Plea for help!!

Dear ALFRED user,

The current funding for ALFRED will end in a few months and we are in the process of assembling the materials to submit to NSF for continuation of funding. A major concern NSF has had in the past has been documentation to prove how ALFRED is being used in research and teaching. To provide the documentation that ALFRED is being used for research purposes we have organized publications and web sites citing ALFRED by systematically searching the web and citation databases. We have found a sufficient number that we think will document to the reviewers the awareness and use of ALFRED. Those publications and web sites can be found at http://alfred.med.yale.edu/alfred/publications.asp & http://alfred.med.yale.edu/alfred/alfredciting.asp. If you have a publication citing ALFRED that is not included, please let us know. However, it has been hard for us to get specific comments on how ALFRED is being used in courses/classrooms in an instructional setting. We think ALFRED serves a unique and important role but need your support to document that the database is used in teaching. We urgently need emails from you documenting that you find ALFRED useful for research and/or teaching.

Please send us an email with whatever supportive words you prefer, the more specific the better, so we can compile the information to submit to the reviewers of the application. The following questions give a few suggested areas for contents of the email. How do you use ALFRED? Are there other comparable sources of such data? Do you use ALFRED in teaching? How? Do you use ALFRED data in your lectures and/or for classroom projects? With respect to teaching, NSF has specifically asked us to document what courses and what level (high school, undergrad, grad) use ALFRED; how often the course is taught, and the average class size? This type of information is very important for the success of our proposal to maintain and enhance ALFRED because education is part of the mission of the NSF. Only those of you teaching can provide us these details.

We also welcome comments on how we can improve ALFRED. Of course, we are constantly adding new data and will be including additional high-throughput datasets soon. But we always welcome specific suggestions, or criticisms, from the users we serve.

Please send us these details asap, latest by end of the second week of January to alfred@yale.edu or use the feedback function http://alfred.med.yale.edu/alfred/feedback.asp.

Thank you for using ALFRED and your support of our effort is appreciated.

The ALFRED team