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Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library

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At last Fall's Student Orientation, Himmelfarb Library debuted its new Quest 2 Virtual Reality (VR) headsets. The two headsets were purchased in the Summer of 2022, thanks to a grant funded by the [Bloedorn Foundation](#). Both headsets come preloaded with the [Medicalholodeck](#) Medical Virtual Reality platform, a three-in-one educational app for teaching anatomy and surgical prep.

The first app, **Anatomy Master XR** features three-dimensional anatomy models of the human body to enable the efficient study of anatomy in virtual reality. The complete female and male models consist of over 2,000 carefully modeled, textured and labeled structures.

Dissection Master XR is a dissection and anatomy lab that uses human dissections created especially for anatomy teaching. A complete human cadaver is meticulously digitized in ten high-resolution layers, with over 3,000 named and annotated anatomical structures with links to additional information.

Finally, **Medical Imaging XR** is a system for rendering and manipulating objects based on medical imaging in VR. Used in hospitals for 3D surgical planning, in radiology for case reports and team discussions, and in medical education for surgery training. Users can select from preloaded CT slices and MRI scans or they can import their own DICOM scans.

Medicalholodeck can be used individually or by multiple users simultaneously via the Cloud XR virtual room. Cloud XR allows users to meet and collaborate in the same virtual environment, whether they are physically together or not. Additionally, users can also create their own lessons and simulations in VR, including the ability to record lectures for replay in VR.

Headsets can be checked out for up to four hours at a time from the Himmelfarb Library Circulation Desk. We recommend finding some unobstructed physical space to use the headsets, especially if you're working with others. One of the best spaces to experience the headsets is in the Levine Lounge (Room 305A) in the Bloedorn Technology Center,

which features ample space, as well as the large BodyViz workstation screen to which you can project images from the headsets. This is perfect if you have a group of three or more, so everyone can view the apps simultaneously.

If you would like a tutorial, email himmelfarb@gwu.edu to make an appointment with a member of the Himmelfarb staff. We will be happy to walk you through basic navigation in VR and help you get started using the software available on the headset, as well as how to project to other screens. You can also find walk-through instructions on [Himmelfarb's VR Headset research guide](#).

Speaking of the BodyViz workstation, [BodyViz](#) is a perfect complement to Medicalholodeck. The interactive anatomy visualization tool is designed to let users explore 3D anatomical structures, from viewing anatomical models and pinpointing structures of interest to performing "digital dissections." The BodyViz suite comes preloaded with a library of over 1,000 data sets. And because it uses the standard DICOM file format, you can even import your own data into BodyViz and generate your own models.

For faculty, BodyViz has features that support generating your own learning objects for use in the curriculum. The software allows you to create a preset view of an anatomical structure, either labeled or with pointers to areas of interest, which can then be pushed out to your students who can interact with the object in the 3D viewer and answer questions about what they see. Himmelfarb is currently looking to partner with a small cohort of faculty to explore this feature in depth.

The BodyViz workstation is located in the Levine Lounge (Room 305A) in the Bloedorn Technology Center. Users must first reserve [a time slot](#) in one-hour blocks, for up to four hours. When arriving for your appointment, stop at the Circulation Desk first to check out the wireless keyboard, mouse, and Xbox controller, which, when paired with the large viewing screen in the workstation, are used to operate the BodyViz software. Once at the workstation, you can sign in with your UserID.

If you're looking for other applications for the Medicalholodeck software, VR technology, or BodyViz library staff are happy to work with you to find those solutions. Email Ian Roberts, Acquisitions and Resource Sharing Librarian, at imroberts@gwu.edu or Catherine Sluder, Manager of the Bloedorn Technology Center, at crharris@gwu.edu.

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