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Himmelfarb Headlines (2009 - present)

Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library

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11-2023

## Himmelfarb Headlines - November/December 2023

George Washington University, Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library

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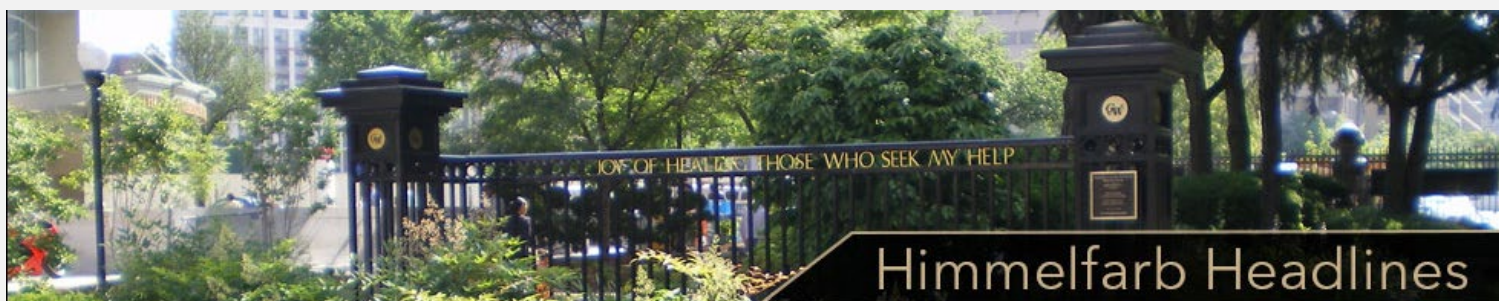
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## Himmelfarb Headlines: November/December 2023

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### Director's Desk

As I write this, the fall calendar is winding down and it seems we're only a few weeks away from the end of the semester. With academic calendars, it seems we're always on the verge of ending and beginning. As you consider the educational, clinical, and research work that you've undertaken this fall - and also look forward to renewed efforts in 2024, I wanted to remind you about resources available to you via Himmelfarb Library.


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### What's New at Himmelfarb Library

We have recently installed brand new whiteboards in our study rooms! In order to take advantage of these, [reserve a study room today](#). Study rooms must be reserved in advance.



#### Winter Break

The Himmelfarb Library will close at 6:00 pm on December 23, 2023, and will remain closed until January 2, 2024, when we open at 7:30 am. We wish you all a safe and happy Holiday season! Spring semester classes begin on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

#### Now Streaming

Check out [The Script - Queer Futures](#), a collection of interviews that explore the relationships between trans and nonbinary

communities with commentary from medical providers regarding gender-affirming care. To access this film, make sure you are connected to the [GWU VPN](#).

## New Library DEI Policy

Himmelfarb Library recently instituted a [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Policy](#), which lays out principles that guide our organization's engagement with DEI issues. The policy also provides opportunities for our users to provide feedback.



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## Systematic Reviews - New Himmelfarb Policy

More and more, systematic reviews are a popular scholarly activity for students and faculty alike. A properly done systematic review surveys all relevant published and unpublished data in order to answer a specific research question (or questions). Because the intent of a systematic review is to be an exhaustive synthesis of all pertinent information, it requires that a very thorough search be performed. Because of this, librarians are often recruited to assist with these projects as they have the skills and experience needed to thoroughly mine a wide range of information sources. [The Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions](#) even indicates the necessity of including a [librarian or information specialist](#) from the very beginning of a systematic review project



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## Core Title List Project

For the past several months, Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library has been working to update its Core Title List, a list of books that are considered required or essential reading for students, faculty, and other members of the Himmelfarb community. This includes titles required on syllabi from the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the School of Nursing, and the Milken Institute School of Public Health, as well as additional books recommended by individual departments. The Core Titles list allows the library to easily check for new editions, as well as allowing us to check titles' usage and determine which books merit multiple copies or ebook licenses. The updated List is also providing expanded representation for titles required by the Nursing and Public Health programs.



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## Staff Profile - Introducing Rebecca Kyser, Reference and Instruction Librarian

Learn more about Himmelfarb Library staff members. In this issue, we learn more about Rebecca Kyser, Reference and Instruction Librarian.



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## Student Spotlight - Meet Mehrshad Fahim Devin, MPS a first year medical student

This feature lets us become better acquainted with the students that use the Himmelfarb Library resources on a daily basis. Meet Mehrshad Fahim Devin, MPS a first-year medical student.



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Research Guides take center stage on Himmelfarb Library's website, but what are research guides?

Research guides are essentially websites within our primary website that can help you find resources to support your work - including resources that you didn't know that you needed. Himmelfarb's research guides include:

- Tutorials for conducting library research and using specific online tools and databases - popular guides include [Study Design 101](#), [Covidence](#), and [Citations](#)
- Guides to help you consider how to foster change, teamwork, and communication - popular guides include [Antiracism in Healthcare](#), [Teamwork and Team Leadership](#), and [Correcting Misinformation with Patients](#)
- Resources organized by school, departments, programs, and even specific courses - popular guides include [Nursing](#), [Internal Medicine Residency](#), and [Exercise & Nutrition Sciences](#)
- Guides to support scholarly research and publication - popular guides include [Systematic Reviews](#), [Case Reports](#) and [Evidence-Based Medicine](#)
- Information on library services and spaces - popular guides include [Author Services](#), [Off-Campus Access](#), and [Borrow from Other Libraries](#)

Himmelfarb Library's collections are continuously evolving as we assess resource usage, cost and the needs of GW's health sciences community. To recommend resources, please complete a [Purchase Request form](#). You can explore the scope of our collection via [the one-search tool on Himmelfarb's homepage](#) which allows you to focus your search by material type (Articles + Himmelfarb catalog) or accessibility (Online Access), or to broaden your search to include all Washington Research Library Consortium libraries (Articles + GW & Consortium Catalog). Our library collections exist both online (databases, e-books, e-journals, and streaming video) and on-site (books, software, anatomical models and technology resources), and we're available to help you find and access what you need - just [ask us](#).

Finally, support and instruction are at the core of Himmelfarb Library mission. Himmelfarb librarians are available to provide individual consultations as well as [group instruction](#). [They can address a wide range of topics](#) from helping individuals develop literature search strategies to guiding groups on the use of key library databases and other resources. Our librarians will work with you to map out a session to enhance understanding and build research skills. To schedule orientations and instruction sessions, please contact the Reference and Instruction department at 202-994-2850 or [himmelfarb@gwu.edu](mailto:himmelfarb@gwu.edu).

As you finish 2023, I wish you a happy new year on behalf of Himmelfarb library's staff. We look forward to working and learning with you in 2024!

Laura Abate

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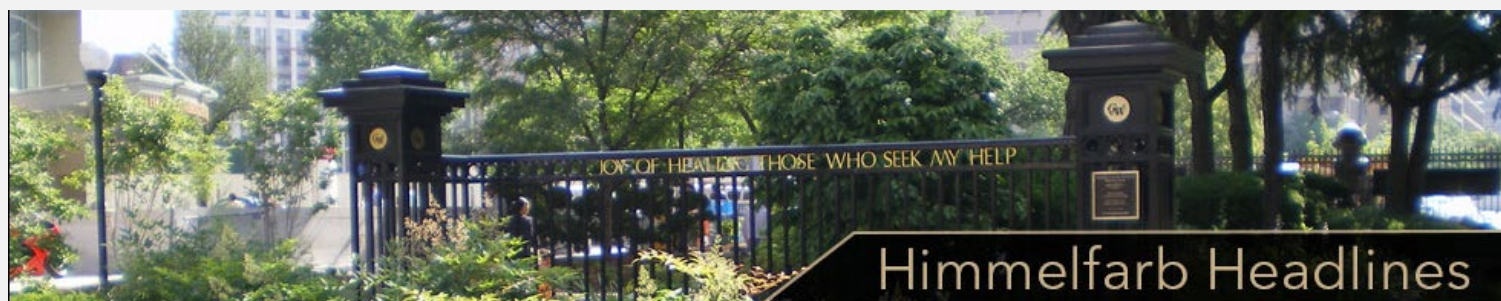
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## Himmelfarb Headlines: New Library DEI Policy

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### New Library DEI Policy

Himmelfarb Library recently instituted a [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Policy](#), which lays out principles that guide our organization's engagement with DEI issues. The policy also provides opportunities for our users to provide feedback.



The creation of this policy was a long-term project conceived of and completed by members of the library's DEI Committee as a way of better understanding and holding ourselves accountable to our mission of improving diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility throughout the library.

The policy, which can be accessed on the [Library Policies webpage](#), covers issues in six general areas: Equity of Service; Collection Development; Facilities, Safe Spaces, and Inclusive Environment; Communications, Publications, and Language; Hiring Practices; and Collaboration. We encourage users to report when the library fails to adhere to the policy, as well as to suggest improvements to the policy. The policy is maintained by members of the library's DEI committee and will be reappraised on a regular basis.

If you are a member of a student or faculty organization and are interested in learning more about the DEI Committee or would like to discuss potential collaboration opportunities, please contact the current DEI Committee Chair, Brittany Smith, at [bsmith91@gwu.edu](mailto:bsmith91@gwu.edu).

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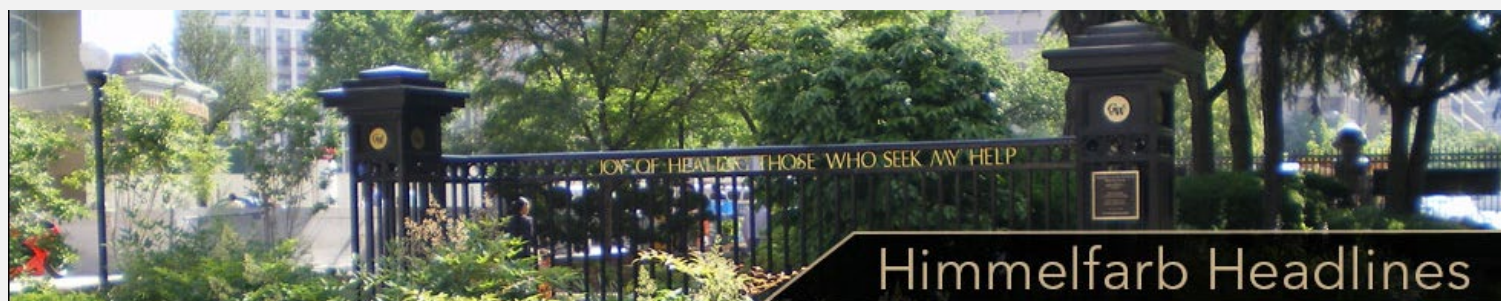
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## Himmelfarb Headlines: Systematic Reviews - New Himmelfarb Policy

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### Systematic Reviews - New Himmelfarb Policy

More and more, systematic reviews are a popular scholarly activity for students and faculty alike. A properly done systematic review surveys all relevant published and unpublished data in order to answer a specific research question (or questions). Because the intent of a systematic review is to be an exhaustive synthesis of all pertinent information, it requires that a very thorough search be performed. Because of this, librarians are often recruited to assist with these projects as they have the skills and experience needed to thoroughly mine a wide range of information sources. [The Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions](#) even indicates the necessity of [including a librarian or information specialist](#) from the very beginning of a systematic review project.



At the Himmelfarb Library, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of systematic review support requests in recent years. The projects we assist with range from stripped down versions of systematic reviews performed by a single student as part of a class project all the way up to full-blown multiyear projects involving a team of researchers, often collaborations between GW researchers and their counterparts around the world.

In addition to assisting with projects of varying scope and scale, we also offer different levels of assistance, depending on the needs of the researchers. Himmelfarb's contribution may just involve an initial consultation to help researchers understand the standard systematic review process. Most often we will also help to craft an initial search strategy which researchers can further develop, later offering feedback on search syntax as needed. Beyond acting as consultants, librarians can sometimes be full-fledged team members: involved throughout the process; crafting and executing full search strategies; and responsible for processing the search results. For these projects, the contributions of the librarian will sometimes even rise to the [level of co-authorship](#).

As our level of involvement increases, so too does our investment of time. Given the increasing number of such requests, and in light

of competing instructional, reference assistance, and other demands, the Himmelfarb Library will soon be instituting a cost-recovery policy for those systematic review projects which are the most time-intensive for librarians. For projects which require significant and regular librarian involvement, we will develop a cost estimate based on the number of hours we believe it will take to complete the project. These charges can be paid through grant or departmental funding available to the research team.

For systematic reviews which don't require a full-service level of support, which account for the majority of the requests that the library receives, we will continue to provide consultation services free of charge. The determination of whether a particular project will require cost recovery charges will be made during an initial free consultation with a librarian. This policy is set to go into effect in January 2024, if you have any questions or comments, please email Himmelfarb's Associate Director of Reference, Instruction, Access - Tom Harrod ([tph@gwu.edu](mailto:tph@gwu.edu)).

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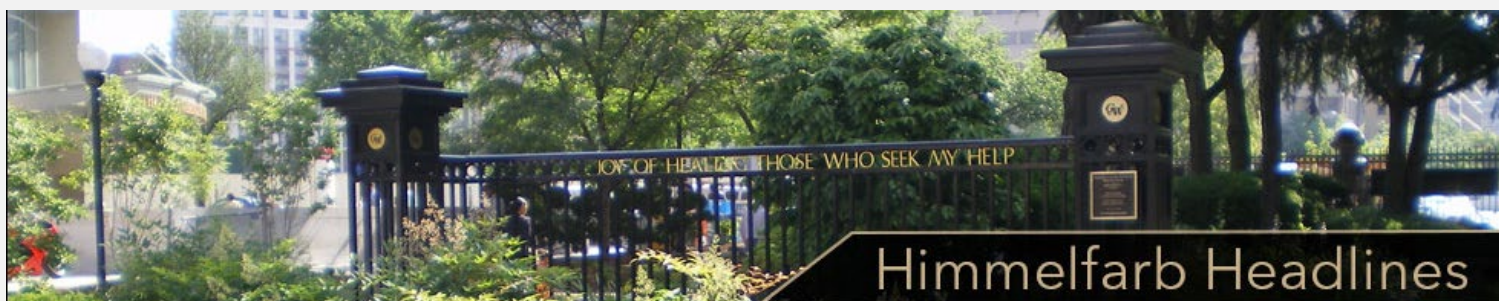
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## Himmelfarb Headlines: Core Title List Project

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### Core Title List Project

For the past several months, Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library has been working to update its Core Title List, a list of books that are considered required or essential reading for students, faculty, and other members of the Himmelfarb community. This includes titles required on syllabi from the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the School of Nursing, and the Milken Institute School of Public Health, as well as additional books recommended by individual departments. The Core Titles list allows the library to easily check for new editions, as well as allowing us to check titles' usage and determine which books merit multiple copies or ebook licenses. The updated List is also providing expanded representation for titles required by the Nursing and Public Health programs.



We started by collecting syllabi for all courses across SMHS, Nursing, and SPH and we spent much of the summer establishing which required and recommended titles we owned and working to acquire those we didn't. We then sent current title lists to departments for review. These lists were pulled from Himmelfarb's [research guides](#), which we use to advertise foundational books, owned by the library and organized by specific department. Department faculty were asked to review and suggest changes to these lists. This project provided an updated list of titles to inform purchasing decisions going forward.

But what does all of this mean for our users? It means updated (and more user-friendly) title lists on department-level research guides. Some of these updated lists have already been published: see the [Anesthesiology guide](#), the [Health Policy guide](#), and the [Epidemiology and Biostatistics guide](#) for examples of what to expect elsewhere. Additionally, the new Core Title List means that the library will be able to keep better tabs on which books are relevant for our users and have more copies (print copies and ebook licenses) available for our users.

Yet another way that Himmelfarb is working to meet our community's needs!

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## Himmelfarb Headlines: Staff Profile - Introducing Rebecca Kyser, Reference and Instruction Librarian

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### Staff Profile - Introducing Rebecca Kyser, Reference and Instruction Librarian

Learn more about Himmelfarb Library staff members. In this issue, we learn more about Rebecca Kyser, Reference and Instruction Librarian.

#### Share your path to Himmelfarb Library.

I've always been interested in medical misinformation. After graduating from college, I knew I wanted to go back to Graduate school for something, but couldn't quite figure out what. When my friend told me that Medical Librarians existed, I was delighted and applied to library school to get my Masters. The pandemic broke out the year I was set to start but given my focus on Medical Librarianship, I actually managed to make the best of a bad situation by working on projects related to Covid-19 and health misinformation. Then after a year of working as a Visiting Information Literacy Librarian, I managed to secure a job in DC and the rest is history.



#### Tell us about your position at Himmelfarb and what you do.

I am one of the Reference and Instruction librarians. My job is to provide instruction to the first and second year medical students in their classes and to provide reference services to the schools Himmelfarb services .

#### What do you enjoy most about your position?

I really enjoy working in medicine, as my focus in librarian school was medical librarianship, especially in the field of medical misinformation and retraction. It's wonderful to utilize my research interests as part of my day to day job.

#### What's been the biggest challenge?

Figuring out how to best organize and structure my day. I'm sure I'll get the hang of it as time passes, but there are a lot of

metaphorical balls to juggle. It can get very busy around here!

### What has been the best part of working at Himmelfarb?

Working with students, for sure. Part of librarianship is helping people get access to the information they need, so providing instruction so students can find information on their own is always rewarding.

### What jobs have you held previously that prepared you for your work at Himmelfarb?

I spent a year as a visiting librarian and instructor at a liberal arts college in Ohio: it really helped me sharpen my skills in instruction along with the basics of operating a library day to day. My work as a research assistant is what prepared me for Himmelfarb's medical focus in particular: I've spent a lot of time in PubMed, so I have quite a bit of hands-on experience.

### What do you like to do in your time away from work?

When I'm not working, I enjoy knitting, exploring the district, and playing board games. I carry around my latest knitting project everywhere, so don't be surprised if you find me getting a few stitches in during lunch.

### Where are you from originally, and what brought you to the DC area?

I grew up in the suburbs of Chicago and later moved closer to the city after college. I moved out to DC after a one year assignment after graduate school for this job: I was excited to be back in a big city again.

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### Student Spotlight - Meet Mehrshad Fahim Devin, MPS, Medical Student

This feature lets us become better acquainted with the students that use the Himmelfarb Library resources on a daily basis. Meet Mehrshad Fahim Devin, MPS a first-year medical student.

Mehrshad Fahim Devin, MPS is a first year medical student and recently earned first prize for his entry, Fall Ride - Roof of Kennedy Center, in Himmelfarb Library's [Fall Colors Photo Contest](#), sponsored by [Healthy Living @ Himmelfarb](#).





*Fall Ride - Roof of Kennedy Center*

### **Can you share your path to medical school?**

After I graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, with my Masters in Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Leadership, I had the privilege to work in the non-profit sector for a little while. I fell in love with innovating solutions to clients' issues and realized that I wanted to continue problem-solving in my career as a physician. As a result of this newfound aspiration, I hoped to attend a medical school that placed a heavy emphasis on public health. GW SMHS had opportunities for students to approach public health through the lens of entrepreneurship. I fell in love with GW's mission and their Clinical Practice Innovation and Entrepreneurship scholarly track, and here I am today!

### **How long have you been taking photographs, and what are your favorite subjects?**

I have always loved taking photos, but 99% of the time they remain hidden in my camera roll! My interest in photography especially peaked when I took a class in high school. Learning about concepts like "the rule of thirds" and "depth of field" allowed me to take photos that brought me a feeling of satisfaction. But I don't consider myself a professional photographer at all, just someone who enjoys casually capturing the beauties of the world. Beyond tons of selfies, my camera roll is filled with photos of friends, pets, nature, and dishes I cook.

### **How did you hear about the Fall Colors Photo Contest? Tell us about your winning photo.**

I first learned about the contest while browsing my inbox and it definitely piqued my interest. As I was walking around the Kennedy Center with a friend, we came across the rooftop patio and decided to have a look at the Georgetown waterfront. The sky, the skyline, the foliage, and the water were all breathtaking sights. I wanted to capture that moment to look back on later. Fortunately, while I was clicking away on my phone camera, a boat floated into the frame. I wanted to submit the photo to share the beauty I witnessed with the rest of my community.

### **What is your favorite part of medical school and or GW/Foggy Bottom?**

Medical school can be hard, but our community is definitely what keeps me going. We have such a colorful and diverse group of people at GW SMHS; it's hard not to feel at home in such a place. Everyone works very hard to achieve their dreams, but they do it together. It's this sense of camaraderie that is my favorite part of medical school. (Foggy Bottom is a nice little town too!)

### **How do you spend your free time? (or What do you do to relax?)**

I play video games with my best friend (shout out to Phoebe Qiu for all her support and goofiness), I write poetry, hang out with friends, discover new areas of DC, work out, and cook!

### What advice would you give to a new student just starting at GW?

As the great philosopher Doryi once said, "Just keep swimming!" I would be lying if I said that starting medical school in such a big city as DC wasn't initially an overwhelming experience for me. But it gets better! Enjoy the little things in Foggy Bottom or at GW, put yourself out there, and don't be afraid to take risks. All of your efforts will pay off in due time; that's a promise.

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