Data, data everywhere, nor an image to read - Finding open image databases.

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Abstract

Open Science includes access to both open source software/methodologies and open data. While there has been progress in open image databases, the results of these efforts are under-reported. As such, imaging scientists are unaware of the available data. In addition, many researchers are interested in providing their data to the greater research community, but may be unaware of the process to release the data. The purpose of this paper is to describe our efforts in developing an open website which includes information on accessible medical image databases as well as some of the logistics for providing an open image database. Most importantly, the authors are requesting participation from the community to contribute to the Medical Image Database Repository (http://midr.org) in order to consolidate the collect knowledge of the community.

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At the MICCIA 2005 Open Source Workshop, the keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Vannier, challenged the open source community to develop new image processing methodologies which are clinically translatable. During his talk, Dr.Vannier observed that there is massive amounts of medical image data but the research community is not utilizing it. This led the authors to consider a quote from "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" – *Water, water everywhere, nor a drop to drink.* In the context of Dr Vannier's comments, we would say "Data, data everywhere, nor an image to read." The primary challenge is that most acquired image data is clinical and often unavailable to the imaging scientist. In addition, the data that is available

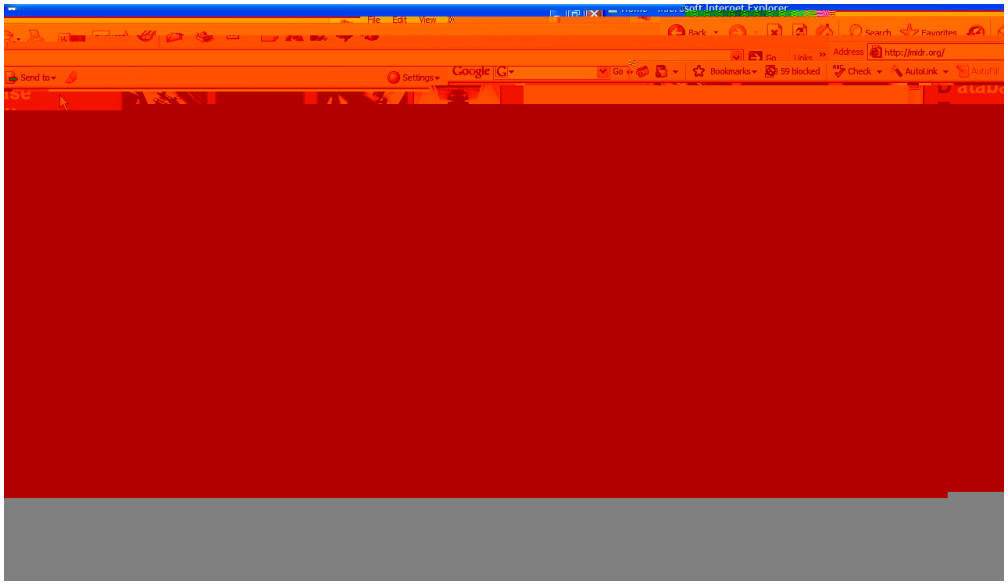

Figure 1: Snapshot from the Medical Image Database Repository website (http://midr.org)

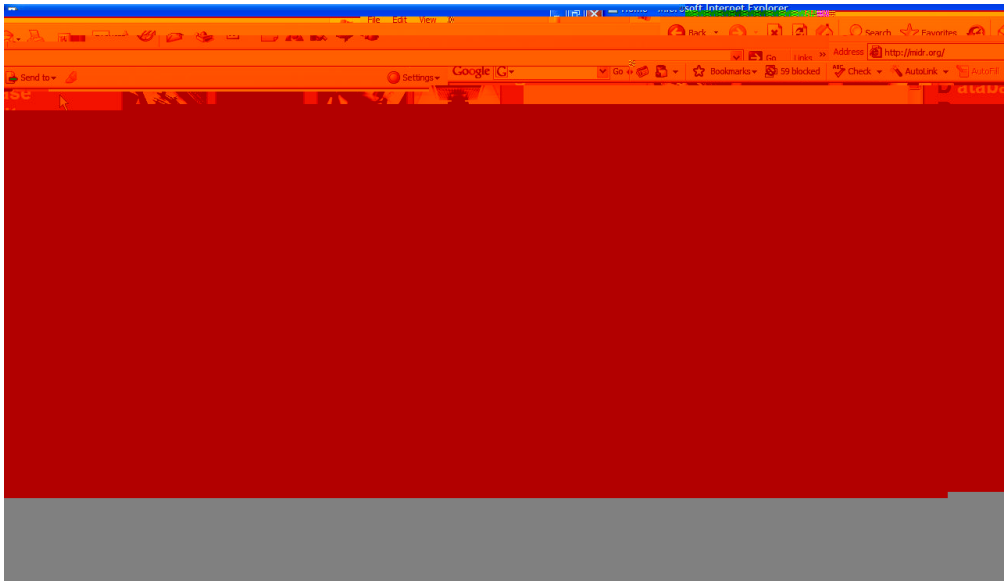

Figure 2: Snapshot from the Medical Image Database Repository website (http://midr.org)