

Edwin V. Sperr, Jr. MLIS, AHIP

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Athens, GA

Education

Master of Library and Information Science, 1997

College of Library and Information Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Bachelor of Arts, 1993

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Experience

Systems and Discovery Librarian (Librarian IV) 2024 - Present

University of Georgia Libraries, Athens, GA

Serve as an institutional lead for UGA's Ex Libris' Alma ILS and help coordinate administration of other systems such as EDS and SpringShare. Provide leadership and training to build an integrated framework for library systems to improve the user experience that includes testing, in-depth reporting, training staff, and improving staff and user interfaces. Help develop a team dedicated to exploring and implementing user-centered library systems and applications.

Visiting Lecturer 2020 - 2025

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Suwanee, GA

Delivered selected lectures in the "Research Methods in Health and Disease" course in the Physician Assistant program.

Clinical Information Librarian (Librarian III-IV) 2016 - 2024

AU/UGA Medical Partnership, Athens, GA

Rounded with clinicians and residents at the hospital and attended the Community Internal Medicine outpatient clinic, answering clinical questions and selecting background material for cases. Worked with residents and faculty to conduct literature searches in support of scholarly activity.

Built and maintained software applications as part of an active program of independent scholarly activity centered on applying visualization techniques to enable the exploration of bibliographic searches and other data sets. Projects include *Search Workbench* and *Members by Interest*. (Technologies used: JavaScript, Python, CSS, HTML, NoSQL, XML and Git).

Copyright and Electronic Resources Officer (Associate Professor) 2008 - 2015

St. George's University, Grenada, W.I.

Educated faculty, staff and students about copyright principles and procedures and developed campus-wide policies for the legal use of copyrighted material in instruction and assisted faculty with copyright permissions and takedown notices. Served as implementation lead for the library's new ILS and was responsible for day-to-day system maintenance.

Designed and built the interactive application *PubVenn*, enabling users to refine PubMed searches by using proportional Venn diagrams. (HTML, JavaScript). Provided library instruction to a broad array of university audiences and developed two elective courses: "Biomedical Informatics" and "Improvisation for Communication Skills".

Digital Consultant / Program Director, Digital Solutions 2005 - 2008

NELINET, Southborough, MA

Developed and taught courses on a wide variety of topics that addressed the interface between technology and librarianship, including CSS, MySQL, and many aspects of digital collections. Served as an information resource for member libraries considering new digital projects. Developed suite of in-house data-mining tools (PHP, SQL) to examine event registration data and implemented an OAI-PMH metadata harvester and other applications for member experimentation.

Education and Electronic Resources Librarian 2003 - 2005

New England College of Optometry Library, Boston, MA

Managed active bibliographic instruction program, including both teaching and course design. Assisted students, faculty and staff with all issues involving access to online resources. Developed a variety of web-based applications, including journal displays and "Quick search" of multiple databases (XML, ASP.NET, SQL). Redesigned library website and continually maintained and developed the library's web presence.

Systems Librarian (Assistant Professor) 1998 - 2002

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Library, Columbia, SC

Administered library's servers and local workstations and selected hardware and software for library use. Resolved technical issues related to both local and remote resources. Participated in the migration to a new Integrated Library System and developed local pages for the web-based OPAC. Implemented proxy server solution for off-campus access to library resources. Managed library's Innovative Interfaces ILS. Assisted with collection development.

Assistant Technical Services / Reference Librarian 1997 - 1998

Edens Library - Columbia College, Columbia, SC

Taught bibliographic instruction classes and provided extensive individual instruction. Assisted in the day-to-day functioning of Technical Services, concentrating on the reclassification of the library's remaining Dewey holdings into Library of Congress Classification. Provided reference assistance to patrons. Redesigned the library web site. Assisted with collection development in the areas of theater, business and the physical sciences.

Current University Service

UGA Improvisation Faculty Learning Community 2018 -

UGA University Council, Faculty Affairs Committee 2025 -

Awards and Honors

Selected as Team Lead for: NLM Codeathon: Investigating Accurate & Equitable Representation in PubMed Search Results (2022)

AU/UGA Medical Partnership Excellence in Scholarship Award (2019-2020)

Honorable Mention Solution: Library of Congress Congressional Data Challenge (June 2018)

Current Credentials and Professional Memberships

Medical Improv Collective 2021 -

Academy of Health Information Professionals 2017 -

Scholarly Activity

Baldwin A, **Sperr E**. Medical Improv Workshop. Invited presentation at University of Global Health Equity; 2026 May; Butaro, Rwanda.

Sperr E. Crucial Values and Career Opportunities for Library and Information Science Graduates. Invited talk presented at INES Ruhengeri; 2026 May; Musanze, Rwanda.

Sperr E, Bagley, A. Customizing Your Library's EDS. Presented at: 2026 GIL Users Group Meeting; 2026 May; Macon, GA.

Baldwin A, **Sperr E**, Gale J, Harman R. Scene 6: Working From the Margins: Changing Our Institutions and Ourselves One "Yes, and..." at a Time. In: Perone L, editor. Improvising With and In Higher Education: All Together Now [Internet]. Palgrave Macmillan; 2025. p. 101-16. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-78868-0_8

Harris EC, Baldwin A, Davies K, Gaines JK, Hill J, Tharrington S, **Sperr E**. Surveying Health Professions Students' Use of Generative AI Applications. Med Sci Educ. 2025 June 2. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40670-025-02429-1>

Sperr E, Harris E, Davies K, Gaines J, Hill J, Tharrington T, Baldwin A. Health professions students' use of generative AI applications. Presented at: Medical Library Association 124th Annual Meeting and Exhibition; 2024 May; Portland, OR.

Sperr E. Potential Pitfalls of Using Abbreviations in PubMed Searches. Presented at: Medical Library Association 124th Annual Meeting and Exhibition; 2024 May; Portland, OR.

Harris E, Tharrington T, Baldwin A, Davies K, Gaines J, Hill J, **Sperr E**. Librarians and the AI Overlord: Exploring Students' Use of Applications and Challenges of Institutional Surveys. Presented at: Georgia Health Sciences Library Association Meeting; 2024 Mar; Buford, GA.

Sperr E, et al. Humanism in Action: Using Medical Improv to Connect with the Person in Front of You. Presented at: 2024 Gold Humanism Summit; 2024 Feb; Atlanta, GA.

Sperr E. Opening Soon: Potential Impacts of the OSTP Mandate on the Biomedical Literature. Presented at: Medical Library Association 123rd Annual Meeting and Exhibition; 2023 May; Detroit, MI (Online).

Hesse DW, Ramsey LM, Bruner LP, Vega-Castillo CS, Teshager D, Hill JR, Bond MT, **Sperr EV Jr**, Baldwin A, Medlock AE. Exploring Academic Performance of Medical Students in an Integrated Hybrid Curriculum by Gender. Med Sci Educ. 2023 Feb 7;33(2):353-357. doi: 10.1007/s40670-023-01743-w.

Hyacinth-Purcell C, Sylvester-Gill J, **Sperr E**, McPherson J, Baldwin A. Hearing Women's Voices: Using focus groups to plan culturally acceptable primary cervical cancer screening in Grenada, West Indies. Revista Panamericana de Salud Pública. 2023;47:e32. <https://doi.org/10.26633/RPSP.2023.32>.

Baldwin A, Giffen K and **Sperr E**. Building Better Communication Through Improvisation. Presented at International Association of Medical Educators Meeting; 2022 June; Denver, CO.

Sperr E. (2022). *Mapping Tester*. <https://esperr.github.io/mapping-tester/>

Baldwin A and **Sperr E**. Improvisation for Enhancing Listening and Communication Skills. Presented at: The Generalists in Medical Education; 2021 November; Online.

Sperr E. (2021). *America's Top Ten Bills*. <https://esperr.github.io/americas-top-ten/>

Sperr E. Collection View: Searching with Interactive Visualizations. Presented at: UGA Libraries In-house Conference; 2021 May; Online.

Sperr E. Testing Search Filters for Covid-19 Literature. Presented at: Medical Library Association 121st Annual Meeting and Exhibition; 2021 May; Online.

Sperr E. Trends in the Covid-19 Literature. Presented at: Medical Library Association 121st Annual Meeting and Exhibition; 2021 May; Online.

Sperr E. (2021). *Collection View*. <https://esperr.github.io/collection-view/>

Sperr E. Looking Beyond the List: Enhancing Search with Interactive Visualizations. Presented at: Code4Lib 2021; 2021 March; Online. Available from: https://youtu.be/QC_R2lkYzao

Olowojesiku R, Shim DJ, Moppins B, Park D, Patterson JO, Schoenl SA, Gaines JK, **Sperr EV**, Baldwin A. Menstrual experience of adolescents in the USA: protocol for a scoping review. *BMJ Open*. 2021 Feb 18;11(2):e040511. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-040511. PMID: 33602701; PMCID: PMC7896570.

Sperr E. Testing a Random Item Screening Approach to Constructing Search Validation Sets. Presented at: Medical Library Association 120th Annual Meeting and Exhibition; 2020 August; Online.

Baldwin A and **Sperr E.** Medical students in the moment: improvisation for building communication skills. Presented at Eastern Sociological Society Mini-Conference: Sociology of Health Professions' Education; 2020 February; Philadelphia, PA. Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/10724/38824>

Sperr E. "Seeing" your Search: Visualization Techniques for Exploring PubMed Search Results. NNLM SEA SEASide webinar series: 2019 September; Online. Available from: <https://nml.gov/class/seeing-your-search-visualization-techniques-exploring-pubmed-search-results/16428>

Sperr E. Mind the gap: identifying what is missed when searching only the broad scope with clinical queries. *J Med Libr Assoc*. 2019 Jul;107(3):333-340. Available from: <http://doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2019.589>

Schwartz M, Herring K, Feeney J, Baldwin A and **Sperr E.** Using Improv as a Tool for Fostering Mentorship Among Medical and Pre-medical Students. Presented at: International Association of Medical Educators Meeting; 2019 June; Roanoke, VA. Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/10724/38782>

Medlock A, Baldwin A, Wenzel Hesse D, Bruner L, **Sperr E.**, and Hill J. Evaluation of a Gender Gap in the Academic Performance of an Integrated Hybrid Curriculum. Presented at: International Association of Medical Educators Meeting; 2019 June; Roanoke, VA. Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/10724/38756>

Sperr E. "Sieving" Your Search: Semi-Automated Citation Screening for Search Strategy Refinement. Presented at: Medical Library Association 119th Annual Meeting and Exhibition; 2019 May; Chicago, IL. Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/10724/38721>

Baldwin A and **Sperr E.** Using Improvisation to Enhance Communication Skills for Librarians. Presented at: Medical Library Association 119th Annual Meeting and Exhibition; 2019 May; Chicago, IL.

Sperr E. Word Trees for Visualizing PubMed Search Results. Presented at: Medical Library Association 119th Annual Meeting and Exhibition; 2019 May; Chicago, IL. Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/10724/38661>

Sperr E. (2019). *PubTrees*. <https://esperr.github.io/pub-trees/>

Sperr E. (2019). *PubMed Search Tester*. <https://esperr.github.io/pubmed-search-tester/>

Sperr E. Beyond the List: Refining your PubMed searches with interactive visualizations. An invited talk presented at: Georgia Health Sciences Library Association Meeting; 2019 March; Madison, GA. Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/10724/38622>

Sperr E. Visualizing Data to Facilitate Contextual Understanding. Presented at: AU/UGA Medical Partnership Faculty Scholarly Meeting series; 2019 Jan; Athens, GA.

Baldwin A, Feeney J, Herring K, and **Sperr E.** Using Improv to Develop Communication Skills for Medical Students. Presented at: International Association of Medical Educators Meeting; 2018 June; Henderson, NV and Innovation in Teaching Conference; 2018 October; Athens, GA. Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/10724/38317>

Sperr E. Search Workbench: Building, Refining, and Comparing PubMed Searches Using Interactive Visualizations. Presented at: Medical Library Association 118th Annual Meeting and Exhibition; 2018 May; Atlanta, GA. Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/10724/38485>

Sperr E. Mind the Gap: Identifying What Is Missed When Searching Only the Broad Scope with Clinical Queries. Presented at: Medical Library Association 118th Annual Meeting and Exhibition; 2018 May; Atlanta, GA. Available from: <http://hdl.handle.net/10724/38484>

Sperr E. (2018). *Members by Interest*. <https://esperr.github.io/members-by-interest/>

Sperr E. (2018). *Committee Flow*. <https://esperr.github.io/committee-flow/>

Sperr E. (2018). *Congress by Year*. <https://esperr.github.io/congress-by-year/>

Sperr E. (2017). *Search Workbench*. <https://esperr.github.io/search-workbench/>

Sperr E. Visualizing PubMed: Displaying Search Results by Topic, Region, and Time. Presented at: Medical Library Association 117th Annual Meeting and Exhibition; 2017 May; Seattle, WA. Available from <http://hdl.handle.net/10724/36987>

Sperr E. Building information visualizations with PubMed. Presented at: Code4Lib Southeast; 2017 Apr; Atlanta, GA. Available from <http://hdl.handle.net/10724/36962>

Sperr E. (2016). *MeSH Subheading Graph*. <https://github.com/esperr/mesh-subhead-graph>

Sperr E. (2016). *MeSH Category Graph*. <https://github.com/esperr/mesh-cat-graph>

Sperr E. (2016). *Mapping MEDLINE*. <https://github.com/esperr/mapping-medline>

Sperr E. (2016). *PubMed by Year*. <http://esperr.github.io/pubmed-by-year/>

Sperr E. (2016). *News in Proportion*. <https://github.com/esperr/newsinproportion>

Sperr E. (2015). *PubVenn*. <http://pubvenn.appspot.com>

Sperr E. Critical Synthesis Package: University of Michigan Search Assessment Tool for Ovid Medline (UMMSA). MedEdPORTAL; 2014. Available from: www.mededportal.org/publication/9801

Sperr E. Libraries and the future of scholarly communication. Molecular Cancer 2006 Nov 7;5:58
Available from <http://www.molecular-cancer.com/content/5/1/58>

Sperr E. Academic Distribution of PubMed Citations: Implications for Institutional Repositories.
Poster presented at: ACRL/NY Symposium "Scholarly Communication: Evolution or Revolution?";
2004 Dec; New York, NY.

Kane L., Gable S., Jenkinson V. and **Sperr E.** Flip-Floppin' - Surviving a Medical Library Renovation.
Poster presented at: Medical Library Association/ Southern Chapter Annual Meeting; 2000 Oct;
Mobile, AL.

Continuing Education

Systematic Reviews: Opportunities for Librarians (Atlanta, GA 2019)

Research Data Management Symposium (Augusta, GA 2019)

Supporting Clinical Care: An Institute in Evidence-based Practice for Medical Librarians
(Denver, CO 2016)

Intellectual Property in Academia Online Workshop Series (2008 UMUC Center for Intellectual
Property)