

Dear Author(s),

We are pleased to be piloting the “Resource Identification Initiative”, a project designed to increase the accuracy with which key resources used in the course of scientific research are identified when publishing your work. In this project, we are asking authors to provide sufficient information to uniquely and unambiguously identify antibodies, genetically modified organisms, software tools, data, databases and services.

In recognition that articles now need to be written both for human and machine-based understanding, this project is asking authors to provide a persistent and standardized identifier that can be recognized by a machine. These Research Resource Identifiers (RRIDs) are globally unique identifiers that can be used by a search engine to return all papers in which these RRIDs are used. It is believed that this will be an important step towards ensuring reproducible methods (Vasilevsky et al., 2013; Collins & Tabak, 2014) and will provide critical data to help researchers identify suitable reagents and tools. More information about the project can be found at: http://www.force11.org/Resource_identification_initiative.

Participation is very simple. In addition to supplying standard information like the name of the resource, vendor and literature reference, the project sponsors are asking for a catalog number and an RRID to be supplied, e.g.,

- Antibodies (Cell signaling, Cat #2391, RRID: *AB_10695807*)
- Genetically modified organisms (RRID: *MGI: 009592*)
- Software tools, data, databases and services (*SedDB*, RRID: *nlx_154724*)

To make it easy to obtain these identifiers, the project sponsors (the Resource Identification Initiative Working Group) have created a [Resource Identification Portal](#) where you can search for antibodies, organisms and software tools, data sets, databases and services etc. and obtain the appropriate identifiers.

As part of this pilot project, we are asking you to supply this information in your current manuscript prior to publication where applicable in the text, exactly as you would a regular citation or Genbank Accession number, e.g.:

“Wnt3 was localized using a rabbit polyclonal antibody C64F2 against Wnt3 ([Cell Signaling Technology](#), Cat# 2721S, RRID: *AB_2215411*)”

The process can be completed in 4 steps:

- Go to the [Resource Identification Portal](#)
- Search for your research resource (Search tips and help provided)
- Click on the CITE This button
- Insert the reference into your manuscript at the appropriate location

After you complete the process, you will also be asked to fill out a brief survey regarding your experience. The citations you supply via this pilot will be included in the final publication as part of the production process.

We hope you will join this important and ground-breaking effort to transform the way we report and view materials and methods in the scientific literature. As per agreement with the pilot participants, all citations will be available outside of any paywalls once the project is complete so that the community can view and use this information freely.

Sincerely,

Your Frontiers Team