
Subject: Re: Getting Help in On-Line Communities
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 04 Mar 2012 23:23:19 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Craig Markwardt writes:

> It's a nice article, and it's cute that the article was written collaboratively on a wiki.
>
> <rant>
> But how did this get into a computational biology journal? The editor should have flagged this as an off-topic paper to begin with. What next, "How to remove bio-slime from your indoor plumbing?" I strongly believe how-to information doesn't belong in scientific journals.
>
> And beyond that, 99% of what is said in that paper is redundant to Eric S. Raymond's "How to Ask Questions the Smart Way" from a decade ago. Why write a whole 2000 word paper about this subject when the following paper would have sufficed?
>
>> Do this: [1].
>>
>> [1] Raymond, Eric S. 2001, "How to Ask Questions the Smart Way"
>
> The bio-unique element of the paper, a list of 15 vaguely bioinformatics-related mailing lists, is tucked away in a separate supplemental document without any real commentary or editorial basis. Why did they choose some mailing lists and not others? How about including a map between bio-informatics specialties and mailing lists?
>
> I think the authors' article strongly deserves to be written, but it should have stayed on a wiki or on the web, not in a scientific journal.
> </rant>

Oh, Geez, I don't care *which* article people choose to read, but clearly Raymond's article is not getting as many eyeballs as we need! ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
