

# Package ‘ExperimentHubData’

April 27, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Add resources to ExperimentHub

**Version** 1.37.0

**Maintainer** Bioconductor Package Maintainer <maintainer@bioconductor.org>

**Description** Functions to add metadata to ExperimentHub db and resource files to AWS S3 buckets.

**License** Artistic-2.0

**Depends** utils, BiocGenerics (>= 0.15.10), S4Vectors, AnnotationHubData (>= 1.21.3)

**Imports** methods, ExperimentHub, BiocManager, DBI, httr, curl

**Suggests** GenomeInfoDb, RUnit, knitr, BiocStyle, rmarkdown, HubPub

**biocViews** Infrastructure, DataImport, GUI, ThirdPartyClient

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**git\_url** <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/ExperimentHubData>

**git\_branch** devel

**git\_last\_commit** a49276f

**git\_last\_commit\_date** 2025-10-29

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.23

**Date/Publication** 2026-04-26

**Author** Bioconductor Maintainer [cre]

## Contents

addResources . . . . .	2
ExperimentHubMetadata-class . . . . .	3
makeExperimentHubMetadata . . . . .	6

<b>Index</b>	<b>9</b>
--------------	----------

---

`addResources`*addResources*

---

### Description

Add resource metadata to a local ExperimentHub database

### Usage

```
addResources(pathToPackage, fileName=character(), insert = FALSE, ...)
```

### Arguments

<code>pathToPackage</code>	Full path to data package including package name.
<code>fileName</code>	Name of single metadata file located in "inst/extdata". If none is provided the function looks for a file named "metadata.csv".
<code>insert</code>	A logical to control if metadata are inserted in the ExperimentHub db. By default this option is FALSE which is a useful state in which to test a new recipe and confirm the metadata fields are correct. When <code>insert = TRUE</code> , the "EXPERIMENT_HUB_SERVER_POST_URL" global option must be set to the http location of the ExperimentHubServer in the global environment or .Rprofile. This option controls Additionally, AWS command line tools must be installed on the local machine to push files to S3 buckets. See <a href="https://aws.amazon.com/cli/">https://aws.amazon.com/cli/</a> for installation instructions.
<code>...</code>	TDB. Currently not used.

### Details

This function is used by the Bioconductor Core team to add new metadata to the production database.

When `insert` is TRUE, `addResources` attempts to add the metadata to the local database. (NOTE: A local database can be created with the ExperimentHub docker). Records in ExperimentHub must have unique file names. If the new metadata have duplicate file names a warning is thrown and the records are omitted from those added to the database.

This function does not add data to an AWS S3 bucket. ExperimentHub packages do not have 'recipes' that generate data on the fly. Instead, data files are provided by the maintainer in final form and added to the appropriate S3 location in a separate step.

### Value

A list of [ExperimentHubMetadata](#) objects.

### See Also

- [ExperimentHubMetadata](#)
- [AnnotationHubMetadata](#)
- [makeExperimentHubMetadata](#)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
## Generate metadata for inspection
addResources("/home/vobencha/mypackage", insert=FALSE)
## Inset metadata into ExperimentHub database
addResources("/home/vobencha/mypackage", insert=TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

---

ExperimentHubMetadata-class

*Class [ExperimentHubMetadata](#) objects and methods*


---

**Description**

The [ExperimentHubMetadata](#) object is used to represent records in the server data base.

**Usage**

```
ExperimentHubMetadata(ExperimentHubRoot=NA_character_,
  BiocVersion=BiocManager::version(),
  SourceUrl=NA_character_,
  SourceType=NA_character_,
  SourceVersion=NA_character_,
  SourceLastModifiedDate=as.POSIXct(NA_character_),
  SourceMd5=NA_character_,
  SourceSize=NA_real_,
  DataProvider=NA_character_,
  Title=NA_character_,
  Description=NA_character_,
  Maintainer=NA_character_,
  Species=NA_character_,
  TaxonomyId=NA_integer_,
  Genome=NA_character_,
  Tags=NA_character_,
  RDataClass=NA_character_,
  RDataDateAdded=as.POSIXct(NA_character_),
  RDataPath=NA_character_,
  Coordinate_1_based=TRUE,
  Notes=NA_character_,
  DispatchClass=NA_character_,
  PreparerClass=NA_character_,
  Location_Prefix='https://bioconductorhubs.blob.core.windows.net/experimenthub/')
```

**Arguments**

ExperimentHubRoot	character(1) Prefix of the local path to resources to be added to ExperimentHub. Internal use only.
SourceUrl	character() URL of original resource(s).
SourceType	character() Form of original data, e.g., BED, FASTA, etc. <code>getValidSourceTypes()</code> list currently acceptable values. If nothing seems appropriate for your data reach out to <code>maintainer@bioconductor.org</code> .
SourceVersion	character(1) Version of original file.
SourceLastModifiedDate	POSIXct() Date when resource was last modified.
SourceMd5	character(1) md5 hash of original file.
SourceSize	numeric(1) Number of bytes in original file.
DataProvider	character(1) Provider of original data, e.g., NCBI, UniProt etc.
Title	character(1) Title for the resource with version or genome build as appropriate. Titles must be unique and not match any existing title in ExperimentHub.
Description	character(1) Description of the resource. May include details such as data type, format, study origin, sequencing technology, treated vs control, number of samples etc.
Species	character(1) Species name. For help on valid species see <code>getSpeciesList</code> , <code>validSpecies</code> , or <code>suggestSpecies</code> .
TaxonomyId	character(1) NCBI code. Taxonomy ID. There are checks for valid taxonomyId given the Species which produce warnings. See <code>GenomeInfoDb::loadTaxonomyDb()</code> for full validation table.
Genome	character(1) Name of genome build.
Tags	<p>‘Tags’ are search terms used to define a subset of resources in a Hub object, e.g, in a call to query.</p> <p>For ExperimentHub resources, ‘Tags’ are automatically generated from the ‘biocViews’ in the DESCRIPTION file of the accompanying software package. ‘Tags’ values supplied by the user are not be entered in the database and are not part of the formal metadata. This ‘controlled vocabulary’ approach was taken to limit the search terms to a well defined set and may change in the future.</p>
RDataClass	character(1) Class of derived object (e.g. ‘GRanges’).
RDataDateAdded	POSIXct() Date resource was added to ExperimentHub. The default is today’s date and is auto-generated when metadata are constructed. Resources will appear in snapshots with a date greater than or equal to the <code>RDataDateAdded</code> .
RDataPath	character() File path to where object is stored in AWS S3 bucket or on the web. The <code>Location_Prefix</code> will be prepended to <code>RDataPath</code> for the full path to the resource. If the resource is stored in Bioconductor’s AWS S3 buckets, it should start with the name of the package associated with the metadata and should not start with a leading slash. It should include the resource file name. For strongly associated files, like a bam file and its index file, the two files should be separates with a colon <code>:</code> . This will link a single hub id with the multiple files.

Maintainer	character(1) Maintainer name and email address, 'A Maintainer <a href="#">a.maintainer@email.addr</a> '
BiocVersion	character(1). The first Bioconductor version the resource was made available for. Unless removed from the hub, the resource will be available for all versions greater than or equal to this field.
Coordinate_1_based	logical(1) Do coordinates start with 1 or 0?
DispatchClass	character(1). Determines how data are loaded into R. The value for this field should be 'Rda' if the data were serialized with <code>save()</code> and 'Rds' if serialized with <code>saveRDS</code> . The filename should have the appropriate 'rda' or 'rds' extension. A number of dispatch classes are pre-defined in <code>AnnotationHub/R/AnnotationHubResource-class.R</code> with the suffix 'Resource'. For example, if you have <code>sqlite</code> files, the <code>AnnotationHubResource-class.R</code> defines <code>SQLiteFileResource</code> so the DispatchClass would be <code>SQLiteFile</code> . Contact <a href="mailto:maintainer@bioconductor.org">maintainer@bioconductor.org</a> if you are not sure which class to use. The function <code>AnnotationHub::DispatchClassList()</code> will output a matrix of currently implemented DispatchClass and brief description of utility. If a predefine class does not seem appropriate contact <a href="mailto:maintainer@bioconductor.org">maintainer@bioconductor.org</a> .
Location_Prefix	character(1) URL location of AWS S3 bucket or web site where resource is located.
Notes	character() Notes about the resource.
PreparerClass	character(1) Used internally.

## Details

In practice, instances of this class are generated by a call to `addResources` or `makeExperimentHubMetadata` instead of a direct call to the constructor.

`addResources` is a function used by the Bioconductor Core team when adding new metadata records to the production database. `makeExperimentHubMetadata` and the low-level helper

## Value

A [ExperimentHubMetadata](#) object.

## See Also

- [addResources](#)
- [makeExperimentHubMetadata](#)

## Examples

```
showClass("ExperimentHubMetadata")
```

---

```
makeExperimentHubMetadata
```

*Make ExperimentHubMetadata objects from csv file of metadata*

---

### Description

Make ExperimentHubMetadata objects from metadata.csv file located in the "inst/extdata/" package directory of an ExperimentHub package.

### Usage

```
makeExperimentHubMetadata(pathToPackage, fileName=character())
```

### Arguments

`pathToPackage` Full path to data package including the package name; no trailing slash

`fileName` Name of single metadata file located in "inst/extdata". If none is provided the function looks for a file named "metadata.csv".

### Details

- `makeExperimentHubMetadata`: Reads the resource metadata in the metadata.csv file into a [ExperimentHubMetadata](#) object. The [ExperimentHubMetadata](#) is inserted in the ExperimentHub database. Intended for internal use or package authors checking the validity of package metadata.
- Formatting metadata files:  
`makeExperimentHubMetadata` reads .csv files of metadata located in "inst/extdata". Internal functions perform checks for required columns and data types and can be used by package authors to validate their metadata before submitting the package for review.  
 The rows of the .csv file(s) represent individual Hub resources (i.e., data objects) and the columns are the metadata fields. All fields should be a single character string of length 1.  
 Required Fields in metadata file:
  - Title: `character(1)`. Name of the resource. This can be the exact file name (if self-describing) or a more complete description.
  - Description: `character(1)`. Brief description of the resource, similar to the 'Description' field in a package DESCRIPTION file.
  - BiocVersion: `character(1)`. The first Bioconductor version the resource was made available for. Unless removed from the hub, the resource will be available for all versions greater than or equal to this field. Generally the current devel version of Bioconductor.
  - Genome: `character(1)`. Genome. Can be NA
  - SourceType: `character(1)`. Format of original data, e.g., FASTA, BAM, BigWig, etc. `getValidSourceTypes()` list currently acceptable values. If nothing seems appropriate for your data reach out to [maintainer@bioconductor.org](mailto:maintainer@bioconductor.org).
  - SourceUrl: `character(1)`. Optional location of original data files. Multiple urls should be provided as a comma separated string.

- SourceVersion: character(1). Version of original data.
- Species: character(1). Species. For help on valid species see `getSpeciesList`, `validSpecies`, or `suggestSpecies`. Can be NA.
- TaxonomyId: character(1). Taxonomy ID. There are checks for valid taxonomyId given the Species which produce warnings. See `GenomeInfoDb::loadTaxonomyDb()` for full validation table. Can be NA.
- Coordinate\_1\_based: logical. TRUE if data are 1-based. Can be NA
- DataProvider: character(1). Name of company or institution that supplied the original (raw) data.
- Maintainer: character(1). Maintainer name and email in the following format: Maintainer Name <username@address>.
- RDataClass: character(1). R / Bioconductor class the data are stored in, e.g., `GRanges`, `SummarizedExperiment`, `ExpressionSet` etc. If the file is loaded or read into R what is the class of the object.
- DispatchClass: character(1). Determines how data are loaded into R. The value for this field should be 'Rda' if the data were serialized with `save()` and 'Rds' if serialized with `saveRDS`. The filename should have the appropriate 'rda' or 'rds' extension. There are other available DispatchClass types and the function `AnnotationHub::DispatchClassList()`. A number of dispatch classes are pre-defined in `AnnotationHub/R/AnnotationHubResource-class.R` with the suffix 'Resource'. For example, if you have sqlite files, the `AnnotationHubResource-class.R` defines `SQLiteFileResource` so the DispatchClass would be `SQLiteFile`. Contact `maintainer@bioconductor.org` if you are not sure which class to use. The function `AnnotationHub::DispatchClassList()` will output a matrix of currently implemented DispatchClass and brief description of utility. If a predefine class does not seem appropriate contact `maintainer@bioconductor.org`. An all purpose DispatchClass is `FilePath` that instead of trying to load the file into R, will only return the path to the locally downloaded file.
- Location\_Prefix: character(1). Do not include this field if data are stored in the Bioconductor AWS S3; it will be generated automatically. If data will be accessed from a location other than AWS S3 this field should be the base url.
- RDataPath: character(). This field should be the remainder of the path to the resource. The `Location_Prefix` will be prepended to `RDataPath` for the full path to the resource. If the resource is stored in Bioconductor's AWS S3 buckets, it should start with the name of the package associated with the metadata and should not start with a leading slash. It should include the resource file name. For strongly associated files, like a bam file and its index file, the two files should be separated with a colon `:`. This will link a single hub id with the multiple files.
- Tags: character() vector. 'Tags' are search terms used to define a subset of resources in a Hub object, e.g, in a call to query. 'Tags' are automatically generated from the 'biocViews' in the DESCRIPTION and applied to all resources of the metadata file. Optionally, maintainers can define 'Tags' column of the metadata to define tags for each resource individually. Multiple 'Tags' are specified as a colon separated string, e.g., tags for two resources would look like this:

```
Tags=c("tag1:tag2:tag3", "tag1:tag3")
```

NOTE: The metadata file can have additional columns beyond the 'Required Fields' listed above. These values are not added to the Hub database but they can be used in package functions to provide an additional level of metadata on the resources.

More on `Location_Prefix` and `RDataPath`. These two fields make up the complete file path url for downloading the data file. If using the Bioconductor AWS S3 bucket the `Location_Prefix` should not be included in the metadata file[s] as this field will be populated automatically. The `RDataPath` will be the directory structure you uploaded to S3. If you uploaded a directory 'MyAnnotation/', and that directory had a subdirectory 'v1/' that contained two files 'counts.rds' and 'coldata.rds', your metadata file will contain two rows and the `RDataPath`s would be 'MyAnnotation/v1/counts.rds' and 'MyAnnotation/v1/coldata.rds'. If you host your data on a publicly accessible site you must include a base url as the `Location_Prefix`. If your data file was at 'ftp://myinstituteserver/biostats/project2/counts.rds', your metadata file will have one row and the `Location_Prefix` would be 'ftp://myinstituteserver/' and the `RDataPath` would be 'biostats/project2/counts.rds'.

### Value

A list of `ExperimentHubMetadata` objects.

### See Also

- [addResources](#)
- `ExperimentHubMetadata` class
- [makeAnnotationHubMetadata](#)

### Examples

```
## makeExperimentHubMetadata() reads data from inst/scripts/<files>.csv
## into ExperimentHubMetadata objects. These objects are used to insert
## metadata into the production database. This function is used internally
## by addResources() and is not intended to be called directly.

## For an example of how this works we can use the GSE62944 ExperimentHub
## package. Download the source tarball from:

# http://www.bioconductor.org/packages/devel/data/experiment/html/GSE62944.html

## and unpack it. Set 'pathToPackage' to point to the downloaded source.
## Then call the function:
## Not run:
makeExperimentHubMetadata("path/to/mypackage")

## End(Not run)
```

# Index

## \* **classes**

ExperimentHubMetadata-class, [3](#)

## \* **methods**

addResources, [2](#)

makeExperimentHubMetadata, [6](#)

addResources, [2](#), [5](#), [8](#)

AnnotationHubMetadata, [2](#)

class:ExperimentHubMetadata  
(ExperimentHubMetadata-class),  
[3](#)

ExperimentHubMetadata, [2](#), [3](#), [5](#), [6](#), [8](#)

ExperimentHubMetadata  
(ExperimentHubMetadata-class),  
[3](#)

ExperimentHubMetadata-class, [3](#)

makeAnnotationHubMetadata, [8](#)

makeExperimentHubMetadata, [2](#), [5](#), [6](#)

show, ExperimentHubMetadata-method  
(ExperimentHubMetadata-class),  
[3](#)