

The University Librarian: Providing Value to the Research University

Libraries advance the university's research enterprise and educational mission, driving student success and the university's contribution to global scholarship and the advancement of knowledge.

The University Librarian, sometimes titled Vice-Provost or Dean, shapes the vision and delivers excellence in the provision of information services, resources, and facilities to advance the university's strategic goals. The University Librarian:

- Positions the library system as the locus of learning outside of the classroom, ensuring the provision of dynamic programs for students and faculty; instruction and research assistance; inclusive, learner-centered facilities for individual and group study; and, critical technologies to support information creation, access, dissemination, preservation, and use. By constantly evolving and improving library services, facilities, and technologies, the University Librarian enhances the student experience and contributes to student retention and success.
- Ensures that students, faculty, and researchers have optimal access to an international wealth of information resources, matched to the university's mission. By building strong collections, the University Librarian furthers the research enterprise and enhances the research profile and ranking of the university.
- Enables the preservation of and long-term access to the intellectual output of the university through collaborative relationships with all areas that support the research enterprise, most notably with Research Offices and Vice-Presidents Research; Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officers; and, Faculty Deans. By understanding the increasing importance of open science and the intersection of research with advanced computing and research data management (RDM), the University Librarian fosters the library's role in support of RDM across campus, and provides expert advice related to digital information and data management challenges.

As a member of the university's senior academic and administrative leadership, the University Librarian ensures that the library is a partner in teaching and learning, research, faculty and student recruitment and retention, risk management, staff development and budgeting, fundraising and community relations, and equity, diversity and inclusion. University Librarians hold administrative appointments, usually with underlying academic appointments as professional librarians. They often have extended responsibilities beyond the library system, leading on matters of university digital strategy, managing the university press, museum, gallery, copyright office, records management program, archives, information technology and/or online learning services. With advanced degrees, typically in library and information studies, they bring valuable professional knowledge and a deep understanding of the rapidly evolving information domain – the creation, production, dissemination, adoption of essential standards, management, preservation, and destruction of information in the digital age.

The University Librarian brings value to the university, its faculty, students, and stakeholders through:

- capitalizing on the opportunities and challenges facing higher education in an increasingly digital world;

- a regional, national, and international network that can be drawn upon to advance local needs and goals;
- a forward-looking, innovative view that anticipates, investigates, and builds capacity for new library roles and the application of emerging technologies that will advance scholarship and learning;
- strategic direction and leadership in the adoption of emerging technologies;
- persuasive advocacy for professional values and standards to a broad spectrum of external constituents;
- collaborative leadership and stewardship of the libraries' human, physical and financial resources;
- a broad capacity for professional contribution to the university's senior administration team and the ability to successfully communicate with and influence others; and,
- engagement in scholarship and participation in regional, national, and international professional organizations that bring credit to the university.