Supporting Statement A for

Specimen Resource Locator (SRL) (NCI)

OMB# 0925-0703 Expiration Date 08/31/2026

This is an extension to the original submission; all changes are highlighted in yellow.

August 10, 2026

Check off which applies:

- New
- Revision
- Reinstatement with Change
- Reinstatement without Change
- X Extension
- Emergency
- Existing Collection in Use Without an OMB Number

Federal Government Employee Information:

Name: Hala Makhlouf, Acting Branch Chief

Address: 9609 Medical Center Drive Suite 4W-448 Rockville, MD 20892-7420

Telephone: 240-276-7782

Email: hala.makhlouf@nih.gov

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A. ABSTRACT

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and National Cancer Institute (NCI) seek to obtain OMB approval for an *EXTENSION* of the Specimen Resource Locator (SRL) collection for an additional three (3) years. The availability of specimens and associated data is critical to increase our knowledge of cancer biology and to translate important research discoveries into clinical applications. The discovery and validation of cancer prevention markers require access, by researchers, to quality clinical biospecimens. In response to this need, the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Cancer Diagnosis Program has developed and is expanding a searchable database: Specimen Resource Locator (SRL). The SRL allows scientists in the research community and the NCI to locate specimens needed for their research. The SRL lists non-commercial, either NCI or non-NCI-supported human biorepositories and their links. This administrative submission is an online form that collects information to manage and improve a program and its resources for the use of all scientists. This submission does not involve any hypothesis-driven analysis or research; only descriptive program-management metrics are used.

A1. Circumstances Making the Collection of Information Necessary

Section 410 of the Public Health Service Act (42 USC *§* 285) authorizes the collection of the information. The availability of specimens and associated data is critical to increase our knowledge of cancer biology and to translate important research discoveries into clinical applications. The development of molecular technologies in cancer patients with defined molecular abnormalities advances the identification and development of clinically useful biomarkers and diagnostic assays that guide treatment.

The discovery and validation of cancer prevention markers require access, by researchers, to quality clinical biospecimens. In response to this need, NCI's Cancer Diagnosis Program developed, and is expanding, a searchable database: Specimen Resource Locator (SRL) https://specimens.cancer.gov/. The SRL allows scientists in the research community and the NCI to locate specimens needed for their research. The SRL lists all NCI-supported and non-NCI-supported biospecimens repositories and their links. It is not NCI's intent to collect the biospecimens. Instead, the SRL collections are descriptions of the available data and/or samples, that serves as a resource and can be shared with interested researchers and scientists.

A2. Purpose and Use of the Information Collection

The SRL was created in 2002 and populated with information from approximately 40 different biorepositories. There was no additional information collected through 2010. In 2010, data from nine biorepositories were collected.

The information collected is used to characterize the biospecimen inventory of the respondents[1]. The data collected allows scientists to search the database and retrieve the biospecimens and annotations needed for their research. Currently, there are 44 participating resources that include cooperative groups, networks, consortiums, universities, and projects (https://specimens.cancer.gov/resources/#participating_resources) that have contributed information about their biospecimens inventories.

Potential respondents are sent an invitation letter requesting that they complete the information about the biospecimens in their inventory (**Attachment 1**). The letter includes a link to the SRL Resource Inquiry/Initial Request webform for the respondent to complete the requested information (**Attachment 2**):

- First Name
- Last Name
- Telephone
- Email
- Resource Name
- Resource URL
- Resource Description
- Attachments

The Cancer Diagnosis Program Branch Chief, the SRL resource manager, and the website administrator review the information collected and determine if the resource described is an appropriate fit to be listed in the SRL.

Attachments 3 and 4 have been recently added to this submission and were initially part of Attachment 2 but not specified as such. If the resource is found to be appropriate, the respondent is contacted by the website administrator to provide additional resource details on the Resource Form (**Attachment 3**):

- Resource Name
- Contact Name
- Title
- Phone
- Email
- Address
- Fax
- URL
- Service and/or shipping fee
- Publications (PubMed IDs)
- Attachments

Once the resource information is entered, the respondent enters information about the collections included in the resource on the Collection Form (**Attachment 4**):

[1] Respondents and biospecimens resource institutions are used interchangeably in this request. The institutions are responding on behalf of their company not themselves.

- Collection Name
- Organ Site
- Specimen Type
- Other Specimen Types in this collection (if any)
- Preservation Type
- Available Data
- Number of specimens
- Type of Collection
- Who is eligible to apply?
- Is collaboration for Use of Specimens Required?
- Clinical Trial URL

For some resources, multiple collections may be entered. Some respondents may have one collection and others may have multiple, so an average of 3 is used to calculate burden hours (see Table A12-1).

The collected information is used for the management of the website to benefit the research community. Additionally, the information is available to investigators via queries to the SRL database, seeking to locate available biospecimens by the above-listed categories.

The resource managers will request an annual update of the information by email to respondents to ensure that the biospecimens inventory remains current, accurate, and available (**Attachment 5**). Follow-up reminders will be sent on an as-needed basis.

The NCI contractor serves as the tissue expediter, assisting researchers in locating resources if their initial search fails. Also, he/she can help researchers to identify potential collaborators when needed.

The NCI's Specimen Resource Locator (SRL) mission is to make human biospecimens available to the research community. The SRL is a searchable database of NCI, non-NCI resources, and non-commercial human resources that may have specimens needed for scientific research.

NCI is seeking an extension of this OMB clearance because NCI intends to continue to use the webforms in the same manner. For the past three years, the SRL specimen inquiry webform has functioned as planned, with no major changes in the response numbers. From 7/1/2023 to 7/22/2026, 119 initial form responses were received from which six resources inquiries were approved, resulting in 1 new resource being added to the site. Additionally, 1 resource was removed from the SRL because of the annual update requests. In the lifetime of the SRL, a total of 44 human biospecimen resources have been added with hundreds of collections.

Attachments 3 and 4 were added to this submission because it was an oversite in the previous submission. Previously, information and resources were collected as part of the Initial Request (Attachment 2).

A3. Use of Information Technology and Burden Reduction

The use of an electronic form to gather information on the resources allows the respondent to complete the questionnaire at their convenience. Information Management Services Inc. (IMS), an NCI contractor, serves as the website administrator. They are contracted to provide expertise in web management, software development, and as the tissue expediter.

The NCI Privacy Act Coordinator has been consulted and determined on March 20, 2014, that no Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is needed.

A4. Efforts to Identify Duplication and Use of Similar Information

The SRL is a unique website that collects a list of a variety of biospecimen resources and makes them available to the scientific community. Although biospecimen resources provide a website to retrieve specimens, the SRL has a broader scope in that it is a one-stop search engine that contains both NCI intramural[2] and non-NCI funded, non-commercial biospecimen resources.

A5. Impact on Small Businesses or Other Small Entities

No small businesses will be involved.

A6. Consequences of Collecting the Information Less Frequently

The respondent is initially asked to complete the questionnaire and then update the information annually afterward. The annual updates will keep the SRL accurate and current on the inventory. The consequences of not updating the inventory may result in inaccurate inventory numbers, available specimens, and an accurate depiction of human biospecimen resources available for the distribution of specimens.

A7. Special Circumstances Relating to the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5

This project will be implemented in a manner that fully complies with the Guidelines of 5 CFR 1320.5

A8. Comments in Response to Federal Register Notice and Efforts to Consult Outside Agency

The 60-day Federal Register Notice was published on June 12, 2026, Vol.91, No. 113, P. 35694, allowing 60 days for public comment. No comments were received.

A9. Explanation of Any Payment or Gift to Respondents

[2] Intramural refers to NCI internal research staff, program and resources. This is differentiated by NCI's extramural program which funds grantees and programs outside of NCI.

No payment or gifts will be given to the respondents.

A10. Assurance of Confidentiality Provided to Respondents

Meta-data is collected to describe the specimen collections. Contact information is collected solely to identify an institutional point of contact for biospecimen resources. The personally identifiable information is non-sensitive contact information only, and because it is not retrievable by a unique identifier (point of contact's name, address, title, or phone), it was determined that the Privacy Act would not apply to this information collection. (**Attachment 6**).

Since this is not considered research, nor will there be publications, the Federal regulations for the protection of human subjects do not apply to this activity.

A11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

No sensitive questions or PII are being asked.

A12. Estimates of Hour Burden, Including Annualized Hourly Costs

The annualized hour burden will be estimated to be 107 hours to conduct the initial request and an annual update (Table A.12-1). This amounts to approximately 321 hours over the three-year information collection phase. The respondents would include the Private Sector (business or other for-profits and not-for-profits institutions), State and Federal Governments. Some respondents may fall into more than one sector category over the three-year period; however, burden estimates reflect the total number of expected responses. The increase in respondents since the previous submission resulted from accurate data of previous responses.

Table A12-1. Estimated Annualized Burden Hours

Type of Respondent	Form Name	Number of Respondents	Number of Responses Per Respondent	Average Burden Per Response (in hours)	Total Burden Hour
Private Sector	Initial Request (Attachment 2)	70	1	5/60	6
State Government		70	1	5/60	6
Federal Government		60	1	5/60	5
Private Sector	Enter Resource (Attachment 3)	30	1	7/60	4
State Government		30	1	7/60	4
Federal Government		20	1	7/60	2
Private Sector	Enter Collection (Attachment 4)	30	3	18/60	27
State Government		30	3	18/60	27
Federal Government		20	3	18/60	18
Private Sector	Annual Update (Attachment 5)	30	1	5/60	3
State Government		30	1	5/60	3
Federal Government		20	1	5/60	2
Total			**600**		**107**

The annualized estimated cost to respondents is $4,775.403, about $14,326.20, over the three-year information collection phase (Table A.12-2).

Table A12-2. Annualized Cost to Respondents

Type of Respondents	Total Annual Burden Hours	Hourly Respondent Wage Rate*	Respondent Cost
Private Sector, State and Federal Governments	105	$45.48	$4,775.40
Total			**$4,775.40**

*Refer to http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#19-0000 for the mean hourly wage rate for Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations.

A13. Estimate of Other Total Annual Cost Burden to Respondents or Record Keepers

There are no capital, operating, or maintenance costs to report.

A14. Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

The annualized cost to the Federal Government is $41,625.30, amounting to $124,875.90 over the three-year information collection (Table A.14-1).

Table A14-1 Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

Staff	Grade/Step	Salary	% of Effort	Fringe (if applicable)	Total Cost to Gov't
Federal Oversight					
Program Director	14/10	$187,093	10%		$18,709.30
Branch Chief	15/10	$197,200	3%		$5,916.00
Contractor Cost					$17,000.00
Travel					$0
Other Cost					$0
Total					**$41,625.30**

**The salary in the table above is cited from https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/26Tables/html/DCB.aspx

A15. The explanation for Program Changes or Adjustments

This is an Extension of a currently approved submission. There are no substantive changes to this submission other than the cost of living and pay increase. Attachments 3 and 4 were added to this submission because it was an oversite in the previous submission. Previously, information and resources were collected as part of the Initial Request (Attachment 2) and were calculated in those burden hours. Thus, there is a minor increase in the burden hours and

respondents from the prior submission due to adjustments in respondents estimates and the addition of Attachments 3 and 4.

A16. Plans for Tabulation and Publication and Project Time Schedule

There are no plans for a detailed statistical analysis of the information collected. However, descriptive analyses are used to monitor metrics such as queries by number, tissue type, and successful queries. The project time schedule can be seen in Table A16-1.

Table A16-1 Project Time Schedule

Task	Months After OMB Approval
Web start-up, design, content, URL	ongoing
Presentations to Program Directors	4-6 months
Review incoming electronic applications	ongoing
Annual updates	ongoing

A17. Reason(s) Display of OMB Expiration Date Is Inappropriate

There is no request for exemption from displaying the expiration date for OMB approval.

A18. Exceptions to Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

These data are collected in a manner consistent with the certification statement. No exceptions are requested.