

Welcome to the Etchiverse: A family of citizen science projects for producing expert-quality annotations for biomedical volume electron microscopy data

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The current generation of volume electron microscopy techniques routinely produce datasets in the terabyte regime. Modern computational techniques such as deep learning have shown a great deal of promise for automating the analysis of such data, but a major limitation is the lack of availability of ground truth training data which is often painstakingly generated manually by researchers. Our “Etch a Cell” projects on the Zooniverse have demonstrated that non-experts can produce data of sufficient quality for both direct downstream analysis and as training data for deep learning. This unprecedented quantity of high-quality training data raises tantalising prospects for genuine automation of in-depth analysis across a range of experiments.

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Classification de Session: Citizen Science Showcase