

CATHERINE DAVIDSON

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

With extensive leadership experience in academic libraries across a diverse range of institutions—including a large research-intensive university, a small STEM-focused university, and a mid-sized community college—I excel in fostering strong, collegial relationships within the library, across the institution, and within provincial, national, and international contexts. I am adept at identifying opportunities for collaboration and innovation, using consultative models to co-create a shared vision and to plan, implement, and evaluate library services, programs, and resources.

A staunch advocate for libraries, I am committed to raising awareness of their contributions and value. I cultivate an inclusive work culture that celebrates and recognizes the contributions of every team member, consistently embodying core values of collegiality, compassion, respect, and humor.

WORK EXPERIENCE

University Librarian/Chief Librarian

June 2017– Present

Ontario Tech University, Durham College

- Lead the development of a strategic vision that embraces creativity, imagination, curiosity, and exploration, delivering exceptional services, programs, and resources to support teaching, learning, research, at both the university and college levels.
- Provide strategic financial and operational oversight to ensure the efficient management of resources, supporting the library's mission and goals.
- Foster a work environment rooted in kindness, empathy, and understanding, promoting a supportive and collaborative atmosphere.
- Actively engage in key campus initiatives, focusing on student success and engagement, faculty outreach, and advocacy for research support, dissemination, and Research Data Management (RDM).
- Provide leadership and expertise in navigating and advancing new publishing opportunities within the evolving scholarly landscape, including Research Data Management (RDM).
- Explore, assess, and implement emerging technologies to enhance and optimize library services, programs, and Research Data Management (RDM) strategies.

Associate University Librarian, Collections and Research

July 2015 – May 2017

York University

- Collaborate with the University Librarian, Associate University Librarian, Information Services, and Executive Officer on library planning, policy development, HR, and financial management.
- Lead efforts to revitalize library collections and foster innovation in traditional and emerging library services.
- Manage collection functions across four libraries, overseeing four direct reports (Acquisitions, Bibliographic Services, Archives & Special Collections, and Resource Sharing) and a \$10M collections budget.

Interim University Librarian

July 2014 – June 2015

York University

- Work in close conjunction with senior leadership in the Office of the Provost as well as with the Vice President Research and Innovation.
- Represent the Libraries in academic and administrative matters both internally and beyond York.
- As chief academic and administrative officer of the Libraries, responsible for financial management, library planning and development, implementation of Senate and University legislation, labour relations and the professional development of librarians, archivists, and staff.

Associate University Librarian, Collections

2005 - 2014

York University

Associate Librarian

1990 - 2004

York University

PROFESSIONAL & SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Visiting Program Officer

July 2016 - June 2017

Association of Research Libraries

- Interviewed colleagues and wrote Digital Scholarship centre profiles for McMaster, Washington State, Georgia Tech, Temple, Case Western, NYU and Notre Dame.
- CNI-ARL Digital Scholarship Planning Workshop. Brown University. November 8-10, 2017. Member of planning committee.
- OCUL Open Education Resources White Paper. Member of research team.

Visiting Librarian

September 2009 – September 2010

Scholars Portal/Ontario Council of University Libraries

- Sabbatical devoted to two initiatives: Implementation of the ARL MINES for Libraries™ survey on use of electronic resources and a patron-driven acquisition ebook pilot.

EDUCATION

Master of Library Science

1988

University of Toronto

Bachelor of Arts, Honours

1986

Western University

SERVICE (select)

Ontario Tech University Committees (select)

President's Indigenous Reconciliation Task Force and Indigenous Education Advisory working group. November 2023 – present.
Research Committee. 2017 – present.
Research Data Management working group. 2019 – present.
AI Task Force

Durham College Committees (select)

Indigenization Council

Ontario Council of University Libraries.

OCUL Treasurer.
Scholars Portal Operations and Development chair.
Collaborative Futures Steering Committee. Various roles including chair.
Truth and reconciliation committee member.

College Libraries Ontario (select)

Indigenous Matters Committee co-chair.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Associate Deans' Professional Development Program. York University.

October 21 – 24, 2013.

A collaborative initiative of the Office of the Vice-President Academic & Provost and the Schulich Executive Education Centre. The program included the following subject areas: Leadership, Change Management and Strategic Decision Making, Essentials of Finance & Accounting in a York context, and Project Management.

Harvard Library Leadership in a Digital Age. Harvard University.

March 21-23, 2013.

Digital technology is transforming the ways libraries must function to promote learning, advance knowledge and provide access to important information resources. Leaders must ask fundamental and unprecedented questions of practice, of both themselves and their organization

Research Library Leadership Fellows Program. Association of Research Libraries.

2009-2011.

An executive leadership program designed and sponsored by ARL member libraries that offers an opportunity for development of future senior-level leaders in large research libraries. The program curriculum is designed to build on self-assessment and exploration of a personal and professional area of interest.

ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians.

August 6-11, 2006.

The Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians provides important leadership concepts and applies them to the practical challenges of leading and managing the contemporary academic library.

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS (select)

- Presentation. *Continuous transformation: transforming service provision to students with disabilities through continuous software development techniques applied to York's Papyrus alternate format delivery tool.* Taras Danylak, Catherine Davidson. TRY Staff Conference, Toronto, Ontario. May 6, 2014.
- Presentation. *Sense Making and Solving Problems. : Leveraging the View "from the Balcony".* Catherine Davidson, Barbara McDonald, Catherine Steeves. OLA Superconference, Toronto, Ontario. January 30, 2014.
- *Digital Image Collections and Services. SPEC Kit.* With Mary Kandiuk and Aaron Lupton. Washington: Association of Research Libraries, 2013.
- Aaron Lupton and Catherine Davidson. (2013) "Assessing the Value of E-Resources to York University Faculty Using the MINES for Libraries Protocol: An Evolving Landscape", *Journal of Web Librarianship*, Vol 7 Iss: 4, pp 422-433. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19322909.2013.839849#.UqY9DSdNrHQ>
- Dana Thomas, Catherine Davidson, Martha Kyriallidou, Terry Plum, (2012) "Measuring use of licensed electronic resources: A second iteration of the MINES for Libraries® survey on Scholars Portal and other resources for the Ontario Council of University Libraries", *Library Management*, Vol. 33 Iss: 6/7, pp.374 - 388.
- Presentation. Papyrus 2.0: York University Libraries' modern-day alternate format storage and delivery system. Catherine Davidson, Taras Danylak. Accessibility Conference. Guelph, Ontario. May 29, 2013.
- Presentation. Virtual orientation for students with disabilities: a campus collaboration. Catherine Davidson, Maureen Haig, Susan Ewing. Accessibility Conference. Guelph, Ontario. May 28, 2013.