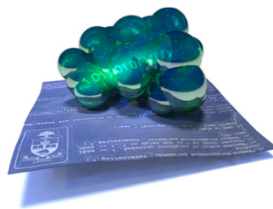A
BIOINFORMATICS
COURSE

BIOINFORMATICS INFORMATION SOURCES

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Sources of information

Problem: outdated information has much inertia

Let's browse through some information sources that you can access to identify **current concepts and practice** in Bioinformatics.
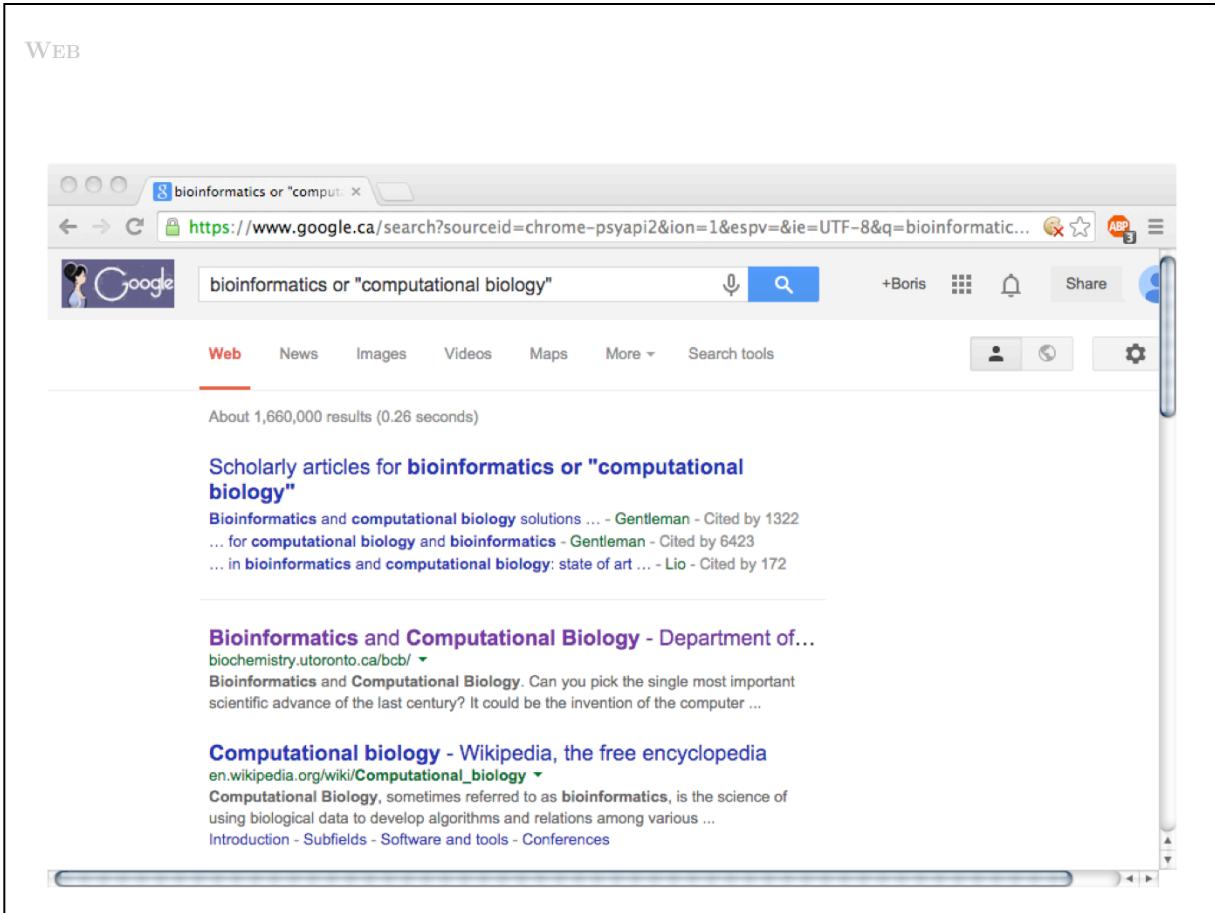
The amount of information that can be found by a Google search on a given topic is quite impressive. Muchof the material is actually also very good.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bioinformatics

Often Wikipedia is the top hit ...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bioinformatics

- Excellent introductory resource for many topics.
- Often written be very knowledgeable experts.
- Always be wary of inaccurate, incomplete information.
- You can immediately improve the text and correct errors.

... and it's free, collaborative and open sourced. On many questions these days, Wikipedia is my first stop for information.

But you **must** sharpen your critical reading skills to be able to understand which articles are well written by experts in a domain (there are many!) and which articles are derived from a high-school project that probably got a **C**. Living in an era where information is primarily dervied from opinion, not fact has made it crucial to evaluate information critically, never to simply take it as fact.

Register an account and start editing.

http://bioinformatics.ca

Portals are useful entry points into many aspects of a discipline – **IFF** they are kept current.

The CBW bioinformatics portal – home of the Canadian Bioinformatics Workshops – hosts open-sourced lecture recording and slides for many bioinformatics workshops in current topics, as well as an excellent curated list of links to bioinformatics resources.

(http://bioinformatics.ca)

http://iscb.org

The **International Society for Computational Biology** (among other activities) hosts ISMB - the world's largest bioinformatics conference.

(http://iscb.org)

Bioinformatics

NAR (esp. Databases and WebServices issues)

BMC Bioinformatics

PLoS Computational Biology

others ...

... all available electronically via U of T Library

... all have e-mail contents alert service or RSS.

Subscribing to journals' table of contents is an excellent way to keep oneself current in a particular field. In particular NAR (Nucleic Acids Research) publishes a special issue on bioinformatics databases each year, and one on bioinformatics Web services.

http://steipe.biochemistry.utoronto.ca/abc

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