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Director's Desk

Welcome to a new Academic Year and best wishes for the fall 2013 semester to all new and returning faculty, staff, and students! As usual Himmelfarb librarians and staff have been preparing for the upcoming year. Much of the Library has been refreshed over the summer. Take note that wireless access has been expanded with greater capacity. Check out the new chairs and study tables on the third floor. Enjoy the uncluttered views in the B103 computer lab thanks to new desks that house the monitors at eye level. Take a walk up the freshly painted stairs. Check out our camcorders and tripods as you prepare to create online tutorials.



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Faculty Profile - Hiroki Morizono, Departments of Integrative Systems Biology and Pediatrics

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Tell us a little bit about your current position or research/projects

I am on the faculty of the [Departments of Integrative Systems Biology and Pediatrics](#) and based at Children's National Medical Center, and have a research program into understanding inherited urea cycle disorders, and relating molecular defects to systemic metabolic disruptions. As a co-director of the Biomedical Informatics component of the [Clinical and Translational Science Institute](#) between CNMC and GW, I am trying to develop tools that will make it easier for researchers to find collaborators, and to manage and mine complex data.



What has been your biggest professional challenge?

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With the bleak outlook for funding of biomedical research, I think the biggest challenges remain ahead.

What has been your most memorable moment at GW?

When getting my GW faculty ID (so that I would have Library access) discovering how incredibly friendly and helpful everyone was here was my first introduction to the campus, and that impression has continued over the years with everyone I have met at GW.

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When Tim Berners-Lee created the World Wide Web in 1989, his purpose was to enable sharing of documents within the scientific community. As the web took off and the number of documents available on the web went from hundreds to millions, he recognized that his original hypertext technologies had their limitations. In the early 2000's Berners Lee became an advocate for the Semantic Web. In a 2001 *Scientific American* article he described the Semantic Web as an extension of the current web in which information is given well-defined meaning, better enabling computers and people to work in cooperation (*Berners-Lee, 2001*).

As the number of documents on the web grows exponentially and large open access datasets become available, the need for a functioning Semantic Web that can organize and make information findable on the raw data level instead of the document level becomes more urgent. For a long time the Semantic Web remained a concept that a community of computer and information scientists met and talked about in [World Wide Web Consortium \(W3C\)](#) meetings. They created standards including the Resource Description Framework (RDF) and began developing ontologies that could be employed in it to describe data and the relationships between data points. Now all of that work and planning is finally coming to fruition as applications of RDF are creating linked data on the web.

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Meet Julie Silverman, Associate Director, Collections and Access Services

Julie Silverman became the new Associate Director of Collections and Access Services in April 2013, returning to GW after an eight year absence. She was first hired as a student worker at the Burns Law Library, where she innocently asked how the letters and numbers that were written on the back of the title page were determined. That, as they say, was that! She then went on to work as a copy cataloger and progressed through various roles within technical services. During part of her eight years away from GW,



Julie served in a similar Associate Director role at the University of Colorado's Anschutz Medical Campus Library.

In her first few months at Himmelfarb, Julie has been working with the library operations team to create a more nimble and responsive collection. She helped launch a Patron Driven Acquisitions pilot and streamlined our ordering and receiving processes in order to reduce the order-to-shelf time. Julie is also interested in leveraging the Library's new catalog to further streamline processes and enhance the patron's experience.

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We have also been busy preparing for upcoming orientations and new classes. Take a look at our list of [Research Guides](#) designed to help you select the best resources for your education, research and patient care. Add an information app to your new mobile device at our [Mobile/Handheld Resources](#). Scan our roster of online tutorials on Adobe Acrobat X Pro, Camtasia, and BlackBoard Elluminate/Collaborate on our [Tutorials](#) page. Check out the many recent accomplishments of our faculty in the Schools of Medicine and Health Sciences, Public Health and Health Services, and Nursing in the [Health Sciences Research Commons](#), a repository of faculty papers and presentations.

We look forward to meeting your information needs. We also welcome your input! You may contact me at 202-994-1826 or alinton@gwu.edu. The Library's e-mail address is himmelfarb@gwu.edu. The telephone number for the reference desk is 202-994-2850. Or send us an instant message by clicking on the "Ask Us" button on the home page.

Finally, don't let the stresses and non-stop activities of the fall semester get you down. Join friends and colleagues in Himmelfarb for sessions on art therapy, healthy diet, physical fitness and more as part of the GW [Healthy Living @ Himmelfarb](#) program.

Best of luck for the fall semester!

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What has been your biggest professional challenge?

With the bleak outlook for funding of biomedical research, I think the biggest challenges remain ahead.

What has been your most memorable moment at GW?

When getting my GW faculty ID (so that I would have Library access) discovering how incredibly friendly and helpful everyone was here was my first introduction to the campus, and that impression has continued over the years with everyone I have met at GW.

How did you become interested in your field?

The way in which systems are interconnected in Biology has always fascinated me. I grew up in the suburbs of Perth and there was a patch of bush next our house of several acres, where I would spend most of my free time. I remember watching sundew plants capturing ants, teasing out antlions from their funnels in the sand, and being surrounded by all sorts of wildlife and plants. Now the systems are proteins not organisms, but interest in learning how they work together still remains.

What library resources or services have you found to be the most useful?

The Library staff go out of their way to help you refine your questions so that you can find what you are looking for, and are tremendously helpful in suggesting alternative search strategies. The Library website is also an incredibly rich and well-maintained resource that I visit on a nearly daily basis.

Whom do you admire?

There are a great many people I admire, but my maternal grandmother probably is one of the most influential. She started a cooperative of farmers' wives in postwar Japan, and made and sold [tsukemono \(pickles\)](#) so that the families could raise income for necessities such as medicine. The coop is still thriving, and went on to win numerous regional and national awards both for their products as well as being an exemplar of village revitalization. The ways in which she overcame obstacles and motivated others is something I often think about. She passed away this spring at

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age 99, so has been on my mind.

How do you spend your free time?

With three growing boys at home, it feels like a lot of that time is spent as a chauffeur, taking them from activity to activity. Cooking and barbecuing are other things I enjoy.

How do you relax?

I read a fair amount of speculative fiction when I have time for myself. Thinking about possible experiments I find quite relaxing and engaging-Thinking about how to fund those, or the paperwork involved in initiating experiments, not so much.

What advice would you give to a new faculty member just starting at GW?

Find a supportive mentor, and find out what research resources are available at GW and in the DC area. There are so many people who are looking for ways to work together. Learn what excites you and why, then do your best to communicate that to your students.

What are your future plans?

After taking down my shingle, I'll probably be qualified to be a catheter. But until then, I want to keep working on things that interest me, and grow the lab and train more students.

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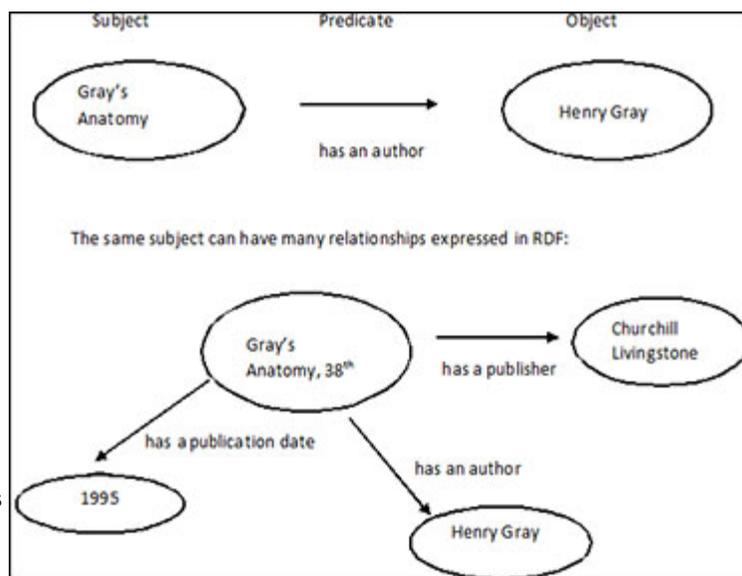
Plugged-In: Linked Data: The Semantic Web Application That's Changing How Information Is Organized on the Web

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RDF and ontologies provide links in the form of "the triple." A triple consists of a subject, a predicate, and an object. The predicate describes the relationship between the subject and the object. Here is an example:

Linked data has the potential to make the web like a giant database that can be queried using these data standards. Each subject has a unique resource identifier (URI) assigned that can be used by web programmers to tap into RDF and pull additional data about the subject into a web page or application. An example of an application is the [Google Knowledge Graph](#). Try searching a famous individual, like [Frank Netter](#), on Google. Likely a box will appear to the right of your search results with a portrait and key facts about the individual's life (birth date and place, education, etc.). Additional graphic buttons appear in a gallery leading to related publications or individuals that can be explored. This is all coming from linked data that Google is creating.



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Linked data has many potential applications within the life and health sciences to improve research and access to information. The [BIO 2 RDF](#) project is using RDF to build an ontology to simultaneously query open access life sciences data sources, including PubMed and Entrez. A recent Semantic Web conference included a session on using RDF as a universal healthcare exchange language to improve patient data portability. The [W3C Health Care and Life Sciences Interest Group](#) developed linked data for some genomic and drug data sets and published recommended practices for continuing this work on other data sets (Marshall, 2012).

Linked data also has the potential to transform library data. Karen Coyle, an expert on library bibliographic standards, argues that in order to stay relevant, libraries must use tools like linked data to be interconnected to the larger web of data (Coyle, 2010). Catalogers at major academic libraries, including Gelman Library at GW, are working with the Library of Congress to develop standards and practices for incorporating linked data into catalog records. The project is known as [BIBFRAME](#). This will allow libraries to pull valuable data into discovery tools to enhance search results, providing answers to users at the data level. It will also allow search engines and other applications to pull data out of catalog records to provide answers to their users.

Although the future seems bright for linked data and its developers, there are information scientists who believe it is impossible to build frameworks and ontologies to make order of a web of data measured in terabytes. Linked data may be just a baby step in the evolution of the Semantic Web. But it is an important step forward and is now on the verge of resulting in real applications that will improve data retrieval and accessibility.

Want more information on the Semantic Web and linked data? Here are some resources:

TED Talk - Tim Berners Lee: The Next Web of Open Linked Data

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OM6XIICm_qo

What is an Ontology?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfUPLuPL3Ho>

Linked Open Data: What Is It?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uju4wT9uBIA>

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Berners-Lee, Tim (2001). The Semantic Web. *Scientific American*, 284(5), p. 34-43.

<http://www.nature.com/scientificamerican/journal/v284/n5/pdf/scientificamerican0501-34.pdf>

Coyle, Karen (2010). Understanding the Semantic Web: bibliographic data and metadata. *Library Technology Reports*, 46(1), p. 5-11.

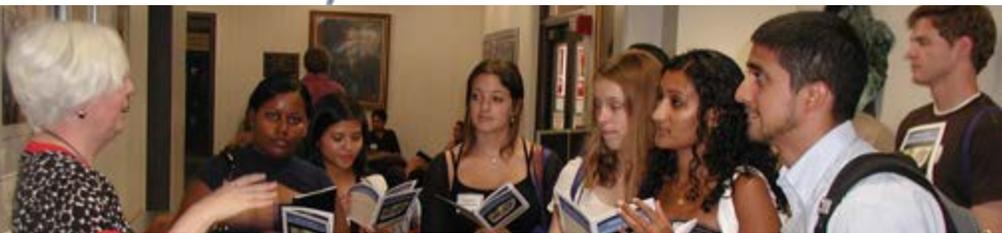
Marshall, M. Scott, Richard Boyce, and Helena F. Deus (2012). Emerging practices for mapping and linking life sciences data using RDF - A case series. *Web Semantics: Science, Services and Agents on the World Wide Web*, 14(July), p. 2-13.

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Amirsys Imaging Reference Center has applications for education as well as clinical reference. You can use the images and expert commentary to teach your students and residents about imaging concepts, and can also use Amirsys' images as a clinical reference resource. For each of the 4,000 diseases and conditions covered in Amirsys, users can display the relevant images as well as a concise structured reference article covering key facts and terminology, imaging, differential diagnosis, pathology, clinical issues, diagnostic checklist, and key references.

The screenshot shows the Amirsys interface for 'Sports Hernia'. The left sidebar contains a table of contents for the article, including sections for 'MAGING', 'General Features', 'Imaging Recommendations', 'Radiographic Findings', 'CT Findings', and 'MR Findings'. The main content area displays the article text and a grid of 22 images. The top navigation bar includes a search bar and links for 'Home', 'About Himmelfarb Headlines', and 'Ask Us'.

For specific images, users can review brief expert analysis of the image.

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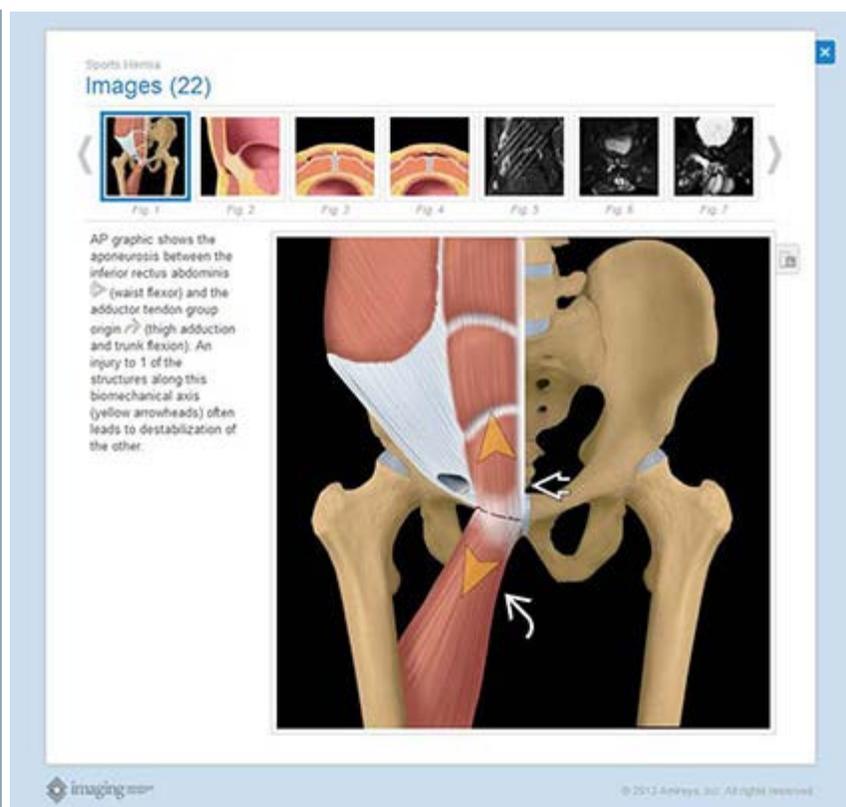
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The interface for Amirsys Imaging Reference Center is easy to use: a powerful, natural language search engine provides rapid results; individual images can be saved as PowerPoint slides; disease/condition articles can be printed into documents that include thumbnails of relevant images.

Amirsys Imaging Reference Center is linked from the [E-Databases webpage](#) on the library website and appears in the Clinical/Evidence-Based Medicine section. Amirsys also available from within [MEDLINE](#) by moving from the Search tab to the Amirsys tab. Amirsys is available from on-campus locations including the GW Hospital with no remote login required, and is also fully accessible from off-campus locations via [VPN/GWireless](#) and WRLC Library Services login (formerly ALADIN). If you have questions, please [ask us](#) or contact Laura Abate at leabate@gwu.edu.

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Part of the job as Associate Director is marketing the collection to the faculty, staff and students of the three schools that the Library serves. Julie would like to utilize the departmental liaisons to help alert various groups to new resources and highlight items that are under-utilized. She would also like to brainstorm with her colleagues to determine if there is any new way to reach our users. Do we need a Twitter account? Should we increase our Facebook activity? Himmelfarb is fortunate to play a key physical role in the lives of our students, faculty, and researchers - perhaps the answer is in low-tech posters and tabletop displays. Julie adds, "I wish I could say I have a brilliant idea that will solve this conundrum but this is a challenge that is not so easily solved."

Another part of Julie's new position will be teaching a small group in the School of Medicine and Health Services Problem-Oriented Case-Based Learning (PCL) course as an Informatics Tutor. To prepare for this new experience, Julie was fortunate to have the opportunity to shadow the last three PCL sessions at the end of the spring semester. Over the summer, she had many discussions regarding the PCL format and experience with several of her library colleagues and read through Dr. Riegelman's *Studying a Study and Testing a Test* textbook and the first case documents. PCL is new territory for Julie and she is looking forward to the experience.

Away from the Library, Julie is training for her first marathon, the Marine Corps Marathon in October 2013, and also spends many weekends training with friends on an obstacle course in preparation for various "mud runs." "Unfortunately, I tend to have two left feet so please don't be alarmed if I look particularly bruised on some Monday mornings!" When she is not running, Julie enjoys spending time with her husband, young son, and their "small menagerie." Julie is thrilled to return to GW and is very excited to see what the year will bring. If she can be of any help, please do not hesitate to contact her.

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