ANNUAL REPORT
2019–2020
This past year has been another landmark year for the Health Sciences Library. In 2019-2020 we continued to create innovative programs and provide new services to our university communities. The Library hosted its inaugural Library VIP event to celebrate its many supporters and friends across campus. This event was part of a larger initiative to engage in library outreach to the campus. The Library also participated in numerous on-campus and off-campus services activities and hosted events like our popular “First Thursdays” for students. All of these outreach efforts were well received and attended, and the Library was on pace to have its biggest attendance year ever!

Of course, COVID-19 derailed some of the momentum we had built during the year as we needed to close the Library for nearly three months. We transitioned to working from home during this time and continued to provide library services to our faculty, staff, students, and clinicians. The Library faculty and staff performed remarkably well during this time. We witnessed substantial increases in our services, including InterLibrary Loan (ILL), research consultations, reference questions, and literature searches. As the entire university moved to a virtual environment, the Library helped support this transition and ensured access to library resources and services and worked with our publishers to expand the number of resources available to our communities. The Library used its institutional repository, Digital Commons, to help provide an outlet for disseminating our faculty and students’ research that they were unable to present at conferences due to cancellation from the pandemic.

Even with the pandemic, the Library had a banner year with many notable accomplishments from our library faculty and staff. Our library faculty have been very active in many professional organizations, chairing and participating on numerous committees. They have also won awards for their research, presented papers and posters at professional conferences, and contributed several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. Indeed, it has been a remarkable year for our library faculty and staff!

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the fantastic library faculty and staff of the UTHSC Health Sciences Library for their remarkable efforts and hard work through what has been a very challenging, though also rewarding, year. I would also like to thank our university administration for their unwavering support of the Library and all of our friends, supporters, students, faculty, and staff. We have loved working with everyone at UTHSC this past year! As we look forward to the new year, we hope to continue furthering our contributions to the campus, forging new partnerships with other campus units, and doing our part to advance the university’s mission.

Sincerely,
Dr. Rick Fought
Q1 Greeting New Students

The first quarter was one of greetings, as new students began filling campus. Library staff were right there to show them the ways the library could help them as they settled into their academic life at UTHSC. While the Library was there at all the campus-wide events, it also greeted students in its own way debuting First Thursdays on September 5th. The Library purchased over 300 individual snacks and in the first five minutes, almost all of the initial snacks put out were gone! This event was so successful that it was repeated several times throughout the year!

Q2 Showing Off and Handing Out

The second quarter provided the opportunity for staff to show off their hard work at the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association’s annual conference. In between these trips, the Library also welcomed a new faculty member, Tamara Nelson, as a senior Research and Learning Librarian. Students also enjoyed some second-quarter fun with a “First Thursday” celebration that let students enjoy snacks while studying.

Welcoming VIPs

On October 3rd, the Library welcomed some of our best friends for a celebration of all that they have done for the Library and the students that it serves. The event featured great company, informational materials about the work being done in the library, as well as an amazing array of food. Attendees were also able to view the Health Sciences Historical Collections and its reading room while spending an evening in the Heart of the Campus.
The beginning of the new calendar year and the third quarter brought with it changes to the Library’s electronic services, more opportunities to engage with students, and more new faces to the Library.

The Library held another “First Thursday” event on March 5, where students were treated to donuts to make their study session a little sweeter. Another new face joined the crew in February. Some of the Library’s electronic resources got an upgrade in the form of Browzine being added to the Library’s homepage and a schedule an appointment feature was added to make accessing the librarians easier.

The new “schedule an appointment” feature went live in January allowing students to easily make appointments with their liaison librarians.

Browzine made an appearance on the Library’s homepage as a search bar thanks to Paul Gahn and the Electronic Collections Services Team.

The sites and scenes of the library became much more static during the fourth quarter. Due to Covid-19, the library had its doors shut for two out of the three months. Not even faculty and staff could be found roaming its halls. However, work had not stopped. The library’s staff was hard at work from the comfort and safety of their own homes, taking student questions, fulfilling many interlibrary loan requests, hosting workshops, and much more.

By the end of the fourth quarter, the library began to see more people with the limited reopening on June 2nd.
THEN CAME COVID

On March 13th, students visited campus for the last time until the beginning of the new academic year due to SARS-COV-2 making its way to Memphis. The Library followed and would remain closed until June 1. The Health Sciences Library was able to bounce back from what most would describe as an obstacle, adapting to a social-distanced landscape by providing expanded online service options, new workshops to help students navigate resources that became increasingly important, and working with vendors to make sure that student learning didn’t stop when coming to the physical campus did.

Coming Back

On Tuesday, June 2nd, the Library welcomed students back in its walls for the first time in almost three months with a bit of a different look. The heart of the campus could now be found covered in new signage and missing some chairs to promote necessary social distancing.

Expanding Resources

In response to the sudden shift in the learning environment, the Library sprang into action, with a coronavirus research guide to help students, staff, and faculty monitor the ever-changing situation. Electronic Collections Services was also there to help connect students with trials of advanced medical learning resources to assist them with their studies.

IR SAVES THE DAY

Digital Commons, the Library’s Institutional Repository, stepped in to provide a way for faculty and students to disseminate research they were unable to present due to COVID-19-related conference cancellations.

FLUFFY COWORKERS

Once Library staff was sent home to work, the Library gained some furry staff members. Pictured we see Corvo Rex Jasmin helping his owner work.

One of the realities of the “new normal” was that masks, once reserved for Halloween and doctors, became common place.
EVERYWHERE UT All across the globe people are downloading UTHSC research via Digital Commons.

MEET DIGITAL COMMONS

Digital Commons is the UTHSC Institutional Repository. Managed by the Library, it disseminates UTHSC scholarship and research to a global audience.

CHECK IT OUT AT DC.UTHSC.EDU

Health Sciences Historical Collections

Though the Health Sciences Historical Collections focuses on things that are old, there is always something new going on. In addition to curating exhibits for several Alumni Affairs events and the CDN Nightingala, HSHC hosted a screening of the documentary “Power to Heal” with an accompanying lecture by author and Johns Hopkins historian Dr. Karen Kruse-Thomas. Kruse-Thomas served as a consultant for the documentary, which tells the story of how Medicare helped end hospital segregation in the United States. Attendees received credit for the Office of Equity and Diversity’s Diversity Passport program.

New to the HSHC

Anesthesiologist and UTHSC alumni Dr. Kit Mays donated this 19th century doctor’s bag and several anesthesiology objects to the Health Sciences Historical Collections this year. An important new acquisition was a Latin translation of ancient Greek physician Galen’s work on the pulse, De pulsibus libellus. Published in 1537, this important work is now the oldest of HSHC’s rare books.

Thanks to the Simon R. Bruesch Endowment Fund, the HSHC was able to add three new acquisitions to its rare book collection. These include a Latin translation of ancient Greek physician Galen’s work on the pulse, De pulsibus libellus. Published in 1537, this important work is now the oldest of HSHC’s rare books.

LEFT Dr. Dianne Greenhill, longtime friend of the Library, and Jennifer Langford, Archivist/Special Collections Librarian, pose for a picture in the reading room at the VIP Event.

Presentations


Strahan, K. S., Jasmin, H. M., Southern Chapter/Medical Library Association, “Squaring the Circle Through Outreach: Building Student Engagement from Scratch!”, Savannah, GA, United States. (October 2019).


Publications


In addition to the research Kay Strahan did with Hilary Jasmin, Strahan was also elected to serve as the Memphis Area Library Council Member’s Caucus chair as well as the Memphis Area Library Council president.

Lin Wu had a busy year! She was appointed to serve as the Chair of the McClure Excellence in Education Award Jury, a systematic review, she assisted on was accepted for publication, and she attended a presentation she and Alexandria Quesenberry worked on received the first place Conference Research Paper Award at the SC/MLA annual meeting.

Randall Watts completed his NLM/AAHSL Leadership Fellowship this year. He has not been seen in the photo to the right with his graduating class. He also serves as the chair of the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association. He also serves on two Medical Library Association committees and contributes to UTHSC research.

Though Tamara Nelson only joined the Health Sciences Library in September, she has already had several accomplishments. Nelson was selected to serve on the Medical Library Association’s Nominating Committee as well as on the JAMA Network Advisory Board representing health sciences librarians.


Hilary Jasmin received not one, but two, awards at the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting. “The Future of Health Literacy in Focus Across the State,” MLA, Portland, OR. (May 2020).

Jennifer Langford was elected to serve as co-Chair of the Society of American Archivists’ Science Technology and Health Care Section. SAA is North America’s largest national archival professional association, representing more than 6,200 professional archivists.

Accomplishments and Accolades