

December 2025 – Volume 20 – Number 1

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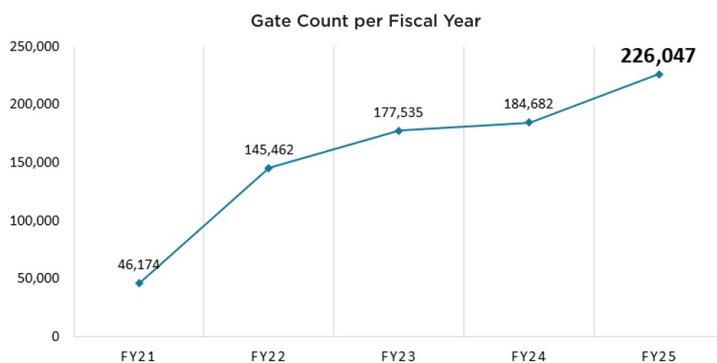
Dean's Message

As the semester draws to a close, the Health Sciences and Human Services Library (HSHSL) is humming! Over the last months I have been working with HSHSL leadership, librarians, and staff to complete the FY25 HSHSL annual report. This report will be forthcoming and shared on our website as well as through the next "Connective Issues" edition. As a preview of the annual report, I would like to share some of the data that we will include:



Emily Hurst, Associate Vice Provost and Dean, HSHSL

Gate count is an indicator of how many people are coming into the building. We have continued to see increases in the number since 2020 but FY25 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) saw a marked increase of 22% from 184,682 in FY24 to 226,047 in FY25. Gate count includes anyone coming into the HSHSL building. While our space is shared with other units, we are pleased to see the increase, an indicator that students, faculty, and staff are using spaces within the building.



Reference consultations or reference transactions are defined by the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL) as "a one-on-one information contact that involves the knowledge, use, recommendation, interpretation, or individual instruction in the use of one or more information resources by a member of your library's staff." Information Services staff and Research and Education librarians are highly engaged in

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supporting users and tracking reference transactions. In FY25, the HSHSL saw a 97% increase in recorded reference transactions from 3,825 recorded in FY24 to 7,560 recorded in FY25. Data in this area has been tracking upward since FY21.

I am proud to see more users coming into the HSHSL and more users interacting with our librarians and staff for their reference and research needs.

Also of note, the HSHSL restroom renovation project is nearing completion! We are on track to complete the work in early December. If you plan to be at the HSHSL on Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 10 – 11 a.m., we invite you to visit the restrooms on the first floor for our “tissue cutting” and open house event. Special thanks to Linda Wise and Jerry Anthony for their work in keeping this project on track, and to the UMB Facilities and Operations team for all they did to bring this project in on budget and on time.

In October I was pleased to welcome the local Goxxip Girl Art Collective to the Weise Gallery. This exhibit was on display from Sept. 15, 2025 – Nov. 7, 2025, and the Oct. 22 reception welcomed many of the artists to the space to share and discuss their work. I enjoyed meeting with the artists and learning about their inspiration and process.



Emily Hurst Addressing Attendees at the Goxxip Girl Exhibit

As a reminder, the [HSHSL 2026 calendar](#) would make a great holiday gift! This year we are also selling sticker four-packs of stunning botanicals featured in last year’s calendar. [Visit us online to purchase](#). All orders must be picked up at the HSHSL Information Services desk.

As we move into the holiday months, I would like to wish everyone a very safe, happy, and healthy holiday season.

Your Ideas Are Helping Us Transform the First Floor



Your voice really made a difference. Over the past month, you shared your ideas through our survey and the easel boards on the first floor. We also heard thoughtful feedback from the HSHSL Student Advisory Board. Students, faculty and staff across campus helped us understand how you use this space and what would make it even better.

Your feedback covered everything from seating and study zones to tech needs and the leisure reading area. These insights will help us create a first floor that feels more

comfortable, useful and welcoming for everyone who studies, collaborates or just takes a break here.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. We're excited to dig into your ideas and keep moving this project forward. Stay tuned for updates as we take the next steps to refresh this space together.

Consensus Trial Coming Soon!



The HSHSL will launch a yearlong premium trial of [Consensus](#), an “AI-powered search engine for scientific research papers.” Consensus uses large language models to search, analyze, and summarize research findings. It is designed to make it easier to explore topics, compare studies, and understand the current state of evidence.

The free trial, organized by the HSHSL, will begin in **January 2026**. Details on how to access the trial will be shared at the start of the new year. Stay tuned for more information on how you can try out this emerging tool and share your feedback.

Strategic Stewardship for UMB's Scholarly Future



Dennis Nangle, MLS

Hello, UMB community!

I'm Dennis Nangle, your new assistant dean for Resource Development and Access. Since stepping into this role earlier this fall, I've had the privilege of working alongside the talented teams that steward our collections, metadata, and historical resources. As we enter this season of gratitude, I can't help but offer my thanks to the HSHSL team for their warm welcome. Their dedication and expertise have made my transition both energizing and inspiring. I'm grateful to take part in HSHSL-wide efforts to enhance access, deepen engagement, and meet the evolving needs of those we serve.

In leading the Resource Development and Access Division (which includes Collection Management and Sharing, Historical Collections, and Repository and Metadata Management), I'm committed to advancing the HSHSL's mission to support UMB's academic, clinical, and research excellence. My vision centers on strategic stewardship of our physical and digital collections, and elevating the visibility and long-term preservation of UMB's scholarly and institutional legacy. I look forward to collaborating with students, faculty, and staff to ensure our resources and services reflect the vibrant, innovative spirit of our University.

I'd love to hear from you. Whether you're navigating a research project, preserving scholarly work, compiling your department's historical records, or exploring ways to make your scholarship more accessible, your insights can help shape how we support you. Don't hesitate to reach out; I welcome your ideas, questions, and aspirations as we build an even more connected and responsive HSHSL. You can [reach me by email](#).

NNLM Region 1 Awards Six New Projects to Advance Health Information Access



Network of the
National Library of Medicine

The Network of the National Library of Medicine Region 1 Office has awarded six new funded projects that continue to support the mission of the National Library of Medicine

of equal access to biomedical information to help individuals make informed decisions about their health.

These projects support digital inclusion, student mental health support, rural professional education, environmental health, and cancer information access.

Enhancing Technological Infrastructure to Improve Health Information Access and Care Quality: Support for a technology upgrade to a youth group home to expand internet access, train staff and support residents in finding reliable health information.

Health Literacy in the Laundromat: A Place-Based Outreach Model: Bringing trustworthy health information directly to underserved families into community laundromats for health education and connection.

Access to Wellness Resources and Programs: Supporting 1st & 2nd Year Students: Expanding access to Providing wellness workshops specifically designed for first- and second-year college students, for mental health support and stress reduction.

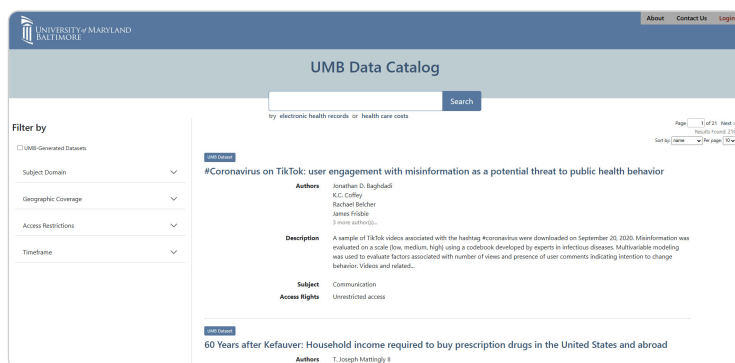
Rural Waves: Broadcasting Health, Empowering Communities: Supporting the expansion of podcasting health information to rural healthcare providers, strengthening professional learning and community connections in underserved areas.

Connected Camden: Public Wi-Fi and Environmental Monitoring at Community Art Spaces: Installing Wi-Fi at arts-based nonprofits in two neighborhoods facing air-quality challenges to link residents to NLM health resources.

Improving Prostate Cancer Health Information Access for Rural Older Adults in North Carolina: Partnership with rural public libraries to to evaluate the usability of a digital prostate cancer information platform to help older adults access reliable cancer information and improve health literacy.

NNLM Region 1 Office provides outreach, training and funding to 8 regional states and the District of Columbia.

Boost Your Research Visibility: Add Your Datasets to the UMB Data Catalog



The [UMB Data Catalog](#) is a finding tool for discovering datasets generated by UMB researchers. If you have shared or published data (e.g. as part of funder or publisher compliance), the Data Catalog can help make your data more visible and findable for future use. This catalog provides information about datasets and how to access them but **does not** function as a repository to store data.

The UMB Data Catalog is designed to:

- ▶ increase the visibility of research data generated by UMB researchers
- ▶ facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration by identifying common research interests
- ▶ support the process of data re-use and data sharing
- ▶ share metadata about datasets that cannot be shared publicly due to ownership or privacy concerns

It's now easier than ever to list your dataset in the catalog with the new [Include Your Dataset](#) form. You will be asked for author and affiliation information, a description of the data, associated publication(s) (if applicable), and instructions for accessing the data.

Link to your dataset record on your [ORCID](#) profile, your CV, or grant reports (e.g. RPPR, final reports) to document your data sharing and let others know how to access your data.

To accompany the new submission form, we also put together the new [UMB Data Catalog LibGuide](#), which provides more information about the catalog and what to know to submit your data! Please [email us](#) if you have questions.

December Hours



December Hours

Dec. 1, 2025 – Jan. 1, 2026

Monday – Thursday	6 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Friday	6 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Exceptions to Regular Hours

Dec. 23, 2025	6 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Dec. 24, 2025 – Jan 1, 2026	CLOSED

Season for Giving



As we move into the end of the calendar year and a time of thanksgiving and gratitude, we at the HSHSL would like to share our work in creating opportunities for development and giving. Earlier this year, Anna-Marie Epps, senior program specialist in Administration and Operations, began working more closely with Dean Hurst to create a development plan for the HSHSL. Her work has included a review of all current endowments as well as previous donors to the HSHSL. She has met with various members of the UMB Office of Philanthropy to learn more about the opportunities to engage with potential donors and develop meaningful options for giving.

For readers who are interested in donating to the HSHSL, the library website offers several [giving options](#). These endowments allow the HSHSL to provide support for library services, resources, and spaces. All donations are tax deductible.

Advancing Knowledge: Reflections on Open Access Week

In October, the HSHSL celebrated [International Open Access \(OA\) Week](#) with a five-day challenge designed to educate researchers on different facets of open access. The challenge focused on improving the discoverability of scholarly work through brief but meaningful daily activities, including creating an ORCID, locating OA journals, learning about repositories and data sharing, and utilizing MyNCBI. A total of 74 people registered for the challenge, and we received some great feedback. One of our grab-bag winners, Sanaya Shenoy, a first-year PhD student in the School of Pharmacy, summed it up best:

“Open Access advances knowledge generation. It enables critical review of scientific literature, which is a core component of my doctoral training. I sincerely appreciate the efforts undertaken by HSHSL to spread awareness about Open Access resources and help students across disciplines build a stronger research footprint.”



Sanaya Shenoy



Syeda S Batool



Mary Hackbarth

Congratulations to our prize winners:

- ▶ Sanaya Shenoy, PhD student, School of Pharmacy
- ▶ Syeda S Batool, Postdoc, School of Medicine
- ▶ Mary Hackbarth, MD/PhD, School of Medicine

On behalf of the HSHSL's Scholarly Communications Committee, thank you to everyone who participated!

Society for Clinical Data Management Shares Career Advice With UMB Students



In September, the HSHSL welcomed members of the [Society for Clinical Data Management \(SCDM\)](#) to speak to UMB students and trainees on career opportunities in their field. Emily Hurst, dean of the HSHSL, kicked off the event, during which attendees were able to engage with leaders from companies like Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson, Sanofi, Veeva, and more. There was also a special presentation by Dr. Eun-Shim Nahm, associate dean of the School of Nursing PhD program, on navigating career pathways in an era of big data and AI. This event was a great example of the innovative ways the HSHSL can connect UMB community members with each other and with partners beyond UMB.

Dr. Solomon Granville Moore Notebooks Donated to Historical Collections

In early November 2025, the Historical Collections department received a donation of two handwritten notebooks of Dr. Solomon Granville Moore, a 1906 graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore (P&S). The notebooks represent Dr. Moore's final two years at P&S and include course notes and diagram doodles from all required courses. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore was founded in 1878 by Maryland State law and was a competitor school to the University of Maryland School of Medicine until the two schools merged in 1915. Historical Collections collects and preserves the history of P&S and includes yearbooks, course catalogs, publications, and other items from the now defunct school, many of which have been digitized.



HSHSL employees attended the MACMLA meeting in Oct. 2025.

Comments are closed.