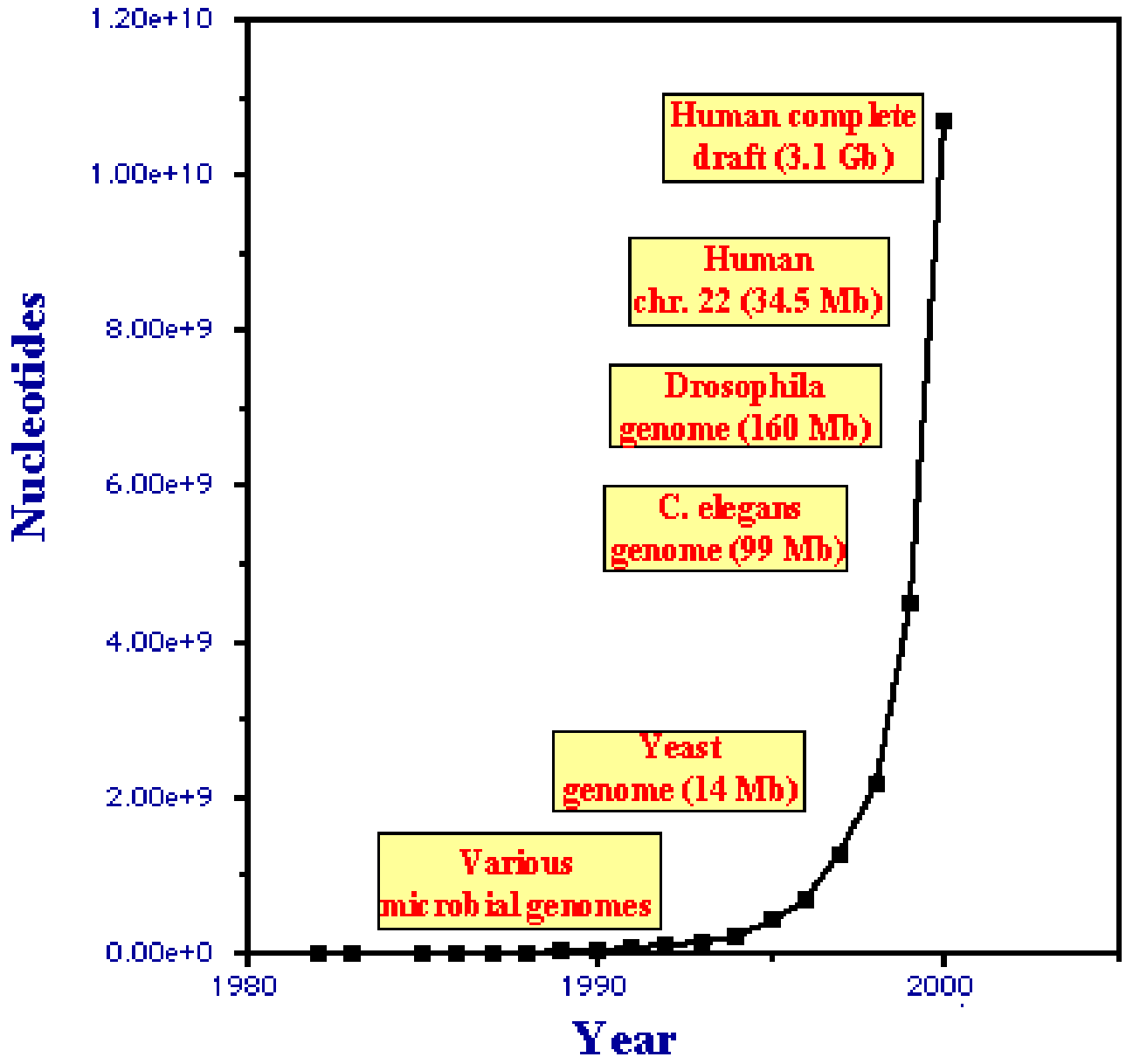
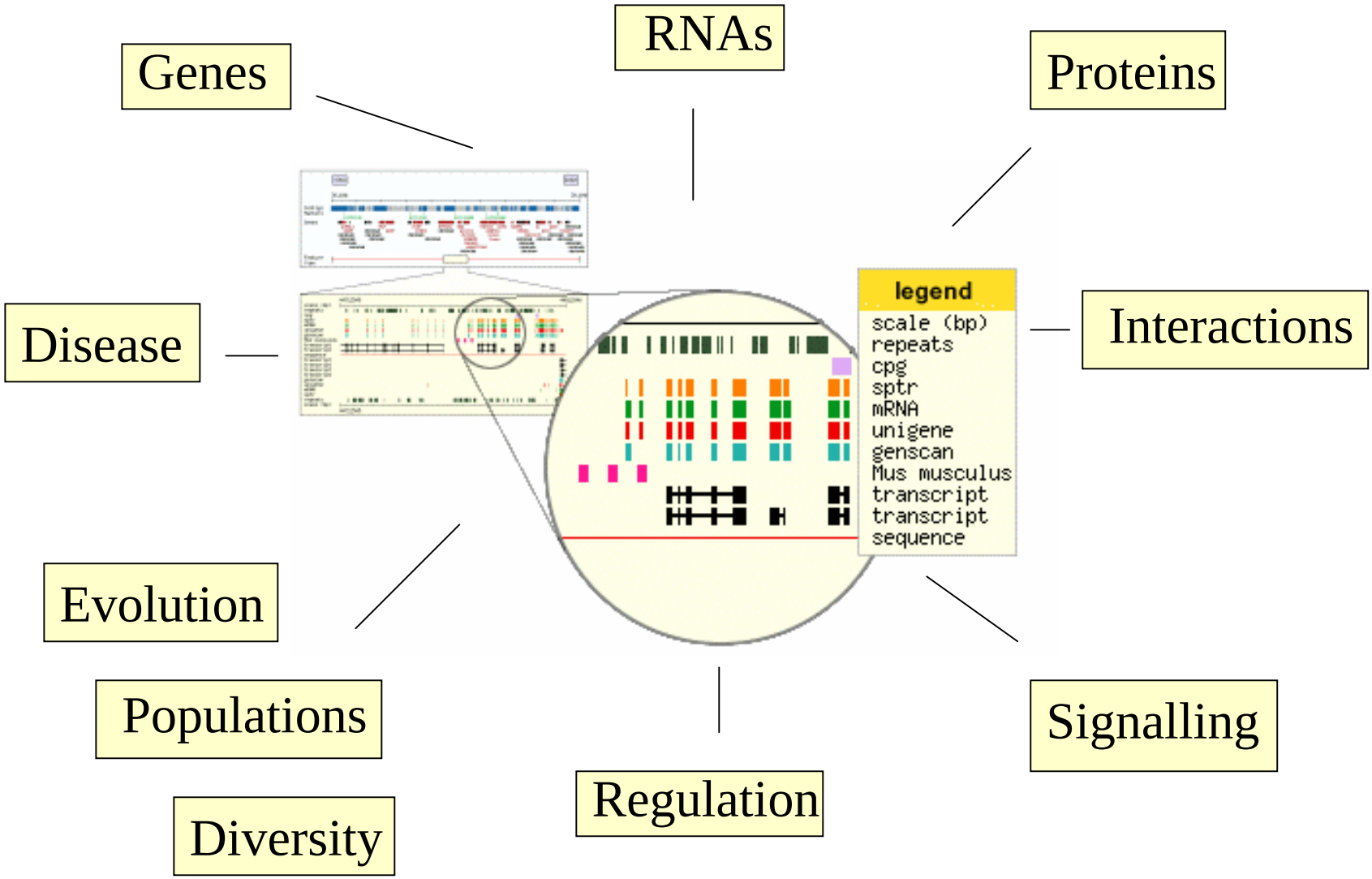
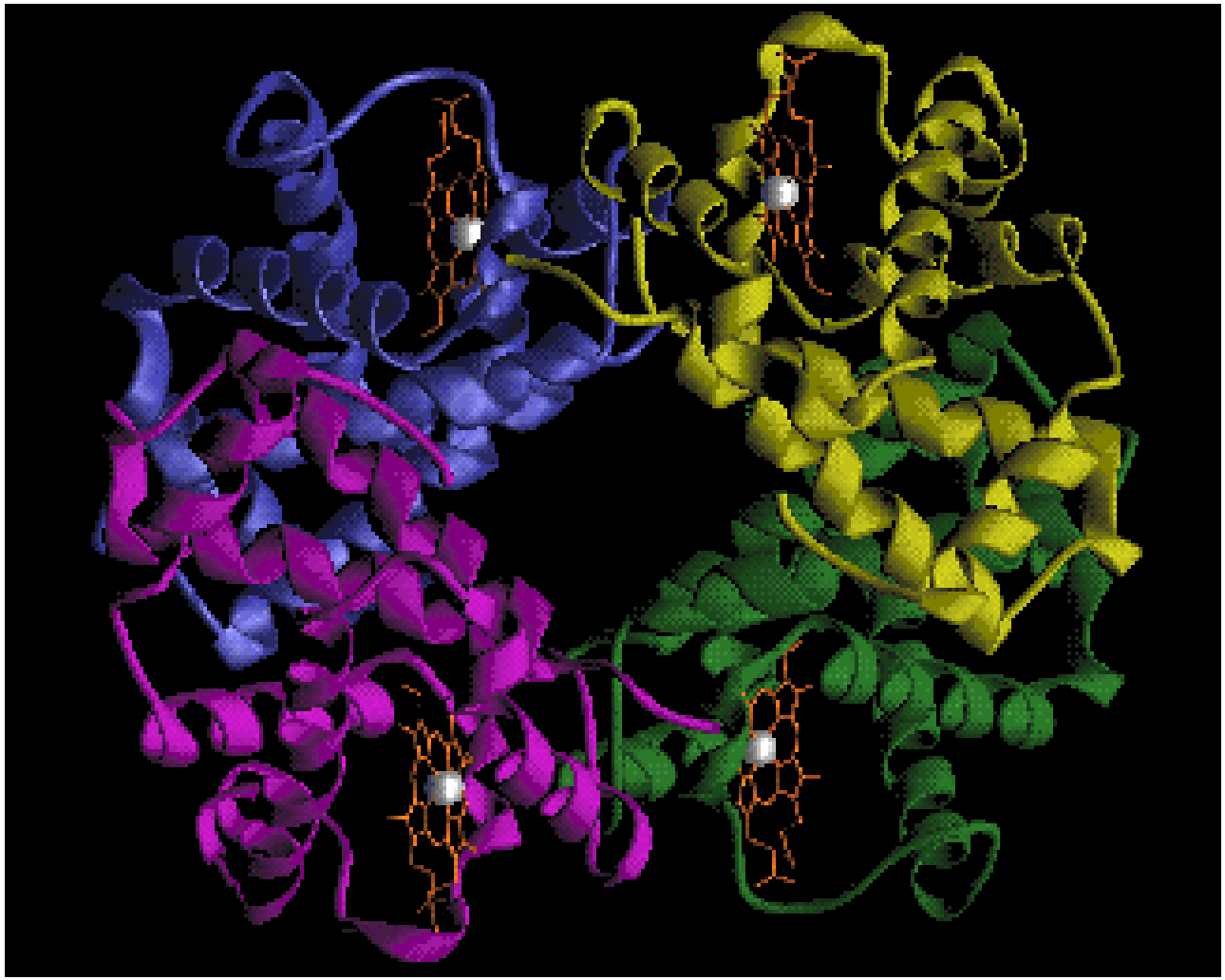
Exponential database growth (EMBL database)



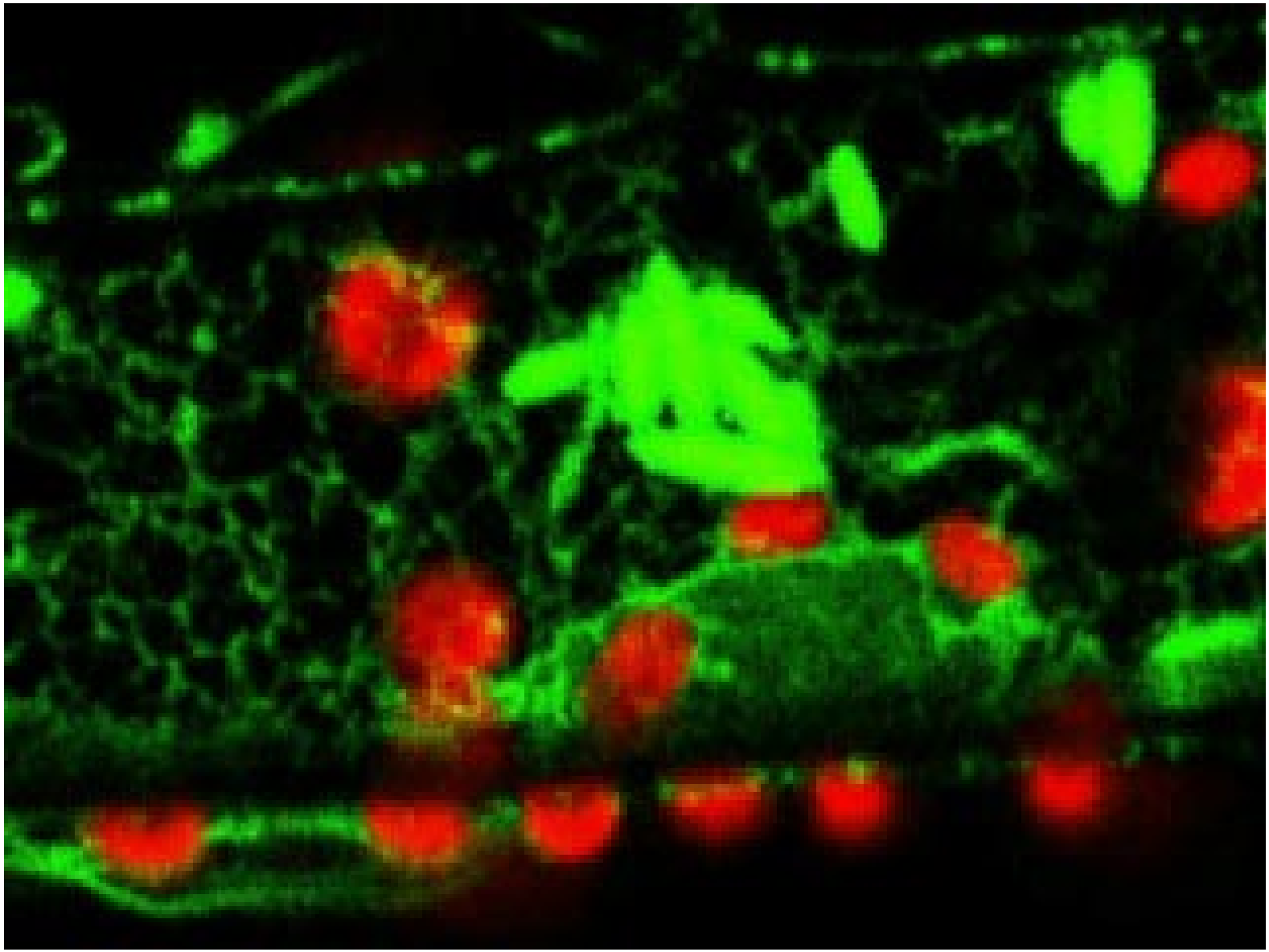
The many facets of genomics



Molecules in motion



Viewing the world of the living cell



Paper is becoming an inadequate medium…

- Some data (types) require more space than is available
- Some data (3-D structures, movies) cannot be printed
- The reader may wish to have the data in computer-readable form

The paper publication is becoming simply a summary pointer to the electronic version

Retrieving information in an ideal world…

- Interconnect
- Search/navigate/explore
- Access information
- Extract/manipulate
- Analyze
- Integrate and visualise

Hurdles to information exchange

- Heterogeneous nature of biological information
- Absence of a uniform, scalable and generally-implementable means of database linking
- Varying degrees of access to full text information

E-BioSci

- Distributed network of information resources
- Europe-based; world-wide role
- Multiple entry points; different language formats
- Access to abstracts, full text, factual databases, multi-media
- Effective linkages between databases and literature
- Host and archive for peer-reviewed e-publications

Why insist on peer-review?

- Authors rely on the perceived quality of their publications as support for funding applications and career advancement

- Readers want guarantees that technical standards have been met, that the conclusions are adequately supported by the experimental data and that the presentation meets acceptable standards of clarity

E-BioSci differs from PubMed Central

- Will NOT insist on transfer of information
- WILL work in cooperation with content owners
- Will NOT contain material that is not refereed or that does not meet its criteria of scientific quality
- WILL permit e-publication on multiple sites

E-BioSci's goals

- To encourage standard protocols for access rights verification
- To promote wider use of structured documents
- To strive for increased connectivity of digital objects
- To aid development of full-text search tools
- To stimulate provision of free access to information
- To encourage conversion of back literature to digital form

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EMBO