In order to reach out to various groups of our patron base, the librarians developed new initiatives and took on new roles to expand the scope of our responsibilities. The new outreach initiatives included a film series with panel discussions, an instructional technology series by faculty for faculty, hosting symposiums for faculty on the use of instructional technology in education. The goal was to expose physicians to new instructional techniques and resources. As one of the few entities that serves all areas of the medical center (multiple schools, the hospital, the faculty practice group), the library looks for opportunities to develop or host activities that will bring together members from these different areas who might not otherwise interact. During the past year, we were fortunate to be involved in several activities that met this goal. In addition, organizing the various events provided new areas for librarians to develop skills including event planning, exhibition development, cross-departmental collaboration, and strengthening ties with students.

Art Show
Originating in 1979, the Art Show has become an annual tradition in April. Submissions of artwork from Medical Center faculty, staff and students are accepted in all types of media. This year (April 2010), the submissions include paintings, photography, jewelry, sculpture, glasswork, and fiber arts. The month-long show begins with an opening reception, highlighting the artists and their works.

Medical Education Futures Study Project
Initially contacted to conduct a tutorial on searching MEDLINE, the librarian teaching the tutorial quickly became an active partner in the project. Functioning as the personal librarian for those faculty and staff on the project, she conducted searches, set up alerts and provided information on publication options, as well as information on Excel graphing features and any other library services needed by the group.

Exhibits
The Library has hosted two very different types of exhibits. The NLM traveling exhibit, “Changing the Face of Medicine” arrived in late September 2009 and stayed for about five weeks. The library co-hosted the exhibit with our chapter of the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) and launched the exhibit with an opening reception featuring a prominent GW woman physician as the keynote speaker. In addition, a smaller Himmelfarb exhibit was created featuring women physicians profiled in the NLM exhibit who had ties to GW as faculty or students.

In March 2010, the Library hosted a World AIDS Day poster exhibit featuring artwork by children from around the world, co-sponsored with the School of Public Health and Health Services. The exhibit featured the winning posters from the PEPFAR International AIDS Day Poster Contest on the theme of “Celebrate Life.” Entries were accepted from children between the ages of 5 and 20, and the winners represented five continents.

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