

Addendum

Final Report of the Committee on Citing Nutrient Databases

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The ad hoc Committee on Citing Nutrient Databases was active from 1991 until 1993. Interim reports were given to participants of the 17th and 18th National Nutrient Databank Conferences. In 1993, the final recommendations were mailed to editors of 62 journals which publish human nutrition research results. Copies of the cover letter, the recommendations, the committee membership, and the journal list follow. Sample letter to an editor regarding procedures for citing nutrient databases:

Dear Editor:

The attendees of the 16th and 17th National Nutrient Databank Conferences recognized the need for recommendations concerning appropriate descriptions of the sources of food composition data used in published human nutrition research papers. A committee of databank users and developers was formed to address this issue. The attached recommendations to authors reflect the consensus of this committee. We urge you to circulate these suggestions (or a modification appropriate to your journal) as part of the guidelines to authors and reviewers. We believe that the use of dietary data as a research tool will be more credible if researchers provide readers with accurate and complete information about their sources of nutrient data. We have included two examples, and would be happy to work with you to adapt the citation style if you wish. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

Sincerely,

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Enc'l: Recommendations for Describing Nutrient Databases
Committee Membership List

Recommendations for Describing Nutrient Databases Used in Published Research

Basic information:

Authors should give the name, version number, and release date of the nutrient database (or software system) and cite or footnote the vendor or developer. [Developers of nutrient databases should supply users with an appropriate citation; at a minimum, the citation should give the name and address of the vendor.] Include a brief statement concerning the handling of missing nutrient data for foods: whether values are imputed and an evaluation of the impact of any missing values on dietary totals for the nutrients of interest.

Additional information required:

1. If the nutrient database is not publicly available from the developer, authors should describe all sources of nutrient data and give citations (or, if extensive, indicate the citations are available by contacting the authors).
2. If modifications (additions, changes, corrections, imputations) were made to an existing nutrient database, authors should describe these modifications and give citations for all sources of data (or, if extensive, indicate the citations are available by contacting the authors).
3. If multiple databases were used, authors should describe the sources following the above guidelines.

Examples:

1. For a USDA data base with values imputed by the researchers: "The nutrient content of diets was calculated from values on USDA's Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 10, 1992 (ref. n). Missing values for the nutrients of interest were imputed by the authors."

Ref. n: Human Nutrition Information Service, United States Department of Agriculture. USDA Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 10, 1992. Springfield VA:National Technical Information Service. (computer tape)

2. For a vendor-distributed database: "The nutrient content of diets was calculated using [system name, version number, year] (ref. n). This database [has no missing values; has few (less than x%) missing values for the nutrients of interest; may underestimate intakes of nutrients x,y,z due to missing values]."

Ref. n: Organization name and address.

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Journals receiving the "Recommendations for Describing Nutrient Databases" (please notify Suzanne Murphy, 510-642-5572, if any relevant journals are missing):

American Journal of Clinical Nutrition	Journal of Pediatrics
American Journal of Preventive Medicine	Journal of Renal Nutrition
American Journal of Epidemiology	Lancet
American Journal of Health Promotion	Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise
American Journal of Public Health	Metabolism: Clinical and Experimental
Annals of Epidemiology	New England Journal of Medicine
Annals of Internal Medicine	Nutrition and Cancer
Appetite	Nutrition in Clinical Practice
Archives of Internal Medicine	Nutrition Research
Arteriosclerosis and Thrombosis	Nutrition Reviews
Australian Journal of Nutrition and Dietetics	Nutrition Today
British Journal of Nutrition	Pediatrics
British Medical Journal	Preventive Medicine
Cereal Chemistry	Science
Circulation	Topics in Clinical Nutrition
Diabetes	Trends in Food Science and Technology
Diabetes Care	
Cancer	
Cancer Causes and Control	
Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers & Prevention	
Cancer Research	
Ecology of Food and Nutrition	
Epidemiology	
European Journal of Clinical Nutrition	
Food Technology	
Gastroenterology	
Geriatrics	
Gut	
International Journal of Epidemiology	
Journal of the American College of Nutrition	
Journal of the American Dietetic Association	
Journal of the American Geriatrics Society	
Journal of the American Medical Association	
Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society	
Journal of the Canadian Dietetics Association	
Journal of Cancer Education	
Journal of Clinical Epidemiology	
Journal of Clinical Investigation	
Journal of Food Composition and Analysis	
Journal of Gerontology	
Journal of the National Cancer Institute	
Journal of the New Zealand Dietetic Association	
Journal of Nutrition	
Journal of Nutrition Education	
Journal of Obesity and Weight Regulation	
Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition	