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LETTERS

Protein Data Bank Deposits

Joel L. Sussman

[+ See all authors and affiliations](#)

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Since the Protein Data Bank (PDB) inaugurated the “Layered Release Protocol” on 9 July 1998 (F. E. Bloom, “Policy Change,” *Science's Compass*, 10 July, p. 175) (www.pdb.bnl.gov/ and www2.ebi.ac.uk/pdb), results have exceeded our highest expectations. Specifically, since July we have received 931 new entries, of which 813 were submitted by means of our latest data deposition software (AutoDep 2.1), which allows for “release on publication.” For less than 22% of these, “on-hold” is requested, and the rest have been either immediately released or held until publication (see [table](#) below for details). This is in sharp contrast to the situation just a year ago, when more than 75% of new entries were requested to be put “on-hold” for 1 year.

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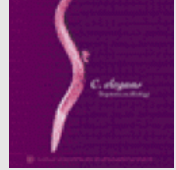
This is an enormous tribute to the journals that have set the new policy requiring “Release on Publication,” as well as to the PDB, which instituted the “Layered Release Protocol,” making it possible to access data concurrently with publication.

It is clear that there has been a profound change in the attitude of the vast majority of experimental crystallographers and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopists toward releasing their data either immediately or at the time of publication. This is an exciting development for



11 December 1998


[Table of Contents](#)




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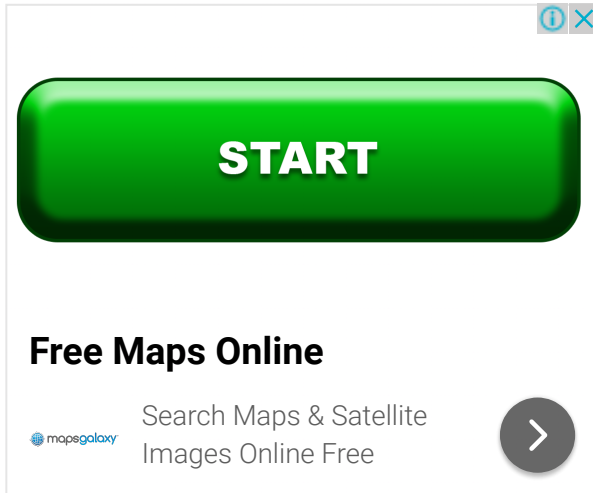
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