



Abstract

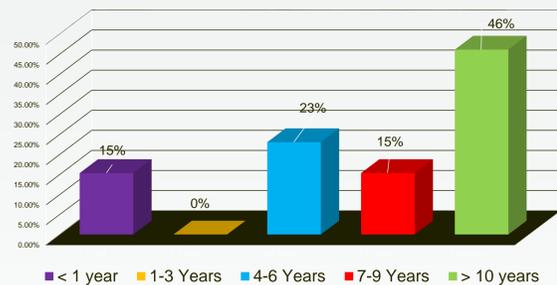
Librarians' traditional role is assisting with literature searches and reading others' research. Recently there has been an increase in librarians engaging in research projects.

This analysis represents a ten-year retrospective of the research activity of the Himmelfarb librarians focusing on the following areas: human research, first author/co-author publications and presentations, education/training, and other outcomes of unanticipated opportunities including new partnerships, grants and projects.

Methods

- Demographics:
 - 27.75 librarians at Himmelfarb in past ten years
 - Currently 12.75 librarians on staff
 - 5.5 librarians in Reference
 - 5.25 librarians in Library Operations
 - 1 librarian in Web Services
 - 1 librarian in Administration

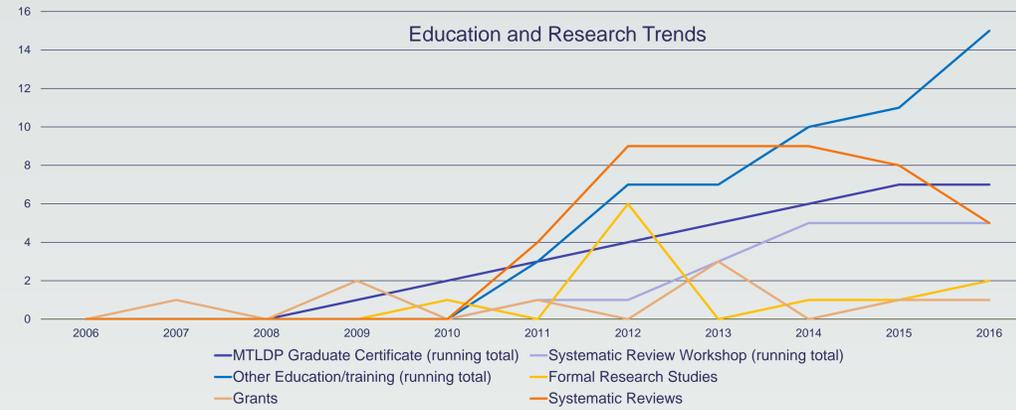
Number of years worked at Himmelfarb Library



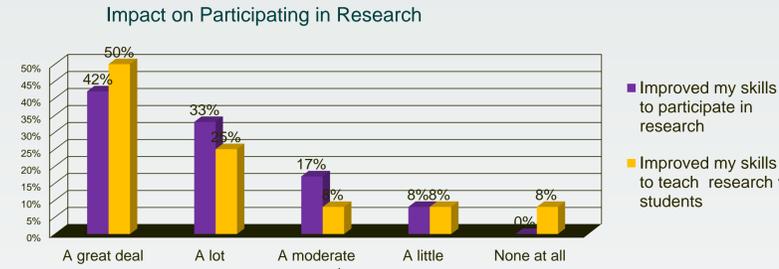
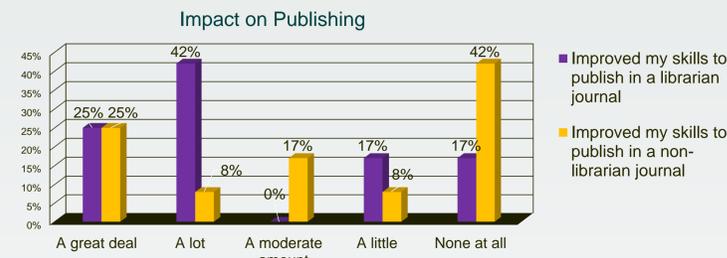
- Surveyed current Himmelfarb librarians about their involvement with research and grants, and educational training during the past ten years; also their thoughts about participation in and preparedness for research
- Searched MAC and MLA annual conference programs and websites for former Himmelfarb librarian research-related posters or presentations
- Searched the Himmelfarb Library institutional repository and GW School of Medicine Faculty Publications for research-related publications by current and former Himmelfarb librarians
- Searched Himmelfarb librarians' OrcIDs to gather any additional publications

Acknowledgements: Thanks to the Himmelfarb librarians for their enthusiasm and participation.

Survey Results: Training

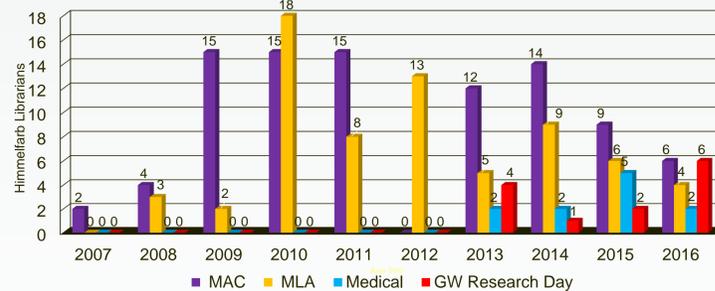


Reflecting on your experience receiving training/education, what impact did it have in helping you improve your skills in the following?

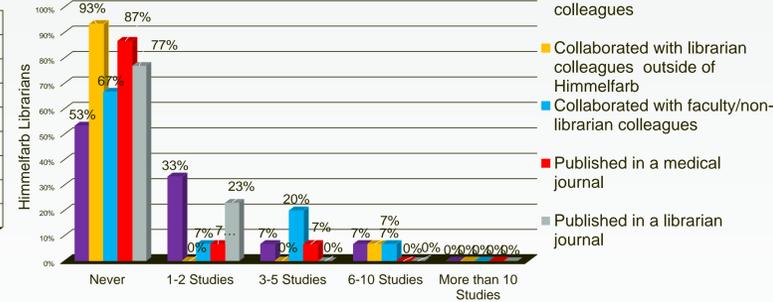


Survey Results: Research

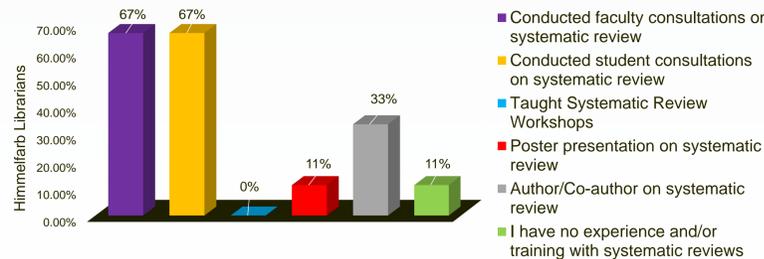
10-Year Professional Conference Participation



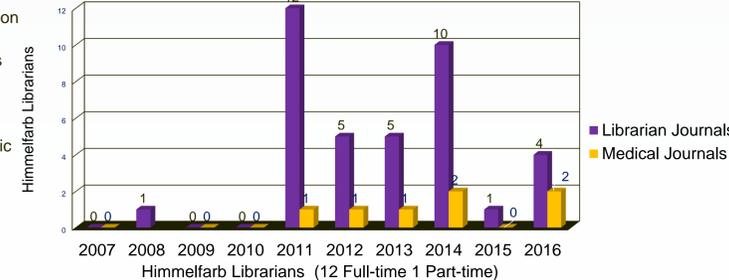
What was your experience engaging in an IRB Research study?



What has been your experience with systematic reviews?



10-Year Publication Out-Put

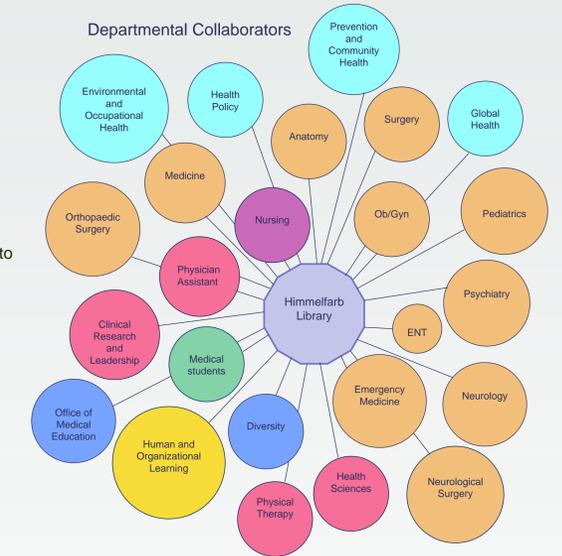


Conclusion

Himmelfarb librarians' increasing involvement in conducting and supporting research is reflected in increased presentations and publications (in both library and non-library related arenas), as well as increased confidence, greater comfort engaging with researchers, and a growing network of relationships across the schools that we support.

"...I understand the research enterprise more fully, I have greater confidence in participating in discussions, doing lit reviews, discussing statistical methods."

"It helped me realize the value of what I bring to the table and strengthened my interest in medical education research."



Lessons Learned

Librarians may be hesitant to undertake a formal research project. Using lessons learned from our experiences, we hope to encourage our colleagues to take the plunge and explore research topics that interest them.

- Preparation is important! Ensuring that librarians have the education and/or training for the research project gives the librarian not just knowledge but confidence.
- Create a culture of scholarship within the library; support must originate with the library director.
- Ease your way in. Get involved with small projects first like reviewing conference abstracts or posters (both professionally and within your organization).
- Look at external opportunities, but also take advantage of your librarian colleagues; create a community of practice.
- Success begets new opportunities – both internally and externally/professionally.