



# My.NBII.Gov

## Your Personal Biological Internet Knowledge Portal

At My.NBII.Gov you can fashion a dynamic, one-stop Web site tailored to your interests, needs, and tastes.

Its content can include such options as travel information, national news, zip code based weather reports, agency specific communiqués, scientific documents, and much more (you can integrate any Web enabled application that's been written into the portal). What's more, this content comes in

many shapes and sizes (for instance, Web pages, Word files, or Portable Document Format [PDF] documents) as well as through a wide variety of services (including e-mail, calendaring, searching, and document sharing).

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII)

<www.nbii.gov> is your home for biological information on the Web. My.NBII.Gov — the new biological Internet knowledge portal — takes the award-winning NBII to the next level.

### Overview

A portal is a single point of entry to the Web that offers you easy access to information on many topics and from many sources. Certainly, the NBII is a core component of My.NBII.Gov. But this portal offers you more than biological information.

The screenshot shows the My.NBII.Gov web portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'MY PAGES', 'COMMUNITIES', 'DOCUMENTS', and 'NBII NODES'. Below this, the main content area is divided into several sections:

- USGS Electronic Directory:** A search box with 'Enter Name:' and a 'GO' button.
- Internet Search:** A search box with 'Enter the search string below:' and a 'GO' button, with a 'Google' dropdown menu.
- Biological Sciences News:** A list of news items, including 'The sport of bioengineering', 'Scientists identify lactose intolerance gene', 'Fruit Fly Travel Signal Is Insight Into Metastasis', 'Discovery That Common Mood Disorders Are Inherited', 'Together May Reveal Genetic Underpinnings', and 'Experimental Appetite Suppressant Affects Numerous Brain Messengers In Mice'.
- The NBII: Your Home for Biological Information on the Web:** A central section with a list of updates and a 'Partners in the Spotlight' section featuring CSA.
- MyLinks:** A section with links to 'NBII Search', 'Google', and 'USGS'.
- My Publications:** A section with 'What's New on NBII' and links to 'Title Frame (2)', 'Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (6)', and 'Table of Contents (6)'. It also lists 'My Folders' such as 'Botany', 'Fisheries & Aquatic Resources', and 'Amphibian Declines and Deformities'.
- FedTravel.com:** A section for 'Government Contract Flight Schedules Query' with fields for 'Depart From', 'Depart Date', 'Destination', and 'Return'.
- 5 Day Forecast by Zipcode:** A section for 'Reston, VA (20191)' showing a 5-day forecast with weather icons, conditions, and temperatures.
- NBII Stats:** A section with a bar chart titled 'Usage summary for www.nbii.gov' showing 'Pages / Files / Hits' and 'Visits / Sites' over time.

Plus, you can select the color schemes and page layouts you prefer. To personalize My.NBII.Gov, just select the “Portal Settings” option to specify your preferences for such variables as colors, banners, time zones, and accessibility.

In short, at My.NBII.Gov, you can fashion a dynamic, one-stop site tailored to your interests, needs, and taste.

To learn more, just visit “Learn About the NBII Portal” on the initial Login screen. To smooth your transition to My.NBII.Gov, context sensitive “Help” is offered throughout the portal.

## Getting Started

Point your Web browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape, whatever) to My.NBII.Gov. At the Portal Login menu, select either USGS employees or Non-USGS users. USGS staff type in their Lotus Notes user name and password. For Non-USGS users, simply create an account (via the Create Account button) and log in to the portal.

## Gadgets

Gadgets are “services” or applications that can assist you in your everyday activities. These can include e-mail, travel information, news feeds, reference aids, corporate systems (for instance, financial, personnel, or project management), status reports, weather reports (zip code based) – whatever you want! You can select gadgets, based on security profiles, and add them to any of your My Page(s). You also have the ability to Search or

Browse for all available gadgets within My.NBII.Gov to help you learn what gadgets/services are available.

### Keeping Track of Your Favorite

**Links** — Simply select the MyLinks gadget and click the Edit button to add your favorite Web sites.

### Keeping Track of Favorite Content Folders/Directories Within the

**Portal** — To add specific portal folders of interest, select the MyFolders gadget and click the Edit button. These are great ways to quickly access new documents or Web sites of interest via the portal.

### Dramatic Improvement In Search Capabilities

— Depending on security levels, you can search for all available documents (MS Word, PowerPoint, Adobe PDF, HTML, and so forth) via the “Document Search” box. Use the “Advanced” search option to select specific folders of interest or certain information sources. You also have the ability to perform a “Network” search and integrate results within the portal.

What’s more, you can search via “properties” (metadata) of documents (.doc, .html, and more). Metadata/ Properties allow you to quickly find documents by a selected author, organization, or with specific keywords. For instance, let’s say you are interested in all “botany” related documents. You could either simply select “only” the “botany” folder or, via the Properties search capabilities, select the “keywords” field and type in “botany” to pull any botany related documents from *anywhere* within the portal.

### Welcome to the Community —

My.NBII.Gov Communities are virtual work areas where NBII partners and staff can collaborate online — share documents (and make comments), presentations, or historical pieces as well as discuss pertinent scientific issues (for example, invasive species). You gain access to Communities through the “Communities” tab, then by selecting a particular community of interest; or, by selecting the “Edit Your Membership” option. Community access is controlled by the community manager; as a result, not all portal users will have access to all Communities. Communities are a great way to organize a project, discuss issues, or just disseminate information!

### To Suggest Additional Content or

**Services** — Use the “Contact Us” gadget to submit ideas or suggestions that will help you or other visitors to My.NBII.Gov.

## For More Information

If you have any questions about gaining access or any other aspect of My.NBII.Gov, either comment via the “Contact Us” button, or get in touch with:

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