

HARVARD LIBRARY



Pforzheimer Fellowships in the Harvard Library Project Proposal Form

Name of library/archives: Center for the History of Medicine, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine

School/Unit: Location/address: Harvard Medical School, 10 Shattuck St., Boston, MA 02115

Project sponsor/library or unit director: Emily R. Novak Gustainis, Deputy Director

Project supervisor(s): Project will be coordinated by the Deputy Director and collaboratively managed by the Center's Collections Services Archivist with members of the Acquisitions and Collections Services teams.

Contact information for further information or questions: 617.432.7702 or Emily_Gustainis@hms.harvard.edu

Brief background/description of library/archives:

The Center for the History of Medicine, Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, enables the history of medicine to inform contemporary medicine and deepens our understanding of the society in which medicine is embedded. One of the world's leading resources for the study of the history of health and medicine, the Center attracts a global audience of researchers to its integrated collections of rare books, journals, archives, manuscripts, artifact collections, and visual, sound, and moving image works. Our public programs, exhibits, initiatives, and content curation activities are directed to a diverse audience of health professionals, students, academic researchers, and the general public and derive strength of purpose from the Harvard Medical School, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston Medical Library, and Longwood Medical and Academic Area communities. For a history of the collection, visit <https://www.countway.harvard.edu/chom/history-collection>.

Anticipated outcomes/final product:

The final product for the proposed project will be a contextualized, well-described historical dataset available to the public in the Center for the History of Medicine's Dataverse. Our objective is to continue to build Center capacity and expertise in acquiring, describing, and exposing research data embedded within manuscript and archival collections to the benefit of contemporary scholarship. This project is one of a number of efforts underway at the Center to partner with Harvard's medical, dental, and public health communities – as well as the Countway's Public and Access Services staff – and contribute to a full-lifecycle understanding of research data management.

Project description: *(Please submit a separate form for each project proposed)*

Building on workflows and best practices developed as a product of the Center for the History of Medicine's Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)-funded initiative, *Bridging the Research Data Divide: Rethinking long-term value and access for historical and contemporary maternal, infant, and child research*, which will conclude on May 31, 2017, the

Fellow will work with a discrete paper-based study from a manuscript or archival collection and make data from that study available online. Activities include, but are not limited to:

- identifying study variables and extracting or compiling study data in electronic format
- identify records that contextualize the data within the manuscript of archival collection and promote the interpretation and potential re-use of the data
- create a citable, study-level description in the Dataverse
- create file-level metadata for the dataset and associated files
- digitize and deposit scans of the original paper records, as well as selected contextual records (as possible) for delivery with the dataset in the Dataverse
- author a short assessment of the process, assess extensibility of workflow, and contribute to workflow analysis