JOB DESCRIPTION

The University of Oklahoma invites applications for the position of Dean of University Libraries who will also hold the Peggy V. Helmerich Endowed Chair for Dean of Libraries, to be effective July 1, 2012. This is a tenured position at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The current dean has announced his plans to retire after serving as Dean for an extraordinary 34 years; the University seeks as its next Dean of University Libraries a person with breadth and depth of experience in academic librarianship and a clear vision for the University Libraries in the creation, preservation, and delivery of scholarship information to students, faculty, and the public in our rapidly evolving, technology driven era. The successful candidate will have a demonstrated commitment to academic excellence and respect for pedagogy, research and scholarship; a demonstrated ability to create a climate of cooperation and trust among constituencies, and an ability to adapt to technological and cultural changes in our expectations for how best to access information efficiently. The Dean will lead a managerial team of faculty and professionals focused on creating a high performing, innovative and customer responsive workplace and will sustain ongoing developmental activities through the Bizzell Library Society and foster relationships with potential donors and funding agencies. The Dean sits on the Norman Campus Council of Deans and reports to the Senior Vice President & Provost, University of Oklahoma.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- MLS from ALA accredited library school
- Doctorate degree or 10 or more years experience in a Research or University Library setting including 5 or more years of administrative experience
- Demonstrated record of strong, visionary leadership and fiscal management
- Evidence of ability to be an effective executive in a complex and diverse organization
- Ability to work collaboratively with students, faculty, and staff of diverse backgrounds, styles, and interests

OTHER INFORMATION:

University Libraries: The University of Oklahoma Libraries (http://libraries.ou.edu/) is the largest research library in the state of Oklahoma and the 2nd largest in the BIG 12, contains more than 5.6 Million volumes, 69,000 serial subscriptions (print and electronic), and over 250 databases. The library is a member of the Association of Research Libraries, the Center for Research Libraries, the Greater Western Library Alliance, AMIGOS Library Services, and the Oklahoma Library Technology Network.

The research library facilities on the Norman Campus include the Bizzell Memorial Library and separate branch libraries for architecture, fine arts, engineering, geology, and physics/astronomy. Other OU libraries not within the administrative oversight of University Libraries include the OU Law Center Library (http://www.law.ou.edu/library), the Library at the OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City (http://library.ouhsc.edu), and the OU Tulsa Schusterman Center Library, (http://www.tulsa.ouhsc.edu/library/library.htm) in Tulsa, Oklahoma which supports students enrolled in OU’s Tulsa based programs.
In addition to the general collections described above, the University Libraries has extraordinary special collections including the History of Science Collections, the Western History Collections, Bass Business History Collection, and the John & Mary Nichols Rare Books and Special Collections. These collections contain rare and special materials including books, manuscripts, photographs, and sound recordings. Current detailed descriptions of these collections are listed at the library website under “locations.”

The University Libraries’ electronic resources are easily accessed through the website. Customers are provided access to databases, reference works, electronic journals, websites, government documents, and electronic books. The University of Oklahoma Libraries offers a wealth of electronic, print and non-print resources, as well as assistance in learning about and using these resources. Anyone with an OU login may access these library resources which are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**University:** Founded in 1890 before Oklahoma Statehood, The University of Oklahoma ([http://www.ou.edu/web.html](http://www.ou.edu/web.html)) is the state’s flagship public comprehensive residential university, with its main campus in Norman, its Health Sciences Center campus in Oklahoma City, and the Schusterman Center in Tulsa. Located in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area which has a population of approximately 1.1 million people, and within easy driving distance of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, the University of Oklahoma offers diverse cultural activities in an extraordinarily beautiful campus. Norman, Oklahoma has been recognized several times recently for its excellent quality of life ([http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bplive/2008/snapshots/PL4052500.html](http://money.cnn.com/magazines/moneymag/bplive/2008/snapshots/PL4052500.html); [http://www.motherearthnews.com/Nature-Community/Great-Places-Norman-Oklahoma.aspx](http://www.motherearthnews.com/Nature-Community/Great-Places-Norman-Oklahoma.aspx); [http://www.forbes.com/2010/03/05/college-sports-towns-lifestyle-sports-college-towns.html](http://www.forbes.com/2010/03/05/college-sports-towns-lifestyle-sports-college-towns.html)).

The University is comprised of fifteen colleges and enrolls 24,000 students on the main campus, including approximately 3,800 graduate students. OU is in the midst of unprecedented growth and national and international recognition with total endowment exceeding $800 million and is classified as a Very High Research University by the Carnegie Foundation having generated over $86 million in research expenditures in 2009-2010. It ranks first in the nation among public universities in National Merit Scholars enrolled. In the past twelve years it has more than quadrupled the number of endowed faculty chairs and professorships from less than 100 to over 410 today. Colleges located on the Norman Campus in Norman, Oklahoma include Architecture, Arts & Sciences, Atmospheric & Geographic Sciences, Business, Continuing Education, Earth & Energy, Engineering, Fine Arts, Graduate, Honors, International Studies, Journalism, Law, and University College.

**NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS:** The University invites letters of nomination, applications (letter of interest, complete *Curriculum Vitae*, list of references), or expressions of interest which can be submitted to the Chair of the Search Committee, Dr. Nancy L. Mergler. Review of materials will begin immediately and continue until the appointment is made. Applicants will be notified prior to the search committee soliciting letters of reference.

Nominations, applications and inquiries should be directed to:

Nancy L. Mergler, Senior Vice President & Provost  
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University of Oklahoma  
Norman, OK 73019-3072  
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