

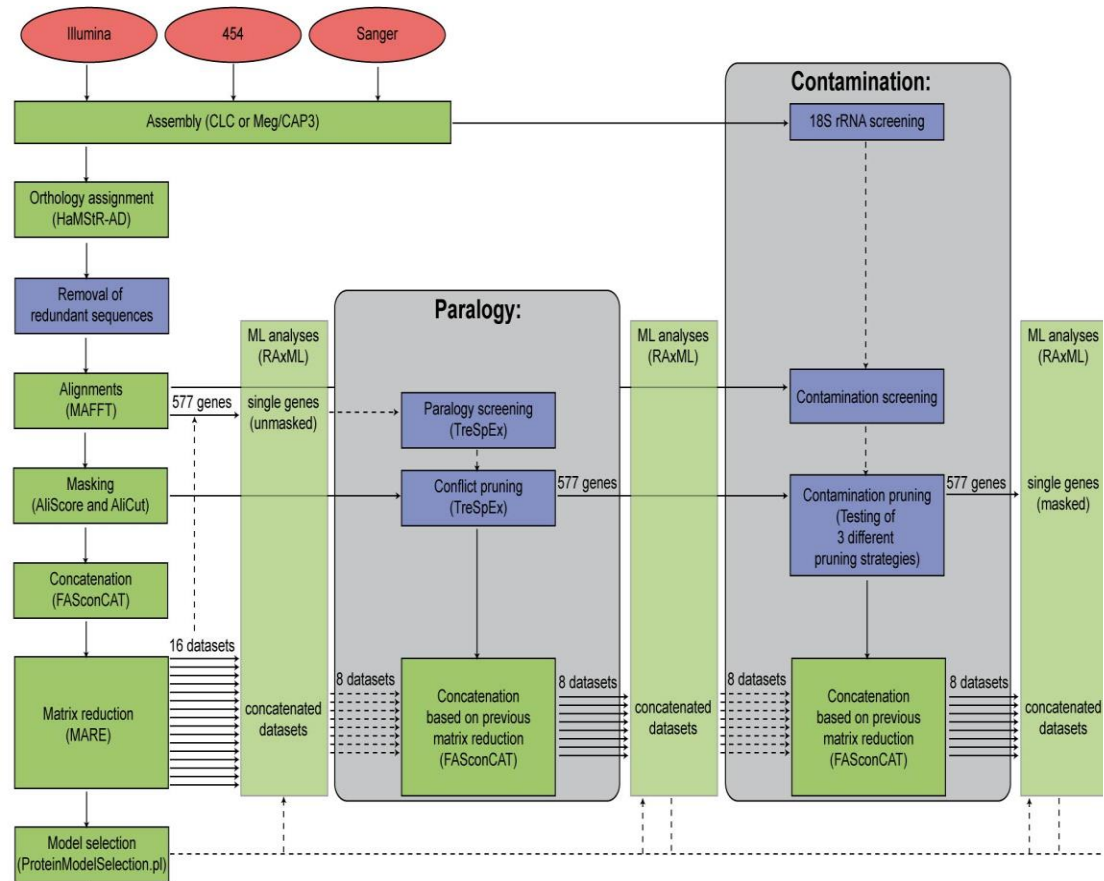


# *Contamination*



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**NHM UiO**

# Going beyond the standard





# Why care about contamination?

## You aren't what you eat

Henry Gee

An obscure marine worm does not belong among the molluscs, as had been thought. Rather, it has a claim to being the most primitive extant member of the group of animals that includes vertebrates.

Only those fond of the less-frequented pages of zoology textbooks — the chapters that deal with organisms such as gastrotrichs and gnathostomulids — will have ever heard of a small marine worm called *Xenoturbella bocki*. First described in 1949, this creature has struggled to find a phylogenetic home, and has been loosely attached to many animal groups. The problem is its unassuming nature. *Sans* proper gonads, excretory system, body cavity, even a through gut, the worm has very few distinguishing features. And it is only about 2 cm in length. In the end, zoologists usually admitted defeat and banished it to one of several groups of primitive flatworm.



G. RUDD

Figure 1 Spot the ordinary flower-girl. Audrey Hepburn as Eliza Doolittle, and *Xenoturbella*.



# *A metagenomic approach*

**Barcoding gene**



**BLAST**



**Library**



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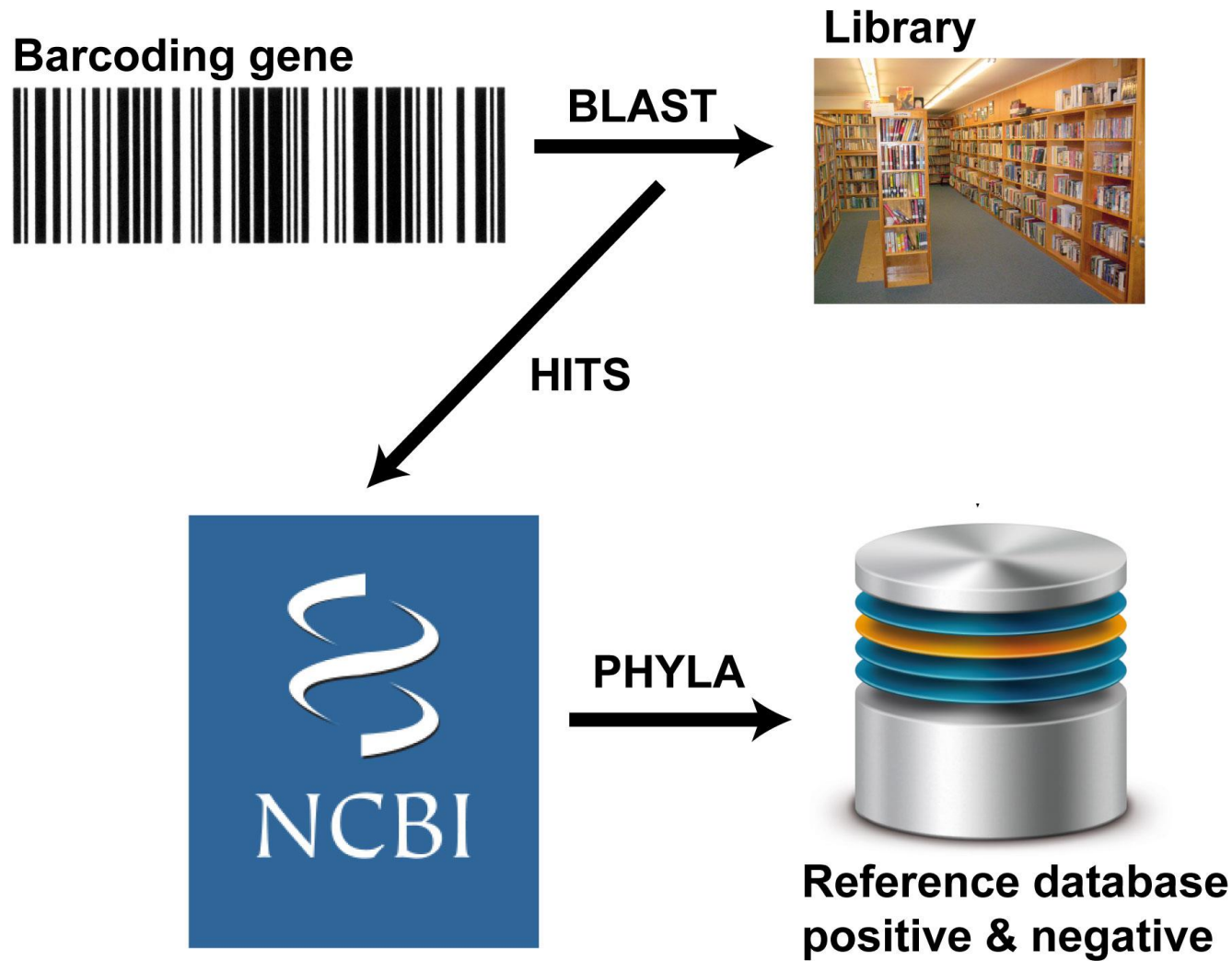


**HITS**

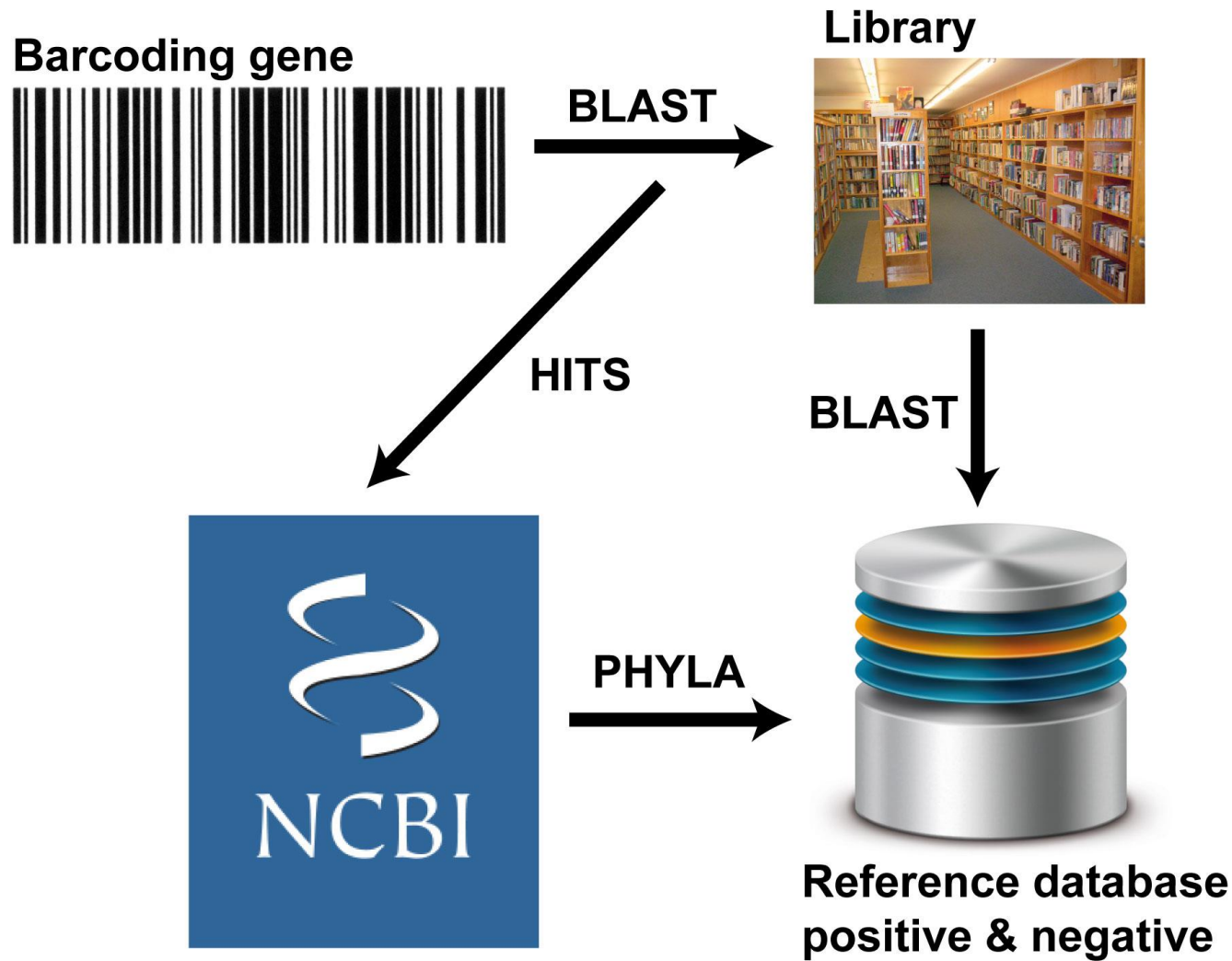




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