Looking back over fiscal year 2019-2020, it is tempting to reflect solely on memories of the COVID-19 pandemic. We may forget that most of the year – July 2019 to March 2020 – was pre-pandemic. The 2019–2020 annual report provides a snap-shot of an exceptional year, full of activities and achievements.

It is certainly a point of pride that on March 14, 2020 when our “new normal” began, the Library transformed seamlessly into a “Virtual Library” as our talented and dedicated staff transitioned consultations, classes, special events, resource sharing, and historical collections and archives to a fully online environment. We 3D printed PPEs for healthcare workers. We remodeled part of the library building. We continued planning and implementing new projects.

In this report we do highlight some of the COVID-19 activities begun in March 2020 – and next year’s report will undoubtedly feature even more. But by that time, we hope to be well on the other side of the pandemic, continuing to learn from our experiences, adapting and transforming ourselves as we discover the “new normal” of what it means to be the Library.

By the Numbers

- HSHSL received $1,748,912 to support National Library of Medicine outreach efforts
- 12,058 UMB Digital Archive records with 225,316 downloads
- 3,577 people attended 194 library classes
- 15,297 Articles/books requested via ILL and delivered to UMB
- 5,038 Reference questions answered
- 4,252 UMB Data Catalog views
- 575 Posters printed
- 568 Research consultations
- 202 Expert literature searches
- 50 Systematic review collaborations
- 36 Research consent forms reviewed
Covidence arrived, a web-based platform that streamlines systematic reviews.

Meet the Makers Lecture Series - Samantha Scott, PhD, founder and CEO of a Maryland medical device startup.

I ❤️ UMB HSHSL contest celebrated National Medical Librarians Month, awarding a $100 Visa gift card for the most creative entry.

The HSHSL co-sponsored The Future of Research symposium in partnership with Elsevier and Johns Hopkins University.

In the Weise Gallery - 1807 at the Weise: Meet the Artists, cosponsored exhibit to showcase UMB artists.

HSHSL hosted 2nd annual flu shot clinic In partnership with the School of Pharmacy, vaccinating 256 people.

In the Weise Gallery – An exhibit displaying student artwork from The Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Art.

The HSHSL collected over 100 articles of clothing on the holiday party mitten tree for the Community Engagement Center.
HSHSL responded to COVID-19, closing the building and pivoting to an all virtual service model.

Regional Medical Library received $391,153 to continue outreach in support of NIH’s “All of Us” Research Program.

In the Weise Gallery - The First Women of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Exhibit.

The late Dr. Milford “Mickey” Foxwell received the HSHSL’s highest honor, the Theodore E. Woodward Award recognizing his many contributions to the HSHSL.

UMB Digital Archive launched a new collection on Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion to capture UMB’s response to racial unrest.

Lactation Room opened, supporting breastfeeding on the UMB campus.

Love Data Week celebrated all things data with pop-up tables, workshops, prize giveaways, and more.

2nd floor renovations completed, adding 20 additional seats, electricity to all tables, and 2 banquets.

Black History Month Blog Series highlighted influential African Americans throughout UMB’s history.

Regional Medical Library received $391,153 to continue outreach in support of NIH’s “All of Us” Research Program.
Two new collections were created for the UMB Digital Archive: 
UMB Response to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and UMB Coronavirus Publications

HSHSL Responds to COVID-19

HSHSL's Housekeeping Team worked through the pandemic, even when the Library building was closed to most.

Library staff came in before reopening the building to remove excess furniture, post signage, and set up sanitation stations.

1,354 3D printed PPE items were produced, including ear savers and face shields. Ear savers were given to the School of Nursing and UMMC to help protect frontline workers.

Our Historical Collections created “Unmasking the Pandemic: Stories from UMB during COVID-19” to capture life on and off campus throughout the pandemic.

After the HSHSL building’s closure, Services and Resources staff transformed to an all virtual operation, remaining active, productive, and available to the University.

Compliments from the University Community

Consent Form Service
“Thank you so very much for your time invested into improving this document. I am truly thankful for your help.”
- School of Dentistry Faculty

Health Literacy Workshop
“I always learn something more, walk away with a renewed commitment to health literacy, and become a slightly improved nurse.”
- UMMC Employee

Article/Book Request Service (ILL)
“I wanted to express my gratitude to all of the dedicated and hard-working individuals during these most challenging times. Everyone has been so helpful.”
- School of Dentistry Faculty

“You guys are absolutely top notch. Well done!”
- School of Medicine Faculty

Poster Printing Service
“The turnaround time has been a lifesaver.”
“Probably the best service anywhere on campus.”
- HSHSL Customers

Regional Medical Library
“I value the work of the NNLM (RML). Without the resources training, and funding they provide, we would not be able to create robust community engagement on health literacy.”

“I appreciated their funding very much as it plays a critical role in our ability to do outreach in rural areas.”
- Network Members