

# Assessing the Information Needs of Bioinformatics Researchers

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## Background

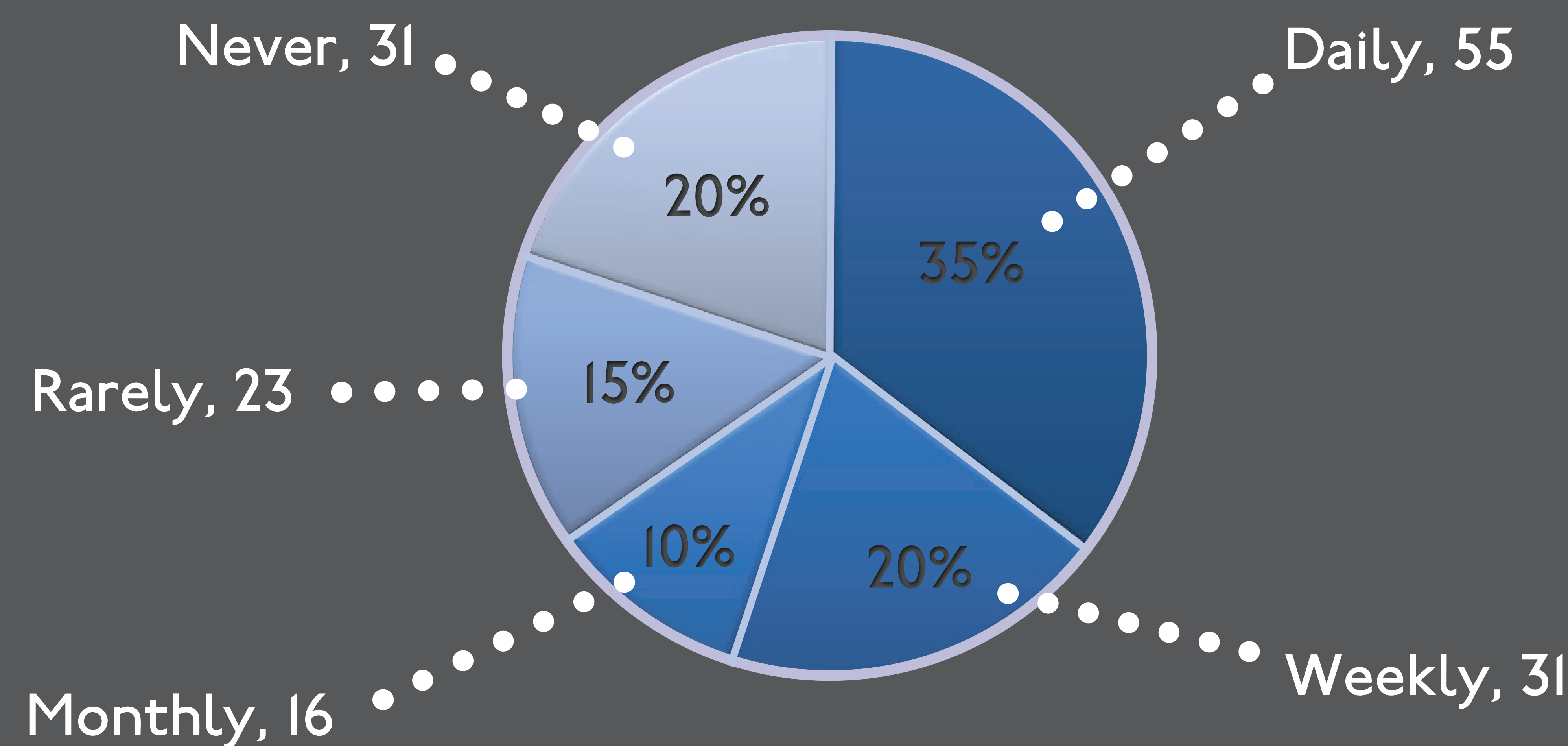
- Project purpose was to assess the information needs of faculty, staff and students involved in bioinformatics research in order to develop a robust program of research support.
- Needs assessment was part of a larger project that ran from May 2012 – April 2013. (Funded by NNLM/SEA HHS-N-276-2011-00004-C)

## Methods

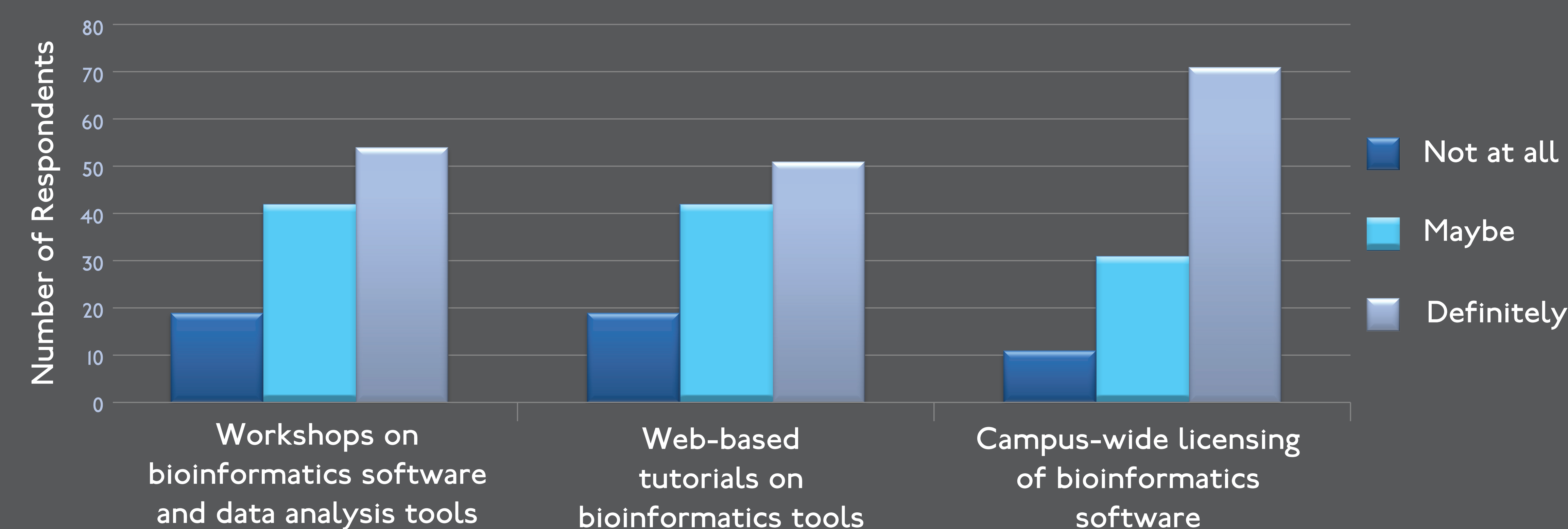
- Designed a 14 question survey using SurveyMonkey™; advertised via email to target audience.
- Respondents were 69 faculty members, 13 research staff, 14 postdocs, and 15 graduate students.
- Participants were from the Schools of Medicine (100), Dentistry (6), Nursing (2), and Pharmacy (5).
- Held two hour-long focus group sessions; participants drawn from survey respondents.

## Selected Survey Results

How often do you use online bioinformatics databases or software tools (e.g. NCBI databases, UCSC Genome Browser, Vector NTI, Ingenuity Pathways Analysis) for your research?



Would you use the following services if they were offered by the Health Sciences and Human Services Library?



## Conclusions

- There is no single bioinformatics tool the Library can license campus-wide that will be widely used by researchers.
- Training opportunities for online resources are welcomed by campus researchers.
- Focus groups indicate that researchers are unaware of the many resources available to them on campus.

## Action Plan

- Investigate obtaining campus licenses for those resources that are used most widely.
- Hire a research informationist to provide advanced level, expert collaboration.
- Design a referral service that points to service centers and research cores within the University.
- Continue to offer distant hands-on virtual bioinformatics training via the NIH Library.
- Licensed OpenHelix™, a collection of over 100 tutorials on web-based bioinformatics and genomics resources.