

Collaborating Within the Library: Bringing History and Impact to the Forefront

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Introduction

In library literature, one can often encounter examples of collaborations, particularly with partners outside of the library. Collaboration is a common element of organizational life and can prove to be useful as new services evolve or there is a desire to promote existing resources or services. Groups of library colleagues can come together in various ways on short term projects with results that can include articles and postings in various institutional news formats and websites, physical displays, presentations, and events. Projects at the Galter Library have brought together librarians from different library departments, service cores, and working groups, and provided them with opportunities to collaborate, utilizing their interests, skills, and expertise. The resulting projects accomplished through such collaborations involved various visualizations, displays, and presentations highlighting the impact of publications and library services over time.

Note: The department and working group names are listed as they were during the highlighted projects.

Sharing Expertise

NASIG Presentation and Publication

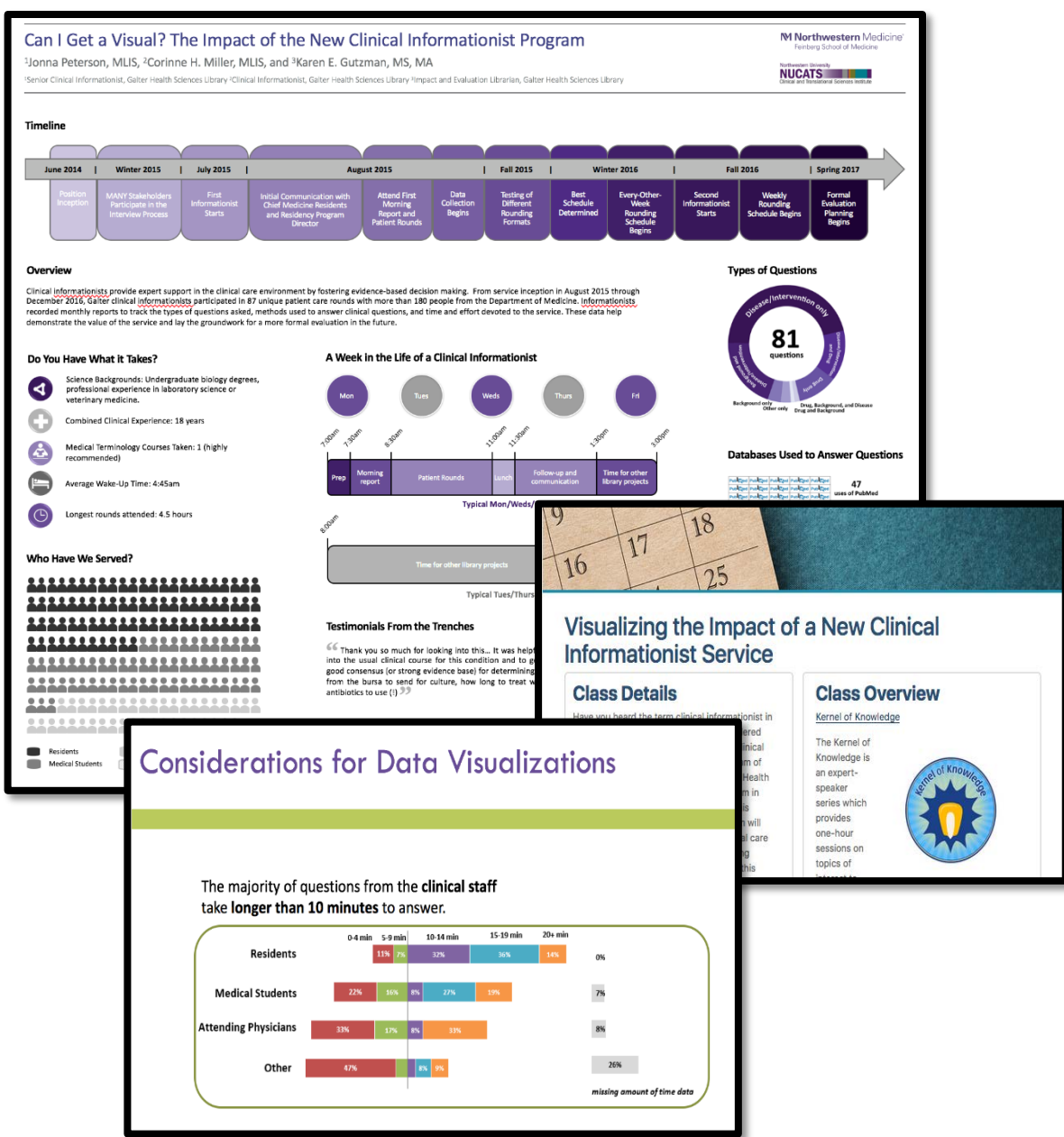


Collaborators:
Metrics and Impact Core, Digital Systems and Collection Services, External PhD Researcher

Overview:
A library collection assessment discussion grew into a pilot project, then a concurrent session presentation, “Capturing and Analyzing Publication, Citation and Usage Data for Contextual Collection Development” at the 2017 NASIG conference. The presentation was converted into an article for the conference proceedings in *The Serials Librarian* [to be published in 2018].

Link: <http://sched.o/8iRc>
Slideshare: <http://tinyurl.com/y7sgq9h8>

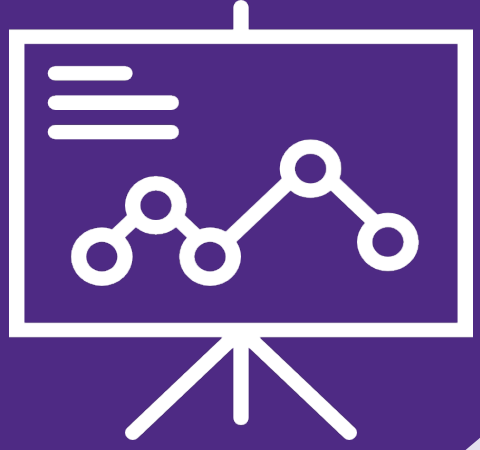
Clinical Informationist Presentations



Collaborators:
Clinical Informationist Services, Metrics and Impact Core

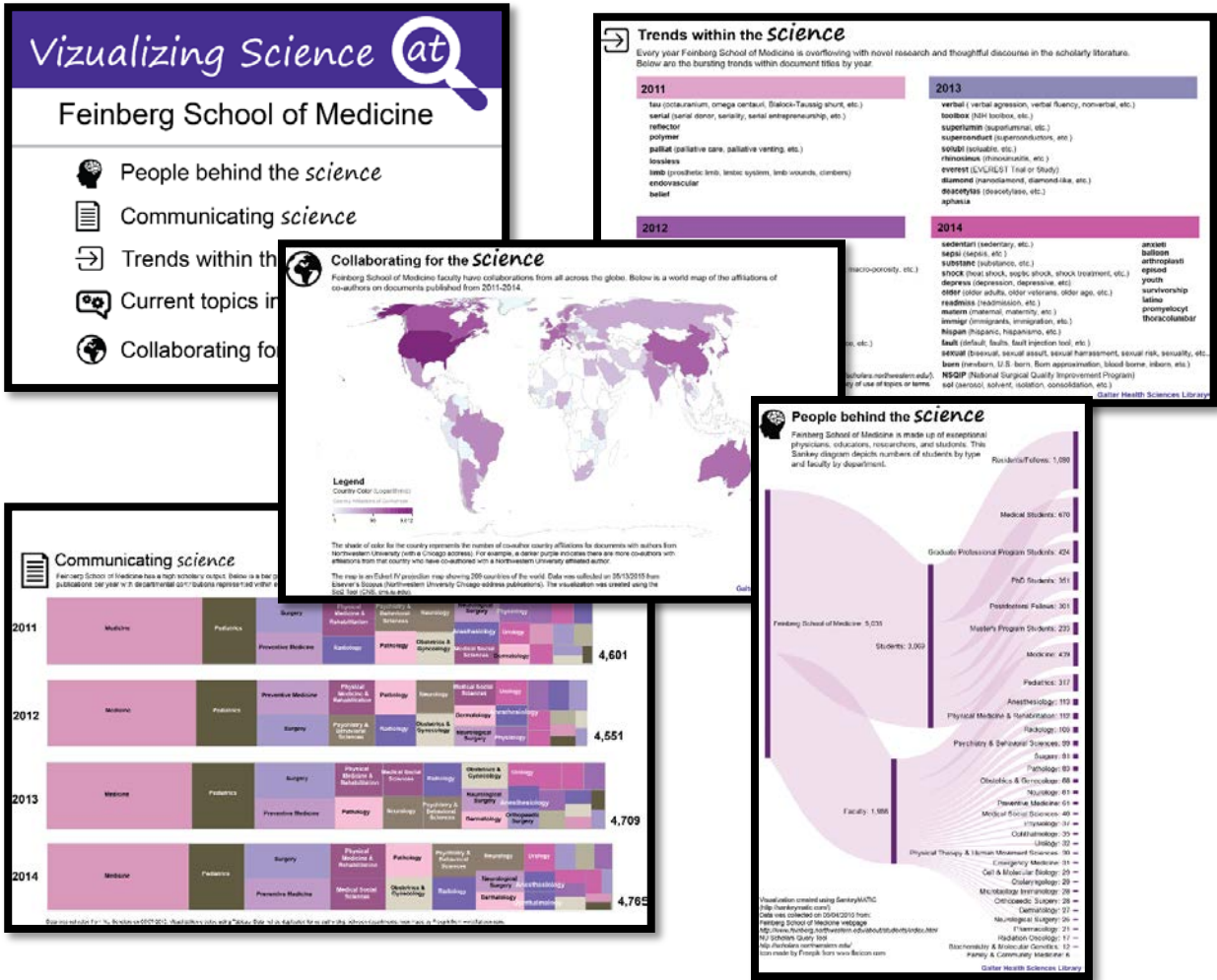
Overview: Visualization techniques were applied to data for the Galter Library’s Clinical Informationist Services since its inception in 2015. The collaborative effort resulted in a poster illustrating the value of the informationist service, presented at the Medical Library Association Annual Conference in 2017, and a National Network of Libraries of Medicine webinar.

Poster: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18131/G3P99J>
Slideshow: <http://tinyurl.com/y7g3jkdy>



Collaborative Exhibits

Places and Spaces Mapping Science Exhibit



Collaborators:
Metrics and Impact Core, Digital Systems, and Collection Services, Special Collections Working Group (SCWG)

Overview:
Galter Library created complementary exhibits, “Visualizing Science at Feinberg School of Medicine” & “Visualizing the Galter Health Sciences Library of the 21st Century” for display alongside the traveling exhibit of Dr. Katy Börner (Indiana University) called “Places and Spaces Mapping Science Exhibit”. The 2015 exhibit demonstrated the power of maps to navigate and make sense of physical places and abstract topic spaces.

Link: <https://galter.northwestern.edu/About%20Us/places-spaces-mapping-science>

Herman L. Kretschmer Display and Open House

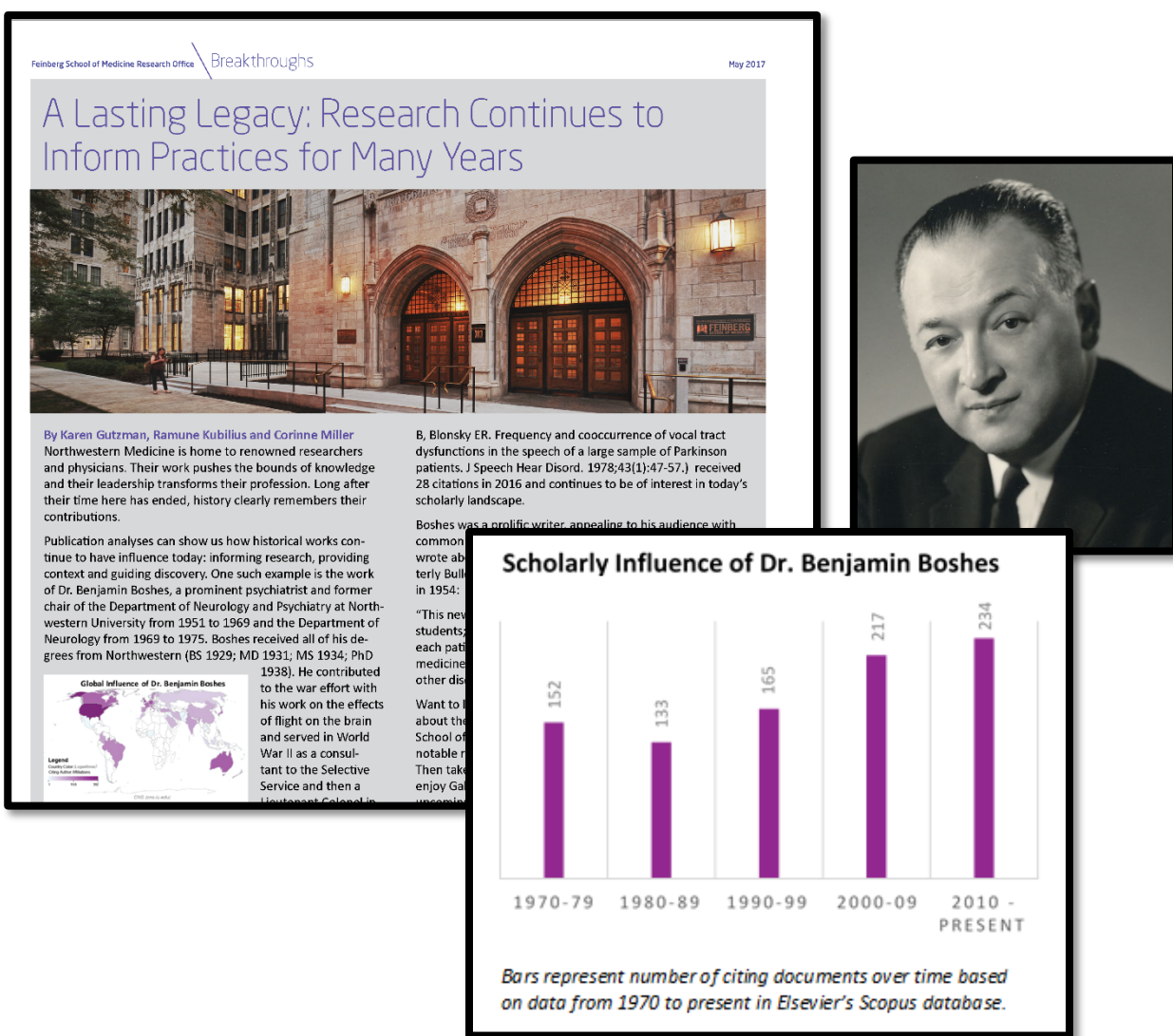


Collaborators:
SCWG members (representing: Metrics and Impact Core, Research and Information Services, Digital Systems and Collection Services)

Overview: Both the legacy and generosity of alumnus and donor, Dr. Herman Kretschmer (1879-1951), have been celebrated through the years. In November 2015, a visit by his family provided an opportunity to highlight his accomplishments. Visualizations showed the impact and relevance of his publications to the present day. A tour and open house featured a display of items he donated.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/ybuzv8pzk>

Benjamin Boshes Publication Analyses Display



Collaborators:
Digital Initiatives Working Group (DIWG) members (representing: Impact and Evaluation Core, Clinical Informationist Services, Digital Systems and Collection Services)

Overview:
Publication analyses were done on the works of alumnus and long-time faculty member and former department chair, Dr. Benjamin Boshes (1907-1984), to show how historical works continue on today; informing research, providing context and guiding discovery. The findings were published in the Galter Library’s website and featured in the May 2017 Galter Library column of the Research Office newsletter, *Breakthroughs*.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/y8p453mc>
Breakthroughs: <http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/research/docs/newsletters/May2017.pdf>



Team-Developed Training

Dissemination, Impact, and Access Workshop

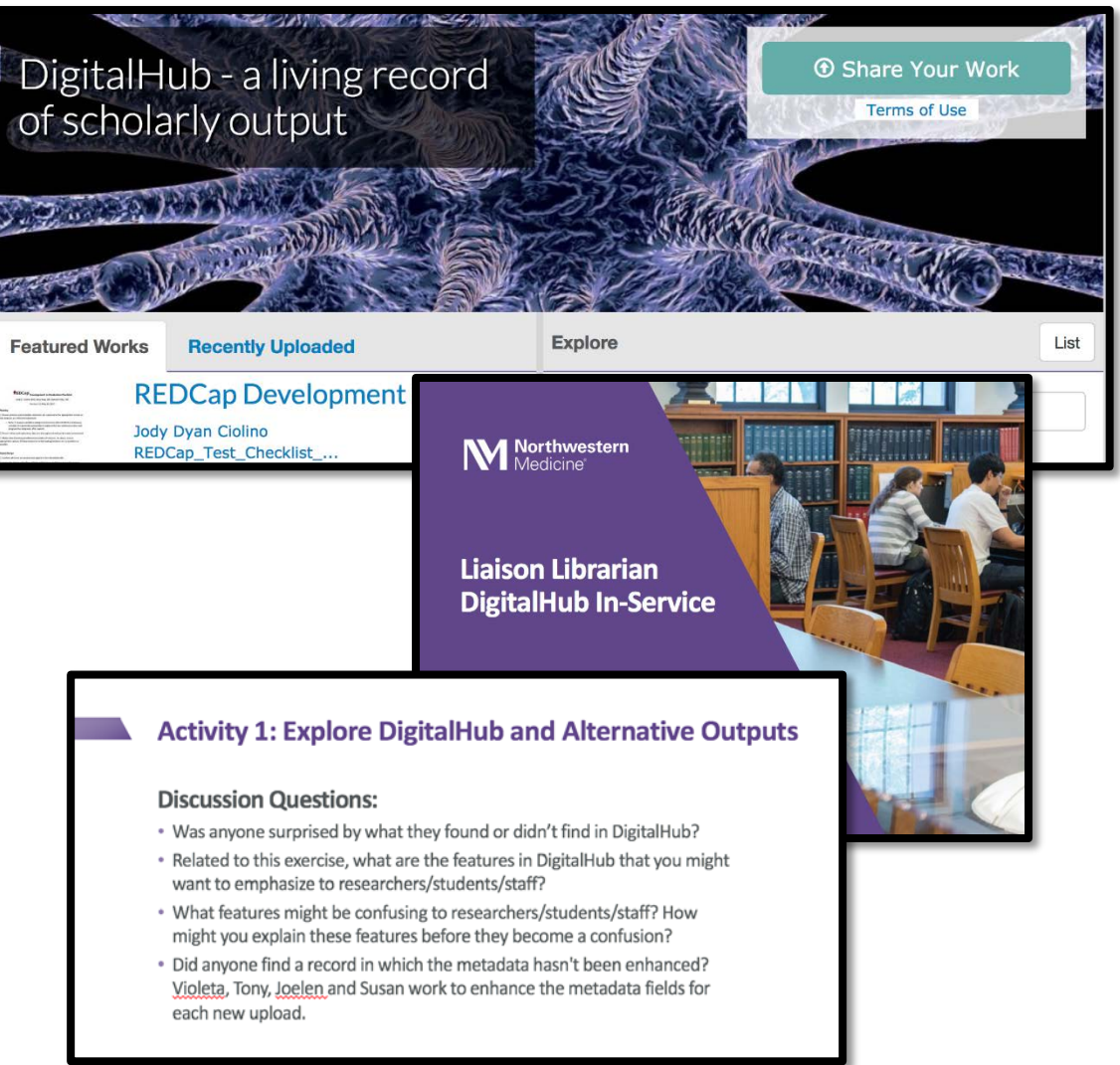


Collaborators:
Digital Systems and Collection Services, Metrics and Impact Core, Digital Initiatives Working Group

Overview:
Galter Library hosted a one-day interactive workshop in July 2017 on topics related to Dissemination, Impact, and Access for program assistants, program coordinators, program managers (and similar titles). An afternoon session focused on using the IR, DigitalHub, to increase discovering and dissemination of scholarly outputs.

Link: <https://digitalhub.northwestern.edu/collections/diaw2017>

DigitalHub Liaison Librarian In-Service



Collaborators: DIWG (representing: Metrics and Impact Core, Digital Systems and Collection Services).

Overview: Approaching the second anniversary of the IR, DigitalHub, a session was conducted in August 2017 to orient Galter Library’s liaison librarians and head of User Services on DigitalHub updates and trends in the general repository landscape. The session featured hands-on exercises and discussion. Desired features voiced by attendees were later presented to the DIWG technical support team for future enhancement consideration.

Link: <https://digitalhub.northwestern.edu>

Conclusion: Elements of Success

These projects revealed several elements essential for success, which should be considered in any collaborative effort:

- Make and regularly update a timeline, with realistic deadlines for project components
- Regularly meet in person to resolve any confusion or conflicts
- Designate tasks for each person
- Ensure the balancing of time available and the tasks to be accomplished
- Vet and review progress at designated milestones
- Keep moving to reach desired goal
- Evaluate after completion
- Reuse and repurpose elements of the project, if appropriate