



BERNARD BECKER MEDICAL LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 / 2025



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

PAUL SCHOENING, DIRECTOR OF BECKER LIBRARY

“After 34 years – 26 of those as the director of Becker Library – I have decided to step away from Washington University. My last official day will be Friday, January 2. From my start as a research associate in medical informatics to building the medical school’s central IT organization and ultimately overseeing the Becker Medical Library, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many

wonderful people. I am particularly proud of my colleagues at Becker Library, whose ideas, commitment to service, and enthusiasm have not only made this a great library but also a great place to work.

This is a great place, and I’ll miss a lot about it, but I am excited to move on to what’s next.”

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BIOMEDICAL INFORMATION

The library's collections—including books, journals, databases and a wide range of specialized resources—directly support WashU Medicine's teaching, research and patient-care missions, as well as the health and wellness of students and employees.

Enabling access to research in FY25

Expanding support for open-access publishing by WashU authors

- Becker Library negotiated a transformative agreement with Bentham Science, bringing the total to 18 such agreements, covering over 3,100 journals.

Developing and enhancing access to a diverse collection

- Staff processed more than 5,000 interlibrary loan requests and acquired and cataloged more than 200 print books as well as numerous eBooks in fields such as Asian Medicine/Health, disaster medicine, and emergency medicine.

Collection overview:



Journals

20,000+ e-journals available

Includes: Nature, Science, NEJM, PNAS



eBooks

150,000+ titles

Includes: Johns Hopkins ABX Guide, Robbins & Kumar Basic Pathology (11th ed.)



Databases & apps

Includes: ClinicalKey and AccessMedicine



Streaming videos

30,000+ lectures, procedural videos, and even popular films

Includes: JoVE Clinical Skills videos and Biomedical & Life Sciences Lectures from Henry Stewart Talks



News & Magazines

Includes: The Economist, The New York Times, STAT+, and The Wall Street Journal, and more

Collaborating institutionwide to support evolving needs

- Library staff worked with programs across WashU Medicine—including Physical Therapy and the Genetic Counseling Graduate Program—to update required readings and Subject Guides. Staff also served on the Integrated Library Management Platforms Advisory Committee, ensuring consistent, high-quality service across shared systems.



Feuerstein Health & Wellness Information Center

The center continues to promote healthy living and support HR wellness initiatives across the university. In June 2025, new column wraps were installed to highlight the center’s collections and create a more welcoming environment for patrons.

Outreach activities:

- Take Care Fair (Medical and Danforth campuses)
- Wellness & Mindfulness Fair (Danforth campus)
- Partnering with campus libraries to reach all WashU students and employees

LibGuide Usage FY2025

The library’s LibGuides saw significant use in FY25, demonstrating strong demand for accessible, targeted resources that support research and learning across fields.

Top 5 Most Viewed Guides in FY25:

- Selecting a Journal for Publication: 39,334 views
- NIH Biosketch: 30,425 views
- Systematic Review Guide: 25,847 views
- Tools for Authors: 11,712 views
- Scoping Review Guide: 9,454 views

Average Monthly Views of Top Guides:

- Selecting a Journal for Publication: 3,278 views per month
- NIH Biosketch: 2,535 views per month
- Systematic Review Guide: 2,154 views per month
- Tools for Authors: 976 views per month
- Scoping Review Guide: 788 views per month

Guides with Notable Monthly Engagement:

- Community-Engaged Research: 369 average monthly views
- Preprints: 334 average monthly views
- Open Access: 300 average monthly views

Diverse Areas of Usage:

- LGBTQ Healthcare Resources: 1017 total views
- Global Health Resources: 1009 total views
- Critical Care Resources: 324 total views
- Patient Safety & Quality Improvement: 300 total views

Emerging Topics & Resources:

- Texts and Data Mining (TDM): 72 total views
- Film and Media Resources: 114 total views

INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Tools and services that help users identify university expertise, showcase scholarly output, connect with collaborators and navigate information across WashU Medicine.



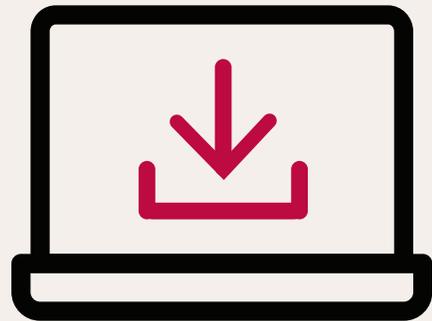
Digital Commons@Becker

The digital repository for WashU Medicine scholarly output, Digital Commons@Becker, continues to feature a wide variety of content and media types from across the campus. During FY25, 1,400 new items were added to Digital Commons@Becker across all collections, bringing the total number of scholarly works in the repository to more than 23,000.

As of June 30, 2025, it includes 23,369 works and has seen 3,869,498 downloads.

Most Used Collection:

The Open Access Publications collection remains the most used, with 427,185 downloads.



3,869,498
downloads to date

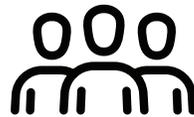


Research Profiles

With continued funding from the Office of the Dean, ICTS and School of Medicine departments, Becker Library advanced the development, adoption and support of Research Profiles in FY25.

The platform drew more than 700,000 unique visitors and 1.5 million page views, with users conducting nearly 25,000 searches. Becker Library created 325 new faculty profiles and responded to nearly 200 requests for updates, publication questions and organizational profiles.

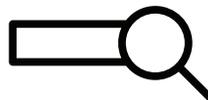
Departments and divisions increasingly used Research Profiles to power faculty listings and publication feeds, while Becker Library generated publication reports for leaders across campus.



700,000+
unique visitors



1.5 million
pages viewed



25,000
searches

Because of its success, university leaders approved expanding Research Profiles across all WashU schools as part of the Here and Next strategic plan. The project launched in late FY25, with Becker Library leading the effort in partnership with University Libraries and guidance from the Digital Intelligence & Innovation Accelerator.

HEALTH & SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Programs and resources that help faculty, staff and students communicate more effectively with diverse audiences.

The Center for Health and Science Communication at Becker Library continued to impact the medical school in FY25 by enabling collaborative networks on campus, expanding its services, and delivering communication programs and events in response to areas of interest and need.

Center Service Expansion

In FY25, the center completed its needs assessment survey and acted on two major gaps identified on campus.

Data Visualization:

The Figure Consultation Services launched in FY25 to support grant proposals, manuscripts and presentations. In its first year, the service assisted three groups: the Participation, Environment & Performance Lab; the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network; and the Mental Health and Population Science Group.

Presentation Skills:

FY25 also saw expanded customized training focused on presentation and public speaking. Offerings included *Less is More: Crafting and Delivering Compelling Messages* (delivered three times) and *Clear and Effective Scientific Presentations: Tips and Resources* (delivered twice).

Health and Science Communication Events

In FY25, the center hosted two #SciComm Seminar presentations, drawing a combined attendance of 155, and three SciComm Journal Club sessions, with a combined attendance of 39. In January 2025, the center hosted the inaugural **CommConnect Social**, which brought together WashU health and science communication experts to foster community and explore new partnerships.

155

Combined attendance for **two #SciComm Seminars**

39

Combined attendance for **three SciComm Journal Clubs**

STORYTELLING FOR SCIENTISTS: *AN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP*



Thursday, Sept. 19
11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Moore Auditorium

*Center for Health and
Science Communication*

STORYTELLING FOR SCIENTISTS

In September 2024, the center hosted 58 academic researchers from WashU Medicine for a two-hour interactive workshop to hone their storytelling and narrative development skills. Andrea Krussel, Director of Education and Workforce Development for the Office for Health Information and Data Science, facilitated the workshop.

New Partnership

The center launched a new partnership with Siteman Cancer Center to support Siteman Investment Program Research Development Awards (SIP RDA) and American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant (ACS IRG) Pilot Awardees in strengthening their plain language skills. The center developed a tailored workshop to help scholars clearly convey their research to diverse Siteman audiences. The first session was held in May 2025, followed by participant surveys to guide future sessions.

DATA & RESEARCH COMPUTING

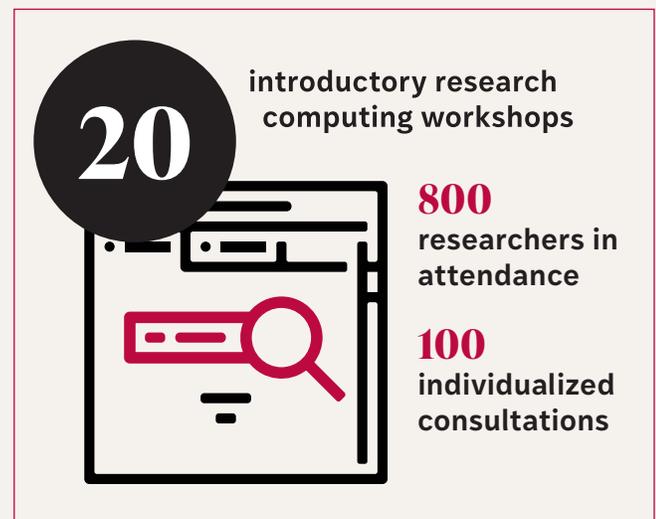
Resources and services in support of data management, data sharing, data analysis, data visualization and research computing.

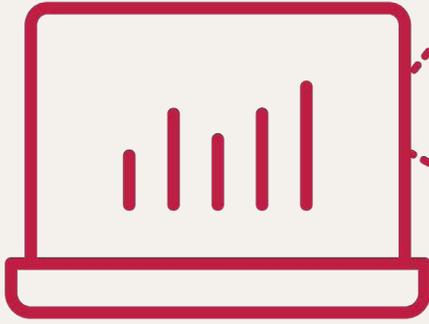
Becker Library hosts free, beginner-friendly research computing trainings. These educational offerings are designed for individuals new to programming and high-performance computing, aiming to reduce technical barriers, promote access to shared computing resources, and foster collaboration and continuous learning.



Research computing workshops in FY25

- Training in foundational research computing remains in high demand.
- Workshop highlights included sessions on R, Python, MATLAB and high-performance computing resources.
- Staff also provided nearly 100 individual consultations across computing topics.





100+
researchers and
research teams



10+
educational
sessions



450+ researchers in attendance

Data Management and Sharing

Becker Library provided comprehensive support to more than 100 researchers and research teams writing data management and sharing plans, searching for domain-specific data repositories appropriate for sharing data, curating data to be shared in Becker Library’s generalist, institutional data repository, Digital Commons Data@Becker, implementing effective data management practices and more. In conjunction, more than 10 educational sessions on a variety of topics related to data management and sharing were offered throughout FY25 with more than 450 individuals in attendance.

Becker Library staff also continued to share a variety of news, guidance, resources and tips through blog posts and data management and sharing newsletters in an effort to keep the School of Medicine research community up to date on data management and sharing policy developments, related resources and guidance, and good data management and sharing practices.

Love Data Week

In partnership with University Libraries, the Institute for Informatics, Data Science and Biostatistics, the Office of the Provost, and the Digital Intelligence & Innovation Accelerator, Becker Library organized a series of events on topics related to data management and sharing in celebration of Love Data Week 2025 (February 10-14, 2025). The week included presentations on data visualization, data documentation, 3D data, and data sharing, as well as a data visualization competition and a scientific symposium focused on informatics, data science and biostatistics. The week was a success with many faculty, staff and trainees in attendance across all of the Love Data Week events.



- Content on using AI resources was developed for the Phase 1, Module 1 EBM presentation in the medical school curriculum. It represents part of a broader initiative to integrate AI tools and resources throughout the curriculum.
- Librarians provided over 30 presentations and workshops covering a wide variety of topics including Endnote, audiology literature searches, and searching databases like PubMed and Embase.
- They also engaged in a variety of outreach



initiatives, including the Summer Program for Pediatrics and Research Careers (SPPARC), Saturday Scholars—introducing local public high school students to WashU Medicine students—and the Health Professions Fair.

231 Total Librarian Co-authored Publications (2014-2025)

Our co-authored reviews are published in a variety of journal categories



MEDICAL CENTER ARCHIVES

Historical archives of WashU Medicine, Barnes-Jewish Hospital and St. Louis Children's Hospital. Preserving the heritage of these institutions and their impact locally and globally.



WashU Medicine *oral histories* accessible online

DigitalCommons@Becker

digitalcommons.washu.edu/oralhistories

In FY2025 Becker Medical Library's oral history collections were made accessible in Digital Commons@Becker. Over 200 audio recordings and interview transcripts are available to researchers online. These oral histories were all recorded as part ongoing series of interviews dating back to 1959 that capture and preserve first person accounts and reflections on the history of the medical school and medical practice in St. Louis.

New oral histories continue to be recorded each year with WashU Medicine faculty, staff and alumni. These oral histories are an informational treasure trove and valuable supplement to the institutional records and historical resources held in the Becker Archives.

Changing Landscapes symposium

Oct. 31, 2024

Becker Medical Library organized a half-day interdisciplinary seminar on the topic of reproductive health.

Five WashU faculty members with backgrounds in law, social work, and medicine participated in a panel discussion on the current status of reproductive health and rights. The keynote address was given by **Dineo Khabele, Chair of WashU's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Mitchell & Elaine Yanow Professor**. The 89th **Historia Medica Lecture** was given by **Judith A. Houck, Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Wisconsin**, who provided historical context to the history of reproductive health in the U.S.

A highlight of the symposium was the presentation of the library's archival collections documenting the history of reproductive health and the fight for reproductive rights at WashU Medicine. A selection of items from the Becker Archives that were displayed at the symposium are featured in this blog post:

becker.washu.edu/news/reproductive-rights



Historia Medica Lecture and Glaser Gallery Exhibit Reception

The Becker Library hosted a special event on **March 18, 2025** that highlighted the origins of WashU's leadership and worldwide influence in the implementation of computers in medical research. This event featured a lecture by **Laura Weis, PhD** who highlighted WashU faculty members participating in international learning exchanges in the growing field of biomedical computing in the 1960s and 1970s.

The lecture was followed by an exhibit reception in the library's Glaser Gallery space on the 7th floor. The exhibition drew extensively from the library's archival collections to highlight the important work of WashU's famed computer laboratories.





SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION & RESEARCH IMPACT

Expertise in navigating the complex landscape of scholarly publishing, illustrating the impact of research, and strategies for making research more impactful.

As researchers increasingly need to demonstrate the impact of their work, Becker Library continued to provide extensive support for author analytics and evaluation of research impact in FY25. Guidance and reports were provided to numerous individuals, groups,

divisions and departments, centers and institutes, and school leaders, demonstrating the critical role for these support services.

NIH Public Access Policy

Library staff continued to help researchers comply with the NIH Public Access Policy, which focuses on openly sharing final, peer-reviewed journal manuscripts in the NIH PubMed Central digital archive. This included:

- Giving presentations
- Fielding questions
- Submitting articles on behalf of authors
- Providing assistance and troubleshooting
- Sharing guidance on proactive compliance

Staff also helped individuals and groups assess their rate of compliance with the policy and identify publications not in compliance.

Open October

In collaboration with University Libraries and with sponsorship from the Digital Intelligence & Innovation Accelerator, Becker Library hosted a month-long series of presentations in October 2024 highlighting trends in open science, open data and open access. This programming was loosely tied to International Open Access Week which occurs in October each year.

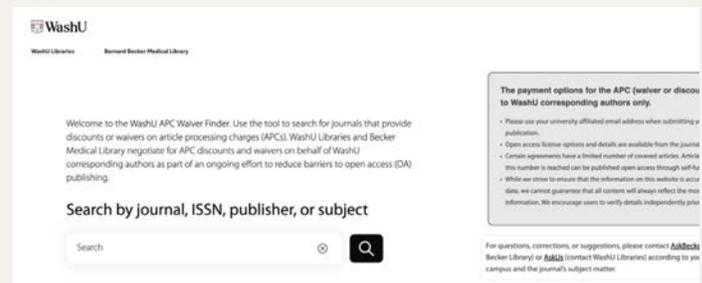
One highlight of Open October 2024 was a lively panel presentation featuring faculty at WashU Medicine on

the complicated landscape of scientific publishing and openness. Another highlight of the programming was a presentation by Bonnielin K. Swenor, PhD, MPH, the Endowed Professor of Disability Health and Justice and Director of the Disability Health Research Center at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Swenor's engaging talk focused on the role of open science in advancing equity for people with disabilities. Other highlights rounding out Open October 2024 included sessions on open educational resources and public scholarship.



WashU APC Waiver Finder

WashU Libraries and Becker Medical Library collaboratively implemented a new tool to support WashU authors as part of an ongoing effort to reduce barriers to open access publishing for the university community. The WashU APC Waiver Finder allows users to search for journals participating in more than 20 publisher agreements secured to date by WashU Libraries and Becker Medical Library.



The agreements grant either a full waiver or a partial discount of the article processing charge (APC) for articles published under an open access license, provided the corresponding author is affiliated with WashU.

Authors may search for participating journals by title, publisher, ISSN, or subject.

HISTORY OF MEDICINE

Rare books, educational programs, and exhibits illuminating the birth of medicine as a scientific endeavor.

The Center for the History of Medicine advanced its mission this year through a blend of global engagement, digital innovation and public programming. From immersive learning experiences that connected medical students with international medical heritage to new digital resources that expand access to our collections, the Center continued to deepen understanding of medicine's past and its relevance to contemporary scholarship and care.

FY 2025 Highlights

- Successful launch of the **Phase III elective Dissecting the Past**, which brought four medical students to Scotland for an intensive study of Scottish medical history through visits to Scottish medical archives and museum collections.



Printers' Marks in the Glaser Gallery



One of the most distinctive features of books printed during the early modern period is printers' marks. These symbols, which ranged from simple to elaborate, frequently appeared on the title pages of books. While the first title pages were quite minimalist and usually only included the work's title, printers soon realized it was the perfect place for displaying trademarks. Their original function was to help protect a printer's output from piracy, but as they became increasingly eye-catching, they also started to serve as a marketing tool. A distinctive printer's mark displayed on a piece with fine craftsmanship branded that printer's name with a reputation for quality.

The marks on the Glaser Gallery's shades are all taken from the medical library's collections. As is typical of Renaissance printers' marks, they incorporate biblical and classical imagery. Some are famous in the history of print, and some were used by printers who were more obscure, but all reflect the beauty of their tradition.

- New online exhibit on the Glaser Gallery printer's marks, now available on the library's digital exhibitions website: beckerexhibits.washu.edu, providing broader visibility for Becker Library's unique historical materials.
- **East Asian Medicine Week** (Oct. 7–11, 2024) featured two well-attended programs exploring the history of ophthalmology, cosmetic surgery and radiotherapy in East Asia. It also included a complementary talk on Oct. 10, which featured radiotherapies for women in Korea from the 1930s to the 1970s, with historical perspectives enriched by contemporary clinical insight.
- **Annual Display of Rare Anatomical Texts** (Jan. 10, 2025) showcased treasures from the library's collections, drawing students, faculty and visitors for a hands-on encounter with the evolution of anatomical knowledge.

Exploring Medical History: Spotlight on East Asia

The two-day event Exploring Medical History: Spotlight on East Asia brought together scholars and WashU community members for a close look at the cultural and scientific forces that shaped ophthalmology in the region. The Oct. 8 session featured presentations by a historian and an anthropologist who approached the topic from distinct but complementary angles.

Wayne Tan, PhD, examined experiences of blindness in early modern Japan, while **Susan Brownell, PhD**, explored how ideas about the “Oriental eye” intersect with anthropology, ophthalmology and cosmetic surgery. Attendees also enjoyed refreshments and a tour of the Glaser Gallery, making the afternoon both intellectually rich and refreshingly social.

The second event in the series, held Oct. 10 on the Danforth campus, offered a focused look at the evolution of breast cancer treatment in South

Korea. **Soyoung Suh, PhD**, associate professor of history at Dartmouth College, traced the development of radiotherapies for women from the 1930s to the 1970s, highlighting the social and scientific forces that shaped clinical practices. She was joined by **Imran Zoberi, MD**,

a Washington University radiation oncologist, who provided contemporary context. The event was co-sponsored by the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.



Cross-campus collaboration

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