Introduction

Two important resources for mouse biological and genomic data and analysis exist, and continue to expand at The Jackson Laboratory (U.S.A.). These resources, the Mouse Genome Database (MGD) and the Gene Expression Database (GXD), have as their long term goal the facilitation of research through access to integrated genomic structural data, gene expression information, and phenotypic descriptions. The World Wide Web (WWW) provides a method for easily navigating these integrated data resources to address complex questions of biological importance (Figure 1).

The goals for the MGD and GXD resources are 1) to provide high quality, elemental genomic data suitable for analysis and integration with other biological data, 2) to develop software for data importation, analysis and display, and 3) to develop easy-to-use flexible interfaces for access by the scientific community. Emphasis is on acquisition of primary data, since these are most suitable for analysis and combination with new data.
Figure 1. Mouse Genome Informatics Home Page. The Mouse Genome Informatics World Wide Web site (http://www.informatics.jax.org) serves as an integrating point of access for the Mouse Genome Database (MGD) and the Gene Expression Database (GXD). This unifying WWW site provides users with seamless easy access to information on the genetics and biology of the laboratory mouse.

Mouse Genome Database (MGD)

The Beginnings

The Mouse Genome Database developed as an outgrowth and extension of various information resources, both paper and electronic, on the laboratory mouse. The tradition of pre-publication and anecdotal information exchange in the mouse