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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

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

Health Science Center Libraries

U.F. Genetics Institute

6 April 2009



# UF HSC Libraries

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 1<sup>st</sup> floor now “Collaboration Commons” – group-work collaboration space
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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?

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- 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

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