

Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library, The George Washington University

Health Sciences Research Commons

Himmelfarb Library Liaison Letters

Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library

3-2024

Himmelfarb Library Liaison Letter - March 2024

George Washington University, Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library

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How to request resources

While the Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library works to keep its collection up to date and relevant to our users' interests, sometimes you may need something that we don't own. If you stumble upon a book or a journal to which we do not have access, there are several ways to bring this to our attention and get the materials you need.

Requesting items for purchase

The [Purchase Request Form](#), found on the Himmelfarb website, can be used to submit a request for the library to purchase a book, journal, a film, or software platform. This is the best option if the item is meant for ongoing use: something assigned as part of a course, a text that is foundational to a specific research area (perhaps a new edition of a book we already own), or if you feel that your colleagues will also benefit from the item. If the title is for a course, be sure to tell us approximately how many students are enrolled, as this helps us determine how many e-book licenses or print copies to acquire. When submitting book requests please try to tell us if you'd prefer us to acquire an e-book license or a print book. E-books are often preferred for their convenience, but bear in mind that publishers do not always make their books available for institutional electronic purchase. In any event, we will work with you to find the best possible solution.

Tips

- When to use the purchase request form: when the item is required for a course, or is a foundational text.
- When not to use the purchase request form: if it is a specific citation for your own research or if the book is for personal reading and not part of our collection area.

Resource Sharing: Documents2Go and CLS

Sometimes an item you need, while relevant to you, is not necessarily useful for the broader community that Himmelfarb serves. This could include anything from specific article citations you need to follow up on (such as niche research articles) to books for personal reading (such as novels). While librarians will consider any purchase request submitted, many items will be more appropriate for resource-sharing requests. As a bonus, these requests are also often made available more quickly than books we buy outright. [Documents2Go](#), our interlibrary loan service, can acquire books and article scans from across the country. The Consortium Loan Service (CLS) borrows print books from across the Washington Research Library Consortium which arrives in as little as 2-3 business days. For a more precise breakdown of Docs2Go and CLS, as well as how to place requests and find answers to frequently asked questions, see our [Borrow from Other Research Libraries research guide](#).

Tips

- When to use Docs2Go/CLS: when requesting a specific article from a journal that Himmelfarb does not subscribe to, when requesting a book for personal use, when requesting older books (Himmelfarb usually refrains from buying books more than 5-10 years old unless there is a specific need).
- When not to use Docs2Go/CLS: if Himmelfarb already owns the book, or if this is a required title for a course (in which case it's better for us to buy the title in question).

Not sure what you need? Ask!

If you don't know what title you want specifically, but have a general idea of what you need, please reach out to us and we'll assess the options. One of our [reference and research librarians](#) can help you identify options; they might even locate a title in our collection that you did not see. Our collections librarian, Ian Roberts (imroberts@gwu.edu), is also happy to research titles related to specific subject areas and check on their availability.

New E-Books**Clinical Medicine**

[Practical guide to visualizing medicine : a self-assessment manual](#)

Medical Libraries

[A history of medical libraries and medical librarianship : from John Shaw Billings to the digital era](#)

Medicine & Technology

[Voices of innovation : fulfilling the promise of information technology in healthcare](#)

Nursing

[Nursing : health education and improving patient self-management : intervention mapping for healthy lifestyles](#)

Public Health

[Within reason : a liberal public health for an illiberal time](#)

Women's Health Services

[Women's health across the lifespan : a pharmacotherapeutic approach](#)

Reference questions? Call 202-994-2850 or email us at himmelfarb@gwu.edu

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