This leadership profile is intended to provide information about the University of Kentucky and the position of Dean of Libraries. It is designed to assist qualified individuals in assessing their interest.
About the position

Position summary
The University of Kentucky is seeking a transformative leader to serve as Dean of Libraries. With one of the nation’s largest book endowments for public university libraries, UK Libraries plays a vital role in ensuring student success, as well as enhancing intellectual and economic capital – both on campus and beyond. The dean will lead with passion, creativity and excellence to cultivate an interactive environment for interdisciplinary discovery and research, while transforming our libraries into hubs of life-long learning. This position will work collaboratively with library and academic leadership to direct the college and support the goals of Kentucky’s flagship, land-grant university’s strategic plan.

Role of the dean
UK Libraries is central to the institution’s mission of excellence in education, research, service, and health care to enrich the lives of Kentuckians and beyond. The next dean must inspire the vision to vigorously pursue that mission by:

• Leading faculty and staff to provide outstanding library services and transform facilities into centers of student success.
• Providing vision, strategic direction, and operational leadership for the libraries, working with librarians and staff to meet the college and university’s educational and research missions and ambitious goals for growth.
• Building and cultivating relationships with alumni and other strategic partners to support the Libraries’ research, scholarly, educational, service and fundraising goals.
• Designing and implementing innovative programming and providing extraordinary content to advance learning, research and teaching.
• Renovating, repurposing and investing in library spaces designed to encourage creativity, exploration, and application of new ideas.
• Fostering a highly collaborative and inclusive environment, one that values and leverages the benefits of diverse perspectives to attract, recruit, and retain top faculty and staff.
• Serving, along with 18 other deans, as an equal member of the provost’s council.
• Direct content management, acquisition, and promotion of materials to meet the needs of students, faculty, staff, and clinicians.
• Engage in professional activities within the university and across the state, region, and nation, as well as supporting continual professional development for library staff and faculty.
Candidate profile

Required education and experience

• Masters degree in library science and/or terminal degree in field of study
• At least 10 years of progressively responsible leadership and management experience in an academic library setting

Expertise

• Experience as a transformative leader, while managing change effectively
• Proven understanding of the complexity of a large research university with a full spectrum of academic colleges, professional schools, and an academic medical center
• Evidence of creating and implementing a vision to advance academic and scholarly activities
• Strong portfolio of accomplished scholarly work, both independent and collaborative in nature
• Active participation and leadership in state, regional, and national professional organizations
• Demonstrated initiative and flexibility, as well as the ability to adapt library services in a rapidly changing environment.
• Visionary leadership skills that utilize a participatory style to promote innovation and change management
• Strong communication skills and transparency in decision making, as well as the ability to cultivate an enriching environment and foster collaboration and diversity
• Passion for articulating the college’s mission to gain support and financial resources from external and internal partners
• Ability to attract, develop, promote, and retain world-class faculty and staff
About UK Libraries

UK Libraries at a glance

**Collections**
Total collections: 4.3 million volumes  
Electronic books: 1.7 million  
Full-text electronic journals: 172,000  
Photographs: 2 million  
Bibliographic databases: 410  
Rare books: 65,000  
Oral history interviews: 10,000  
Archival records and manuscripts: 50,000 cubic feet

**Facilities**
- William T. Young Library  
- Agricultural Information Center  
- Hunter M. Adams College of Design Library  
- Education Library  
- John A. Morris Equine Library  
- Lucille Caudill Little Fine Arts Library  
- Medical Center Library  
- Science and Engineering Library  
- Special Collections  
- Kentucky Transportation Center Library  
- Lexmark Library

**Annual usage**
In-person visits: 1.5 million  
Virtual visits: 1.5 million  
Full-text article downloads: 3.3 million  
Items borrowed: 100,000  
Reference questions answered: 18,000  
Courses taught: 700  
Students reached through courses: 14,000

**Faculty and staff**
Faculty and professional staff: 96  
Support staff: 81  
Student employees: 125
About UK Libraries

Mission
As the premier research library in the Commonwealth and the university's intellectual hub, UK Libraries fosters intellectual inquiry and social engagement, engages with the research and creative communities, and advances knowledge and discovery.

Values
Collegiality
• We value cooperation and collaboration.
• We commit to creating an environment that encourages collegiality.

Creativity
• We value innovative ideas and flexible solutions.
• We commit to providing resources for life-long learning.

Integrity
• We value open and honest communication.
• We commit to the highest standards of personal and professional integrity.
• We value the trust placed in us by our colleagues and users.

Service
• We value those we serve.
• We commit to quality services that meet or exceed our users’ expectations.
• We serve UK Libraries’ employees as well as our users.

Respect
• We value the importance of every individual.
• We commit to an open, accepting, and diverse environment.
• We treat users and employees with kindness, consideration, and compassion.

Goals
• Create a vibrant environment that advances student success
• Engage in the research and creative environment
• Achieve organizational effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability
• Make a positive impact on the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the community
About UK Libraries

As the university’s intellectual hub, UK Libraries is central to the university’s mission of improving people’s lives through excellence in education, research and creative work, service and healthcare. By providing ever-expanding access to quality information resources, teaching and learning programs and services, and excellent learning spaces, UK Libraries strives to advance student success in a rigorous academic environment and to enrich communities within the Commonwealth and beyond.

Special Collections Research Center

UK Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) is Kentucky’s largest repository of privately generated primary sources and rare printed materials. The SCRC offers students rich opportunities to enhance their critical thinking skills. SCRC materials are used by scholars world-wide to advance original research and pioneer creative approaches to scholarship in a range of academic fields. As part of the SCRC, the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History leads the nation in innovative approaches to capturing firsthand experiences. Source materials from the internationally recognized Wendell H. Ford Public Policy Research Center and the Bert T. Combs Appalachian Collection are among the highest in demand for researchers across the United States who contribute to scholarly publishing and the historical record.

Collaborations

UK Libraries has also developed a number of collaborative relationships to expand our reach and strengthen our services and collections. Among these are the award-winning Notable Kentucky African Americans Database and the NEH-funded Library of Congress National Digital Newspaper Program.

A strong collaborative relationship exists between UK Libraries and the UK School of Library and Information Science. Library faculty teach courses in the school while graduate students in the program gain important work experience in a research library through their employment with UK Libraries.

University Press of Kentucky

The University Press of Kentucky (UPK) is the scholarly book publisher for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has nearly 2,000 titles in print and electronic form. While some of UPK’s books are targeted primarily for scholars and academic audiences, UPK is also committed to a special and enduring mission to publish Kentucky and regional books of particular cultural, creative, or historic merit. As a statewide consortium, UPK is at the center of the exciting research and writing regarding Kentucky and the region.

Diversity Scholar Program

As one effort to increase diversity, UK Libraries developed an Undergraduate Diversity Scholar Program. The program provides two undergraduates with an interest in diversity and promoting multicultural awareness within the Libraries an internship opportunity to:

- Experience professional-level work within an academic library setting
- Participate in, develop, and lead initiatives or projects that enhance diversity goals
- Gain valuable research and communication skills
- Receive mentoring, build resumes, and prepare for future employment
Located in the vibrant city of Lexington, the University of Kentucky is a public, land-grant institution that plays a critical leadership role in promoting diversity, inclusion, economic development, and human well-being. The campus is home to 30,000 students, 2,400 faculty, and 13,000 full-time staff. The university is one of just eight in the country with a major academic health center and a full spectrum of academic colleges and professional schools on one contiguous campus. As such, UK is an incubator for multidisciplinary research. These collaborations allow researchers to address the rapidly changing needs of a global society.

The state’s flagship institution consists of 18 academic and professional colleges, where students can choose from more than 200 majors and degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Supporting the scholarly community is a comprehensive research library system made up of 11 facilities, including the world-class William T. Young Library.

UK’s student body is diverse, representing more than 100 countries, every state in the nation and all 120 Kentucky counties. UK students compete successfully for prestigious scholarships and awards, such as the Fulbright, Astronaut, Truman, Goldwater, Marshall, Udall, and Gates programs.

The university recently engaged in an effort to revitalize its student living and learning spaces. UK’s public-private partnership with EdR has yielded more than 6,500 modern beds and 202 active learning spaces in 13 buildings. Over the last five years, UK has approved the construction of more than $2.1 billion in infrastructure to bolster the institution’s long-term health and success.

UK’s research expenditures were $361 million in 2016, an 11 percent increase over the previous fiscal years. The university’s dynamic research enterprise encompasses traditional scholarship, the humanities, health care, and emerging fields in technology. UK is one of few institutions to have a trifecta of award funding from the National Institutes of Health for a Clinical and Translational Science Award, an Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, and a National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center.
The City of Lexington is a great place to live, work, and study. It recently appeared on USA Today's list of the top cities to live in. With a population of roughly 300,000, Lexington offers both the warmth – and lower cost of living – of a small city, along with some of the amenities you would enjoy in a larger city, including the arts, cultural events, and a thriving dining scene.

Lexington is also home to some great sporting traditions, including horse racing, Wildcat basketball and football, and a minor league baseball team, the Lexington Legends. In the spring and fall, spend a beautiful afternoon watching Thoroughbred racing at Keeneland Race Course with your friends and family. Our region also boasts some amazing parks and natural wonders, including Red River Gorge, for hiking and exploring.

Lexington’s food scene is filled with Kentucky originals, southern classics, and creative fusion. Lexingtonians benefit from a great local food environment. If you’re visiting Kentucky for the first time, you should try some of our specialties – hot browns, bourbon balls, benedictine sandwiches, Derby pie, burgoo, and many more.

The city also boasts a rich cultural diversity. Lexington is home to people who speak more than 154 languages, and who currently make up about 20 percent of its population. Unprecedented growth of the international population reached nearly 300 percent in just this past decade. International investment, international students, and international academics and visitors from around the world bring a wealth of economic and cultural diversity to Lexington.
Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications are invited. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled. All applications must be submitted online at the UK Jobs website.

Application materials should include the following:

- Curriculum vitae
- Cover letter summarizing relevant experience in leadership, administration, and scholarly work. Please include your vision of how academic research libraries should incorporate changing trends to enhance intellectual discovery.
- Names, addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of four references (References will not be contacted without candidate approval; upload under Specific Request 1)

Application review will begin in mid-January and will continue until the position is filled. For more information about the position, please contact Mary Beth Bracken at 859-257-3348 or via email at marybeth.bracken@uky.edu.

The University of Kentucky is committed to a diverse and inclusive workforce by ensuring all our students, faculty, and staff work in an environment of openness and acceptance. We strive to foster a community where people of all backgrounds, identities, and perspectives can feel secure and welcome. We also value the well-being of each of our employees and are dedicated to creating a healthy place to work, learn, and live. In the interest of maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our students, employees, patients, and visitors, the University of Kentucky is a Tobacco & Drug Free campus.

As an Equal Opportunity Employer, we strongly encourage veterans, individuals with disabilities, women, and all minorities to consider our employment opportunities.