Welcome to a New Year!

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A new academic year begins...
Welcome to the 2017-2018 academic year!! It’s always a pleasure to see so many familiar faces returning for another year. We also want to extend a warm welcome to the incoming medical, physician assistant and graduate students, as well as recently hired faculty and staff. As always, there are number of changes. The most obvious is the newly renovated library, which has been a resounding success. The Innovation Technology Sandbox, One Button Studio, small study rooms, and ubiquitous technology provide opportunities for experimentation, invention, group study, and even relaxation. Look for exciting news about how we plan on transforming the second floor “quiet study” space into a more welcoming and functional area for quiet study and education in the Fall 2017 newsletter. We believe we have created spaces, and will continue to improve additional spaces, that truly support teaching, learning, research, discovery and innovation.

The Harrell HSL provides access via our website to an extensive collection of electronic journals, a large number of e-books, and a variety of databases and other e-resources including Web of Science, DynaMed, UpToDate, ExamMaster, Access Medicine, and the Cochrane Library. The library also maintains a small print collection. If we do not have something you need, we can get it through interlibrary loan. Library faculty provide search expertise and are available to answer your questions at the research help desk between 9am and 5 pm weekdays (717-531-8634) or via email, and provide customized instruction and workshops to help empower you to find the information you need, when and where you need it.

Also, welcome our newest faculty librarian, Bradley Long. He is our recently hired Embedded Health Sciences Librarian who will be located at Penn State College of Medicine’s University Park Program. For more information about Bradley see the article introducing him later in the newsletter.

So again, welcome. We invite you to stop in and take advantage of our expertise, extensive collections, space, and of course, just to say hello!
Welcome our Newest Library Faculty

We welcome Bradley Long, MSLS, AHIP our new Embedded Health Science Librarian at the College of Medicine University Park Program. He has a master’s degree in library science from Clarion University and previously worked at Central Michigan University where he was the founding medical librarian for the new CMU College of Medicine. Brad is originally from Marienville in Forest County and is excited to be returning home to Pennsylvania. Brad will be housed at the Park Avenue location, where he will provide service and support for the College of Medicine faculty, residents, and students at the University Park Program. He will be responsible for the overall coordination of library-related instructional activities and the integration of EBM into the curriculum. He will work closely with the Harrell HSL library faculty to ensure the University Park Program has access to all library resources, and comparable programs and services. We are excited to have Brad on board!

3D Printing in the Library:
Great for Teaching and Learning Anatomy!

Haley Nation, a graduate student and anatomy teaching assistant to medical and physician assistant students, had her “a-ha” moment when she modeled and printed a 3D replica of a section of the spinal cord: “Throughout my teaching, I have noticed students frequently struggle with understanding the anatomy of the sympathetic nervous system (and rightfully so!). This is a difficult dissection in the cadaver laboratory and therefore often not well appreciated. I thought that printing a simplified model would help students understand the potential neuronal pathways. I used TinkerCAD to create the CD model, and I found that even my understanding of the anatomy was enhanced.” In fact, this experience was so impactful for her learning that a workshop for all anatomy teaching assistants is being planned in conjunction with Hector Lopez, MD, Director of Human Structure and Integration.

3D printing is within your reach at the library. Download free models from sites such as NIH 3D Print Exchange or use software in the library to modify or create your own. It’s so much easier than you might think! We provide free training and consultation and free use of the 3D printers—you pay for the print filament for a very nominal fee.

Contact librarytech@pennstatehealth.psu.edu to get started, or check out our website.

Nancy Adams
Associate Director & Coordinator for Education and Instruction

@HarrellLib
Augmented and Virtual Reality in the Library

The Technology Innovation Sandbox offers augmented and virtual reality equipment and applications for all faculty, staff, and students to use.

Augmented Reality

Though you may have never heard the term augmented reality (AR), you are probably familiar with it thanks to last summer’s craze with Pokémon Go. By definition, AR imposes computer-generated images onto your view of the real world. Or in the case of Pokémon Go, you use your mobile device’s GPS to locate, capture, train, and battle virtual monsters who appear on your device’s screen as if they were in the same real-world location as you.

In the Technology Innovation Sandbox, we encourage you to try the Anatomy 4D application we have or bring your ideas on how you can develop your own augmented reality experiences for your students or patients. Maybe you could develop computer-generated anatomical structures that students interact with as they walk through the Simulation Center or computer-generated videos that patients interact with as they walk the hallways. We will provide training and support on learning how to develop your own augmented reality experiences.

Virtual Reality

Virtual reality (VR) goes a step beyond augmented reality by placing you in a computer-generated simulation of a three-dimensional environment that allows you to interact with it in a seemingly real way. In the Technology Innovation Sandbox, we have the equipment and software that allows you to experience a virtual environment such as walking the streets of Rome or traveling through the human blood system, without ever leaving the library.

Stop by, attend a workshop, or contact LibraryTech@pennstatehealth.psu.edu to try out VR and explore the possibilities for your learners, research, and/or patients.

Applications to Learning

After experimenting with the 3D Anatomy in VR app, Brennan Ross, a physical assistant student, exclaimed “This makes so much more sense than learning anatomy from a picture. It’s even better than a screen where you can move it in a 3D plane”. For example, Ross explains, “There are two ways that you’re always being shown the spine in images, but you don’t know how they relate to each other and how they translate. Virtual reality and 3D printing help you see instantly how they relate.”

How can I Learn More about AR and VR?

Below are three ways in which you can learn more about augmented and virtual reality in the library:

1. Visit the AR & VR webpage on the library’s website;
2. Schedule a consultation with the library’s educational technology specialist;
3. Sign up and attend a workshop by going to the Library’s Events Calendar.
When you need to locate research studies on a medical education topic, PubMed is the best place to begin. All of the top medical education journals are indexed in PubMed, as well as thousands of major and specialty medical journals which often publish research studies in medical education. But if your search ends there, it’s incomplete. You will also want to search ERIC, an index of journals in the field of education. Studies that are highly relevant to medical education may be published in the education literature. Finally, PsycINFO is a database indexing psychology journals where education-related research is often published, especially in learning and cognitive sciences.

Now it’s time to move on to methodology. Take a look at the FREE e-book, Conducting Research in Health Professions Education: From Idea to Publication, which is a collection of brief, informative articles from the AAMC’s journal Academic Medicine on topics from generalizability and validity to quality criteria in qualitative educational research.

For publishing your research, you may choose to publish in a medical specialty journal or in a medical education journal. Harrell Health Sciences Library subscribes to many of the top medical education journals—peruse a few copies and consult the author instructions of each journal to find one that is right for your research.

For more information or instruction on how to use the wall contact us at librarytech@pennstatehealth.psu.edu or call 717-531-8759.
Our poster “Library outreach to administrative professionals in a biomedical research institution” was presented at the 117th Annual Meeting and Exhibition of the Medical Library Association on May 30th in Seattle, WA. (authors: Ben Hoover, Marie Cirelli, Robyn Reed, Lori Snyder).


Amy Knehans and Nancy Adams were co-authors for “Individualized Patient-Centered Care: A Physician Assistant Curriculum in Information Mastery, Clinical Reasoning, and Shared Decision Making” accepted for publication in the Journal of Physician Assistant Education. (authors: David C. Richard, MD; Todd M. Felix, MD; Jay A. Zimmerman, MD; Nancy E. Adams, MLIS; Amy C. Knehans, MLIS; F. Samuel Faber, MD).

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Data Visualization Drop in Hours

August 4th, August 11th & August 31st - 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Stop by the Technology Innovation Sandbox to learn more about data visualization or to ask for help on a visualization project. Ben Hoover will be on hand to answer your questions and to go over the data visualization software available in the library, how to use the video wall, and consult on visualization best practices.

Upcoming Events

RSVP to events using the library’s events calendar

Date: August 8th, September 7th, October 4th
Time: 12 to 1pm
Title: Introduction to 3D Printing
Description: Join us for a FREE introduction to the world of 3D printing. Learn how to create a 3D model using Tinkercad and free online repositories; prepare your model for printing; send your model to the printer; and see your model print. See https://hershey.libraries.psu.edu/tech-help/library-technologies/technology-sandbox/3d-printing for more information.

Date: August 29th, September 20th, October 17th
Time: 12 to 1pm
Title: Make Your Own 3D Model
Description: Join Seamus Carmichael and Ryan Klinger for a FREE hands-on session in which you will design your own 3D model using Tinkercad. Participants will use Tinkercad to explore basic concepts in 3D modelling to design their very own 3-Dimensional model. Participants will be shown how to export and prepare their models to use with the library’s new 3D printing service. Bringing your own laptop is highly recommended. The first six participants will be reserved a PC/Laptop. See https://hershey.libraries.psu.edu/tech-help/library-technologies for more information.

Date: August 23rd
Time: 12 to 1pm
Title: Visualizing Your Data With Excel
Description: Topics covered with include the data life cycle, versioning, cleaning data, and Excel data visualization add-ons.

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