

STRATEGIES FOR LIBRARY SUPPORT OF RESEARCH: BIOINFORMATICS AS A MODEL

A BRIEFING SESSION SPONSORED BY THE RESEARCH,
TEACHING, AND LEARNING STEERING COMMITTEE

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2:00–3:00 P.M. • WESTMINSTER ROOM

Convener:

Betsy Wilson, Dean of University Libraries, University of Washington

Presenter:

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Background

How does the library best provide support for research? The traditional methods of anticipation of need and response to requests may not be enough as research becomes more collaborative and infrastructure more complex. Libraries need to become more proactive in finding ways to incorporate library staff in the research process. More importantly, the library staff working with researchers need different skill sets and experiences in order to be fully accepted and engaged as members of a research team.

The biomedical library community has experience with several models of integrating the library and information resources into the research and clinical arenas. The clinical medical librarian model has been in use for more than three decades. In this model, a medical librarian works closely with a patient care team and identifies the best clinical evidence for particular cases. Other models coming into increasing use are versions of molecular biology and bioinformatics consulting and training provided by libraries. In these emerging models advanced knowledge and training are needed to work effectively with research teams in these disciplines and to exploit fully the complex information resources. In all of these models, there is a recognition that the ubiquity of access to technology and information has raised the level of need from that of a service to a value-added. Librarians and libraries can be key partners in the research enterprise when they add value to the process and the product. This briefing will provide examples illustrating this point.