

Professional Development

Strategies for keeping up with the literature

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We should follow

Computational biology

Biology

Statistics / Computer science

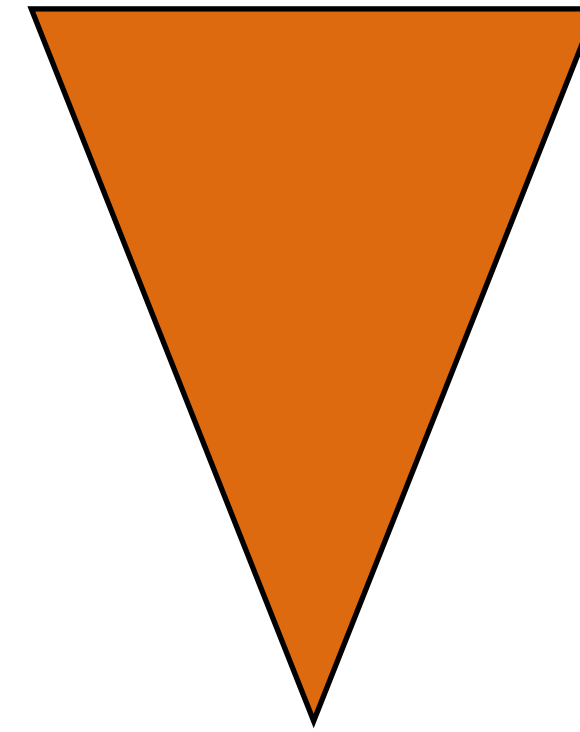
That's **hard**.

Why:

Ideas / open problems

New data / solutions / evaluation methods

Learn background



Many papers, shallow reading

Few papers, deep reading

How much should I read?

Where are you



Reading too little

Reading too much

Doing stuff that has been done
Not learning your field
Writing “bad” papers

“Too” high standards
not spending time doing own work

Many people are afraid of reading the literature



Am I getting scooped? Does someone have better ideas? Does someone work faster?

Look at all the stuff I don't have to do!



Selecting something
to work on

Starting a
project

About to
finish

Published

Two main modes

1. Doing a search to identify what has been written on a subject.
2. Keeping up to date on a subject of interest.

Both can be hard, but 2. is hardest.

For senior people

- Only publications in CNS are worthy of consideration
- If something is important, someone will tell me

Better alternatives

- Persistent search in pubmed / bioRxiv
- Follow 1+ journals (table of contents)
- Follow an author (on Google Scholar)
- Follow twitter account (say bioRxiv)