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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
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](http://www.ufl.edu)
HSCL 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 DBI O 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 HSCL 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?