COVID-19: New tool "CoVis" puts coronavirus research on a secure footing

EU-funded project with US participation enables a quick overview of valid expert knowledge on COVID-19

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For the development of therapeutics and vaccines for COVID-19, scientists depend on valid knowledge on the coronavirus. But finding reliable research results is often difficult: as the journal "Science" reports in its May issue, scientists are faced with a flood of research articles on the topic. With over 20,000 papers published, scientists spend a lot of valuable time reviewing the literature.

The new tool CoVis enables scientists to kick-start their COVID-19 research. In the EU-funded project, experts compile valid research results in a freely accessible database. In addition, a knowledge map provides a quick overview of research articles from eight particularly relevant areas of biomedical research. When key issues are not answered by a single research source, data and images from multiple sources are compiled into a visual dashboard called a ReFigure. CoVis makes it easier to get started on the topic - but also to stay up-to-date. In order to do justice to the rapid development of COVID-19 research, the database is extended regularly by a dedicated team of curators.

CoVis has been developed in cooperation between Open Knowledge Maps (Austria) and ReFigure (USA). The tool is financially supported by the EU project EOSC Secretariat as part of the COVID-19 Fast-Track Funding.

Dr. Peter Kraker, founder of Open Knowledge Maps: "With CoVis, we reduce the time that researchers have to spend on literature review and thereby we hope to accelerate the development of therapeutics and vaccines. We are delighted to work on this project with the renowned immunologists and knowledge curation experts from ReFigure."

Dr. Girija Goyal, co-founder of ReFigure says, "CoVis immediately allows you to get to the most reproducible, important research. Working with Open Knowledge Maps allowed a natural convergence of ideas as both platforms focus on democratizing scientific information and improving visual representation of research".

CoVis is freely and openly available at https://openknowledgemaps.org/covis

About Open Knowledge Maps: https://openknowledgemaps.org
Open Knowledge Maps is a charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the visibility of scientific knowledge for science and society. As part of its mission, Open Knowledge Maps operates the world's largest visual search engine for research, which enables a diverse set of audiences to explore, discover and make use of scientific content. In addition, Open Knowledge Maps carries out training events to improve literature search skills, and it enables broad community participation through its support and engagement programs.

About ReFigure: https://refigure.org
ReFigure.org is an open access science platform created by Scimpact, LLC which was founded by Dr. James Akin and Dr. Girija Goyal. There is an overwhelming amount of research out there, most as data charts, graphs and images. However, humans and machines need to link together related research to realize actionable findings. ReFigure allows users to create visual dashboards containing related scientific images. These collections can be made available openly, and you can find many informative collections on cancer, immunotherapy, autism and other topics at ReFigure.org.

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