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Kennesaw State University Interactive Research Methods Lab Team Wins Technology from Sage Innovators Award

In Spring 2023, the Kennesaw State University Interactive Research Methods Lab (IRML) team, including Senior Research Librarian Dr. Olga Koz and College of Education Professor Dr. Ivan Jorrin-Abellan, received the [Technology from Sage Innovators Award](#). You can watch a short video about the lab and the lab-integrated librarian services [here](#) and [read the interview](#) that Drs. Jorrin-Abellan and Koz gave to the Sage marketing team.

The award was established in 2022 by [Technology from Sage](#) (Sage Publishing Group) in partnership with [Electronic Resources and Libraries](#) (ER&L).

The award commended a technological innovation in e-resources librarianship, especially supporting teaching and learning processes and research workflows across the university. The innovation that has received the award challenges the traditional role of an academic librarian in research and instructional support for faculty and students by integrating library resources into research design and curricular workflow. There are only a few librarians who are not only embedded in research courses as co-instructors or serve as a member of research supporting committees but also provide research lab-integrated services and resources throughout the research process.

The IRML is an interactive physical and virtual space where faculty, students, and practitioners



Dr. Olga Koz (left) and Dr. Jorrin-Abellan (right)

work on their research, evaluation, and other projects using technology: augmented reality and visualization tools, interactive tutorials, and AI-based tools. Library and open access resources curated by the librarian support every step of the research designs (qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods) at the point of need. Dr. Jorrin-Abellan is the original author of the [Hopscotch](#) research design model that



The Interactive Research Methods Lab (IRML) featuring the Hopscotch research design model

provides an itinerary and guides users through the nine steps of [Hopscotch](#). Each step is placed on a customized decal on a dry erase surface, where users can write down ideas based on the resources provided via original augmented reality content. The IRML's virtual space includes a [360° virtual tour](#) replicating the physical space and the [IRML Library](#).

Dr. Koz developed a theoretical model based on the Hopscotch model and a web tool to assist with conducting a literature review for dissertations or systematic reviews, the Literature Review Design (LRD) [tool](#). Since 2020, when the team designed and launched the Hopscotch LRD tool, it has been accessed by 1,253 users, viewed more than 4,000 times, and used to create 138 literature review protocols or designs. The LRD

tool is also integrated into the Literature Review Design course that Ed.D. students take every summer. The IRML, as well as the LRD, is an open innovation and accessible to everybody. The librarian made an extra effort to find and evaluate openly available resources.

The IRML now has branches at the University of El Rosario (in Bogota, Colombia), the KSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and the College of Computer Science and Engineering at KSU. The IRML team invites other universities and academic libraries to replicate this engaging lab.

Olga Koz is a senior research support librarian at Kennesaw State University Library System