Leading by Example: Diving into Research
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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

- 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

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Conclusion
Himmelfarb librarians' increasing involvement in conducting research has been a positive development. "I understand the research enterprise more fully, I have greater confidence in my research skills, and I feel a greater sense of ownership in the research enterprise. It helped me realize the value of what I bring to the table and stimulated my creativity." 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.