

Research Impact and Bioinformatics Librarian

Rachael Pereira

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"I enjoy collaborating with clinical research teams, providing informational sessions on library and bioinformatics resources, and solving problems."

Bio

While studying biology as an undergrad, Rachael became fascinated by genomics and information science. She earned a Master's in Library and Information Science, and after a long job search landed a role as a research librarian in an academic medical library. Within three years she became an invaluable member of her library's team as a research impact and bioinformatics librarian. Rachael works directly with faculty to manage and track their publications, update biosketches, create research dissemination strategies, and assess research impact via a wide variety of metrics and altmetrics. Rachael is skilled at using bibliometric methods to report research impact for program review, grants, and tenure and promotion packets. Rachael uses bioinformatics tools like Ensembl, the UCSC Genome Browser, and MetaCore. Rachael shares her knowledge through LibGuides and classes. As she hones new skills in research impact and computational informatics, she presents her innovations in presentations at medical library conferences.

Education: BS, Biology; Master's, Library and Information Science

Years of experience: 3

Work location: Library, classrooms, remote work

Goals

- To increase skills in visualization and data management software programs
- To develop new educational offerings for patrons
- To find time efficiencies wherever possible in her job



Software attitude & use

- Open to learning new tools
- Rachael is learning D3JS and wants to increase her skills in R
- Library software tools: PubMed Central, bibliographic databases such as Scopus, and EndNote
- Research impact tools: ORCID, Metrics Toolkit, and InCites by Clarivate Analytics
- Genomics tools: Ensembl, GeneGo, and MetaCore
- Visualization and data tools: OpenRefine, Python, R, R Studio, Tableau, VOSViewer and Jupyter Notebooks



Scholarly Outputs

- Conference presentations & posters
- Class materials, LibGuides, library website content
- Co-authorship on systematic reviews from her research librarian days

Pain Points

- Analyzing and compiling information for research impact is very time consuming
- Lack of interoperability/formatting problems when transferring information from one system to another

Motivators

To collaborate effectively with clinical teams, leading to synergy, recognition, and (sometimes) co-authorship

To let researchers know the library is the place for help with bioinformatics tools, tracking and reporting research impact, and data management

To increase outreach to research and clinical teams

To meet researchers' needs in a variety of ways

Wants/Needs

- The ability to quickly learn and leverage new technologies to meet increased demand for electronic data in a wide variety of formats
- Time to attend continuing education classes, to practice and build skills, and to develop library-based classes
- Reduce last-minute requests for biosketch updates or help with NIH Public Access Policy compliance (depositing articles to PubMed Central) through effective marketing

Professional Development

Department supports travel to conferences and workshops, and purchasing informational resources

The academic health center of which Rachael's library is a part supports a percentage of the librarians' college tuition in the associated university

Rachael benefited from direct mentorship by research impact librarians at her library, and she now mentors a junior colleague