

# INQUIRY-BASED OUTREACH: LIBRARY RESEARCH PROJECT ON BIOSCIENCE LEADS TO INNOVATIVE COLLABORATIONS

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Why is biology  
so BIG?

DNA!



## WHY DO THE STUDY

- RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING IS LARGE AND GROWING.
- NEW INFORMATION RESOURCES AND TOOLS THAT INTERSECT WITH THE LIBRARIES' MISSION AND ACTIVITIES ARE PART OF THIS TRANSFORMATION.
- A TEAM OF LIBRARIANS IN 2005-06 STUDIED THE GROWTH AND CHANGE OF BIOSCIENCE AND ITS PLACE AT MIT.

## WHOM DID WE TALK TO?

- MIT RESEARCH SCIENTISTS AND FACULTY IN BIOSCIENCE, NEUROSCIENCES, CHEMISTRY, COMPUTER SCIENCE, MATERIALS AND ENGINEERING
- EXPERTS FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES
- RESEARCH SCIENTISTS AND LIBRARIANS AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES
- LIBRARIANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WITH BIOINFORMATICS PROGRAMS

## WHAT DID WE LEARN?


INTERDISCIPLINARY BIOSCIENCE IN ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE IS BIGGER THAN WE IMAGINED, E.G. MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, MATERIALS, ETC  
A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY EXISTS FOR LIBRARIES TO DEVELOP COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES THAT FOCUS ON THE NEW BIOLOGY

**RESEARCH SCIENTISTS IN CENTERS, DEPARTMENTS, AND LABS WANT TO WORK WITH US!**

## COLLABORATIVE INSTRUCTION

LIBRARIANS PARTNERED WITH SCIENTISTS AT MIT AND HARVARD TO OFFER BIOINFORMATICS INSTRUCTION

CO-SPONSORED WORKSHOPS AND COURSES:

- NCBI 
- European Bioinformatics Program 

• Gene Pattern software - Broad

• Integrative Cancer Biology Program

## CO-FUNDED COLLECTIONS

LIBRARIANS LED EFFORT TO CO-FUND THE SUBSCRIPTION COSTS OF BIOINFORMATICS TOOLS AND DATA RESOURCES.

THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT, CANCER CENTER, BROAD INSTITUTE OF GENOMICS, AND THE WHITEHEAD INSTITUTE JOINED WITH THE LIBRARIES TO PURCHASE A SITE LICENSE FOR BIOBASE.



## COOPERATIVE SUPPORT FOR JOINT PROGRAMS

WE ARE DEVELOPING COOPERATIVE EFFORTS BETWEEN THE MIT AND HARVARD LIBRARIES TO IMPROVE SERVICES TO JOINTLY-SPONSORED INSTITUTES AND PROGRAMS



## NLM FELLOWS PROGRAM

CONVERSATIONS WITH EXPERTS AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS LED TO A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NLM FELLOWS PROGRAM.

WE ENLISTED OUR PARTNERS AT MIT AND HARVARD TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL.



## INQUIRY-BASED OUTREACH

• TRADITIONALLY ACADEMIC LIBRARIES DEVELOP AND PROMOTE THEIR SERVICES BASED ON THE PERCEIVED NEEDS OF THEIR USERS.

• INQUIRY-BASED OUTREACH IS ANOTHER STRATEGY FOR GETTING NEW SERVICES:

**BY LEARNING FROM OUR USERS AND HAVING THE FLEXIBILITY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY NEW RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS THE CAMPUS AND BEYOND.**

## WHAT DID WE GAIN?

• STRONGER WORKING PARTNERSHIPS WITH INSTITUTES AND RESEARCH CENTERS ENGAGED IN BIOSCIENCE

• ACCESS TO EXPERTISE TO SUPPORT THE LIBRARIES' NEW BIOINFORMATICS INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

• DEVELOPED NEW ROLES FOR THE LIBRARY TO SUPPORT EVOLVING INTERDISCIPLINARY BIOSCIENCE AND BIOINFORMATICS TOOLS, IN ADDITION TO TRADITIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES

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