

Building a Local Bioinformatics Community: *Challenges and Efforts*

Malvika Sharan
CarpentryCon 2018



I'll Talk About...

- Work from direct or indirect collaboration in European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
- Collective efforts of several people
- Some challenges and lessons learned

1st: Acknowledgement



Toby Hodges



Toby Gibson



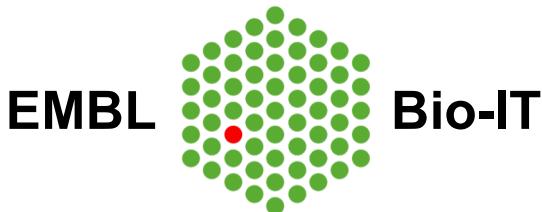
Marc Gouw



Aidan Budd

- Project Leaders: Peer Bork, Georg Zeller
- Every trainer, volunteer & contributor who go out of their way to keep us going (*their names might require more 4+1 minutes*)

Bioinformatics Communities in Heidelberg



EMBL is [Europe's flagship laboratory](#) for the life sciences with more than 80 independent research groups



ELIXIR coordinates, integrates & sustains [bioinfo. resources](#) in European member states.

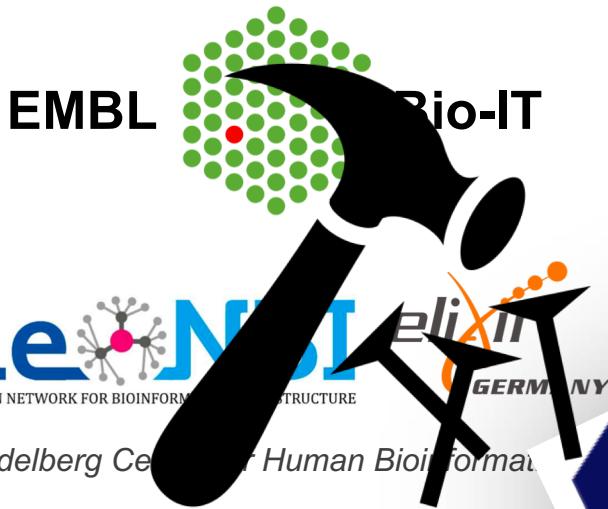
de.NBI is the [German bioinformatics Infrastructure](#).



HEIDELBERG
UNSEMINARS in
BIOINFORMATICS

A community of bioinformaticians for [informal exchange of interests](#) on different topics.

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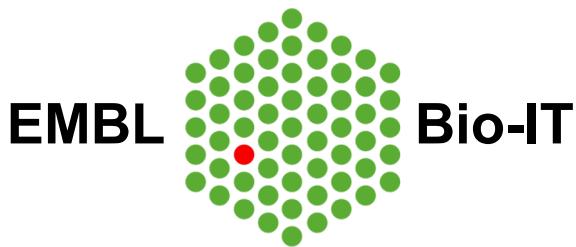
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THE CARPENTRIES
German bioinformatics Infrastructure.

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Information Dissemination

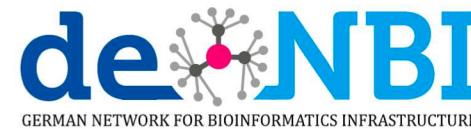
Web portal, learning resources,
social events, consulting

Training Courses & Events

Bioinformatics and programming courses,
seminars & social events

Resource Coordination

EMBL GitLab systems, computing resources,
chat system, user forum



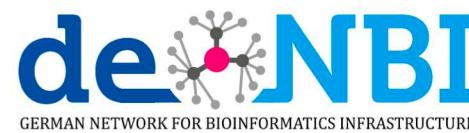
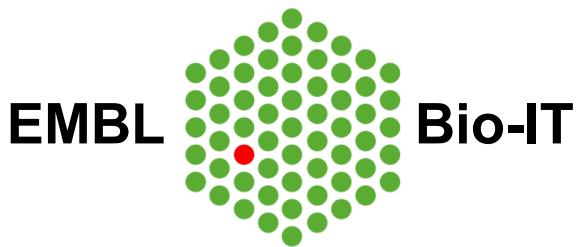
Heidelberg Center for Human Bioinformatics – HD-HuB

Bioinformatics Resources

Training Platforms

Cloud Infrastructure

Bioinformatics Communities in Heidelberg



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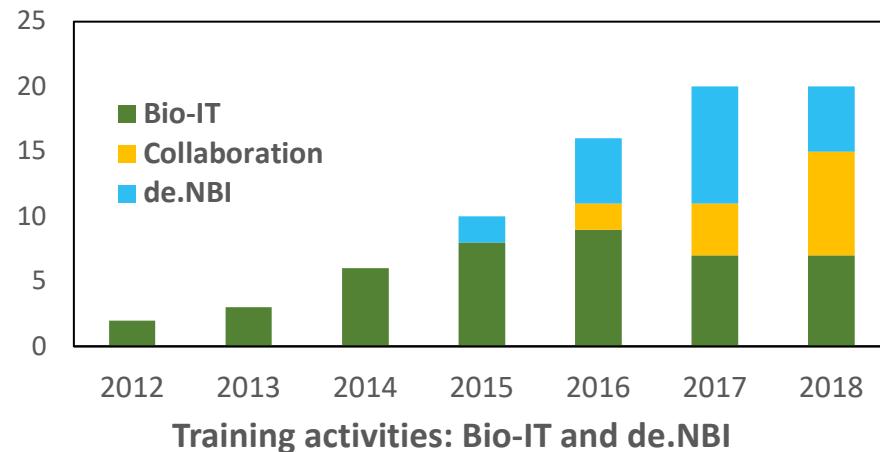
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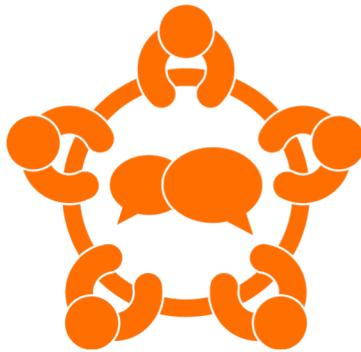
Efforts: *Training Activities*

- Combine the best **resources from different communities**
 - EMBL's training capacity and infrastructure
 - de.NBI's cloud compute and Europe-wide audience
 - Software and Data Carpentry courses



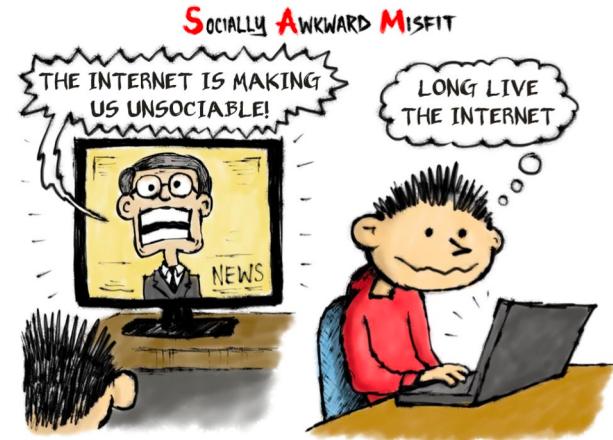
Bio-IT's 50th course
on June 12-13

Efforts: *Promoting Interaction*



Bio-IT lunches, coding club,
TaskForce Meetings,
Beer/pizza/BBQs events for
face-to-face meetup

HUB and HUB-like
Informal meet-up
sessions to interact
with local researchers



Online channels: remote
participation to the courses,
Chat system, Twitter, The
Carpentries Zoom calls

Efforts: Contributing to The Carpentries



Courses at EMBL and at collaborating institutes.

Last DC course was yesterday in UCD!

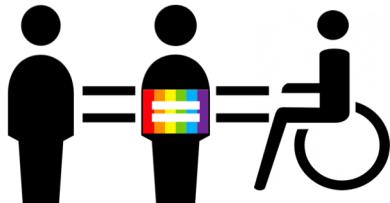


Unofficial
Propagandist!

Challenges (=Aims!)



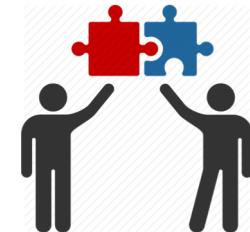
Promote an **inclusive culture** & normalizing diversity and equality



Make our efforts more visible and attract **volunteers**



Enhance capacity, **knowledge transfer** & collaborations



Lessons Learned: *Things Won't Always Work!*

Be open to a wider audience Identify interests & *develop active groups*



Be consistent/persistent when organizing *events.
Engage Positively

Promote communication,
Encourage volunteering.
Acknowledge their work



Diversity must exist in the core of a community.
Give everyone a fair chance