

# The Neuroimaging Informatics Tools and Resources Clearinghouse (NITRC)

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## Introduction:

We report on the use of a new neuroimaging informatics knowledge environment for MRI entitled: Neuroimaging Informatics Tools and Resources Clearinghouse (NITRC). Initiated in October 2006 through the NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research (1,2), NITRC's mission is to create a user-friendly knowledge environment for the functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and associated structural analysis community. Through the identification of existing tools and resources valuable to this community, NITRC's goal is to develop a knowledge environment to enhance, adopt, distribute, and contribute to the evolution of neuroimaging tools and resources.

Located on the web at [www.nitrc.org](http://www.nitrc.org), this site promotes tools and resources, vocabularies, and databases, thereby extending the impact of previously funded, neuroimaging informatics contributions to a broader community. It is anticipated that this will give fMRI researchers greater and more efficient access to the tools and resources they need, better categorize and organize existing tools and resources, facilitate interactions between researchers and developers, promote better use through enhanced documentation and tutorials—all while keeping the set of resources up-to-date with the most recent resource upgrades and updates.

## Approach:

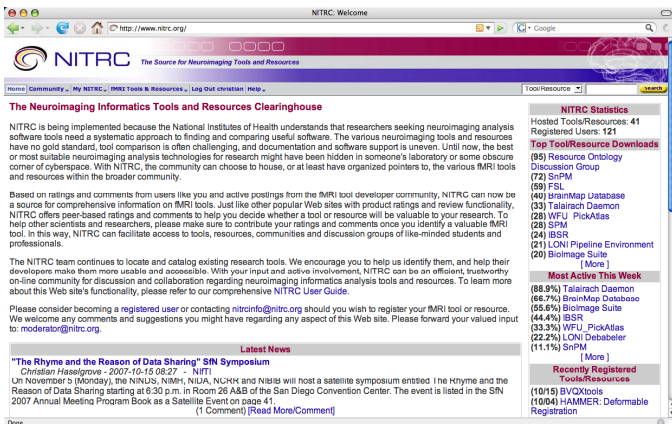
To meet the disparate needs of resource developers and users, NITRC requires functionality like that found in platforms such as Source Forge, Bugzilla, CVS, Wiki, etc. To unify such functionality, we have chosen to design the knowledge environment using the open-source GForge project (3). Within the NITRC environment a 'project' is created for each tool or resource that is to be represented. Each project will have independent descriptive content (as projects do currently at IATR, (4)), as well as Wiki, CVS, bug tracking, news forums, and discussion lists associated with it. Descriptions can be housed on the NITRC servers themselves, passed through to an external, preexisting site for content management.

The site was formally launched to the public on Oct. 1, 2007. There are currently 41 hosted projects, and 121 registered users, and these numbers are increasing daily. NITRC encourages feedback, through surveys of its users to make the site as accessible as possible.

## Summary:

NITRC, a new neuroimaging knowledge environment, is now online. We encourage the fMRI community to try it out and provide feedback on its design, tools, resources, and content. NITRC is a knowledge environment for the fMRI community where tools and resources are presented in a coherent and synergistic environment for the advancement of MRI-based neuroscience research.

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## References:

1. <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/oct2006/nibib-05a.htm>
2. <http://www.tcg-inc.com/release-20061005-NITRC.html>
3. <http://gforge.org/>
4. Kennedy & Haselgrove, Neuroinformatics, 2006; 4(3):263-70.