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Bioinformatics Librarian: Meeting the Information Needs of Researchers and Students

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Bioinformatics Librarian:

Meeting the Information Needs of Researchers and Students

Michele R. Tennant, Ph.D., M.L.I.S.

Health Science Center Libraries

U.F. Genetics Institute

6 April 2009



UF HSC Libraries

- Serve clinical, research, and educational missions of six health-related colleges – Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Health Professions, Veterinary Medicine
- With resources and expertise in the molecular sciences, also serve researchers in main campus basic sciences (agriculture, biology, chemistry, anthropology, etc.)



UF Genetics Institute

- Over 200 member faculty
- From all major areas of campus – HSC, Ag School, CLAS, Computer Science and Engineering, Libraries
- Genetics, genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics, molecular biology
- Home of new Genetics/Genomics PhD program

Cancer/Genetics Research Complex

- Institute created to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration
- Mostly virtual
- About 30 researchers housed in genetics half of complex





Bioinformatics Librarian

- Housed in the HSC Libraries
- Salary paid by UF Genetics Institute (and 1 conference/year)
- Provides instruction, consultations, collection development and other traditional library duties related to the subject areas
- Provides specific support to the UFGI – seminar series, website, membership, conference
- E-science: non-bibliographic resource expertise and collaboration



Bioinformatics Librarian

- NCBI Resources:
 - Instruction - integrated into curriculum for first year medical students, junior honors students; undergraduate genetics and biophysical chemistry students; co- teach “Application of Bioinformatics in Genetics Research”
 - Instruction – “stand alone” courses, open to anyone from UF
 - Consultations – over e-mail, in person (library and laboratory)



Requirement of E-Science: Collaboration

- Collaboration among interdisciplinary teams is essential to the success of E-science
- An excellent role for librarians as “middleware”
- Have experience in putting people together, and putting people together with information



Bioinformatics Librarian Contributes to Collaboration

- Organize UFGI seminar series
 - On-campus speakers:
 - Keep abreast of the genetics-related research from across campus
 - Develop slate of speakers from throughout campus – HSC, Ag school, CLAS, Engineering
 - Perform invitations; develop website with links to their webpage and PubMed searches
 - Off-campus speakers:
 - Work with UFGI faculty to select speakers
 - Same tasks as for on-campus speakers
 - Innovation – graduate student and post-doc lunch with visiting speakers



Bioinformatics Librarian Contributes to Collaboration

- Florida Genetics Conference
 - 2 day event, every Fall semester, 2005-
 - Outside speakers (such as Francis Collins, Craig Venter, Leroy Hood, David Lipman), UF Speakers that match topics of outside speakers, poster session
 - In 2009 – 119 posters; over 400 registrants
 - Librarian a founding member of Organizing Committee; co-chair of 2010 Organizing Committee
 - Choose speakers
 - Manage publicity and registration
 - Edit poster abstracts and create content for printed program
 - See <http://www.ufgi.ufl.edu/FL-Genetics-2008/FG2008-program.pdf>



Bioinformatics Librarian Contributes to Collaboration

- UFGI Website (old technology, oh well ...)
 - Web team leader – help provide content and direction
 - New faculty profiles (work with UFGI PR person)
 - Membership records (contact info, searchable research interests, links to personal homepages and PubMed records)
 - Links to genetics-related UF news
 - UFGI seminar, conference, and workshop news
 - Eventually links to bioinformatics and genetics Libguides
 - See <http://www.ufl.edu>



HSCCL Contributes to Collaboration

- 1st floor now “Collaboration Commons” – group-work collaboration space
- 2nd floor “Collaboration Center” – teleconferencing space for clients
- Former computer classroom – “Center for Faculty Excellence” (just unpacking boxes ...)



Collaboration Commons – Group Work Area



Collaboration Center – Meetings, Teleconferencing, Instruction
* For Clients *



Center for Faculty Excellence

- Library's "media Kitchen"
- Open directly into IT support areas
 - Instruction for faculty
 - Resource instruction
 - How to build tutorials and multimedia
 - Video-editing
 - Faculty work on collaborative projects



UF Libraries Contribute to Collaboration

- VIVO – from Cornell (<http://vivo.cornell.edu>)
- “fully-searchable research discovery tool”
- UF’s involvement started with main campus science library – Valrie Davis and Sara Russell Gonzalez
- UF version called Gator Scholar (to be unveiled at SLA DBIO Contributed Papers)
- Other resource of interest – Harvard Medical School’s Medvane and Profiles



Librarians Contribute to Collaboration

- Help identify collaborators/build collaborative teams via website, member profiles, seminar series, FG conference; VIVO (GatorScholar)
- Also become PART of collaborative teams – CTSA, Biomedical Informatics Academic Program, NIH GO and Challenge Grants, etc.



Where does the HSCCL go next?

- Data sets – storage, management and all that goes with this
- Posters and other visual media
- Additional bioinformatics and informatics support



Barriers to Library Support for E-Science

- Trained individuals
- Institutional silos
- Why the library?
- What happens to what we already do?