



OFFICE of THE PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

Brief Bio's for the Librarian Nominees

University Librarian Search Selection Committee - 2024

Ali Versluis – Head, Research and Scholarship Team

Ali has made substantial inroads in community building within and across McLaughlin Library in the nearly nine years she has worked there. Through her co-creation of initiatives such as the Teaching and Learning Community of Practice and What Your Mother Never Told You About Research, her five years as a UGFA Councillor, and her Chairing of the Open Access Working Group and the institutional Open and Affordable Course Content Task Force, Ali has demonstrated her ability to successfully identify and articulate shared values and priorities across diverse groups of people.

Ali also brings extensive experience to the recruitment process. While working at the University of Guelph, she has served on nine hiring committees in the roles of member (x3) and chair (x6) and is adept at reconciling different perspectives to aid in effective, thoughtful decision-making.

Ali's role on McLaughlin Library's Strategic Leadership Team means that she has a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities that exist within the organization. A confident spokesperson and advocate, Ali is excited for the opportunity to learn from faculty, student, and staff colleagues throughout this process.

Christopher Popovich – Research & Scholarship Librarian

My ongoing commitment to the University of Guelph's mission to improve life has prompted me to write. I believe I have the qualifications, experience, leadership skills, and vision to meaningfully contribute to selecting our next University Librarian. I am an ALA accredited Librarian with more than eight years of experience as a professional librarian with the University of Guelph, marked by increasing levels of responsibility. This includes periods on the Library Management Team (LMT), the predecessor to Strategic Leadership Team (SLT), as Acting Manager (Department Head) Library Services at University of Guelph-Humber, most recently, Acting Head, Learning & Curriculum for Fall 2024, and finally my forthcoming one-year secondment as Head (Acting) Collections and Content Team. These roles are focused on managing staff, library projects, resources, and budgets, as well as a focus on strategic planning, developing proposals, timelines, budgets, staffing plans, and authentic assessment. I brought to these roles compassion, candor, strategic awareness and planning, an understanding of the big picture, and a balancing of priorities. I believe my experience, dedication to McLaughlin Library, and engagement with the University community can help select our next UL, the most critical role in our library.

Curtis Sassur – Head Archival & Special Collections and Digital Archivist

Curtis Sassur is the head of Archival & Special Collections and Digital Archivist at the University of Guelph McLaughlin Library. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Guelph, and a master's degree in Archival Science from the University of Toronto. He is an active member of the Canadian archival community who is academically interested in the Canadian monetary appraisal process, and who has published and represented on the topic within Canada and internationally. As the McLaughlin Library's first Digital Archivist, Curtis is working to ensure the

establishment of best practices and workflows for the responsible management of preservation and access to our digital archival material.

Robin Bergart, Associate Librarian, Assessment and User Experience

I think I can contribute a unique and useful perspective to this search committee for a couple of reasons:

First, as a User Experience Librarian, my job is to understand student, staff, and faculty needs and expectations of the library. I do this through interviews, focus groups, surveys, observation, web analytics and usability tests. I share the insights gained from these research methods with my library colleagues so that they can best support library user needs. The User Experience role requires that I am actively aware of the perspectives of the library user community as well as the perspectives of my library colleagues. I think this gives me a valuable vantage point to understand the library's needs, opportunities, and challenges from the inside and the outside.

Second, I have been a librarian at U of G since 2001 and have experienced working under the leadership of four University Librarians. I have also been in formal and informal leadership positions myself over the years. I have seen how the UL influences the culture of the organization and the impact they have on morale, motivation, and the ability of the library to adapt, respond, and innovate.

I believe my history with the organization can provide a beneficial perspective when determining the selection of the next University Librarian.