



DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Collections Strategy Librarian

Position Posting – March 2014

The Dalhousie University Libraries are seeking a Collections Strategy Librarian with energy, vision and a strong service ethic. Taking a user-centered approach, she/he will advise and support system-wide collection activities by providing analysis, assessment, consultation, planning and integration of services in conjunction with the Associate University Librarian (AUL), Resources. She/he will also support the work of the Digital Scholarship Initiative team, particularly in the area of Scholarly Communications, working with the University Archivist. The position reports to the Associate University Librarian, Resources and will be appointed through the Killam Library.

The Dal Libraries:

The Dal Libraries are a confederation of five libraries working together to serve all Dalhousie students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the community. The Dalhousie Libraries system comprises the Killam Memorial Library (Arts and Social Sciences, Science, Management, and Computer Science), the W.K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library (Medicine, Dentistry and Health Professions), the Sexton Design & Technology Library (Engineering, Architecture and Planning), the MacRae Library (Agriculture) and the Sir James Dunn Law Library (which is an integral part of the Dalhousie Libraries but reports directly to the Dean of Law).

System-wide units including the University Archives & GIS Centre, Resources, and the Library IT Services group are also part of the Dal Libraries. As a cohesive library system with a team comprising 28 professional librarians and 90 staff, we celebrate and meet the unique discipline-based needs of our users and support their shared goals to achieve excellence in teaching, learning and research. The Dalhousie Libraries are members of Novanet, a consortium of Nova Scotia academic libraries sharing a common library management system (Ex Libris Aleph 500), the Council of Atlantic University Libraries (CAUL) and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL), among other collaborative initiatives.

The Dal Libraries are adopting innovative strategies for acquiring, preserving and sharing knowledge. As academic resources become format-agnostic and increasingly diverse, interdisciplinary and aggregated, we are working to redefine Dalhousie Libraries' collections and methods of access, to serve innovative teaching and research strategies and new areas of academic endeavour. The Dal Libraries play a critical role in the stewardship of research resources that support scholarship, knowledge transfer and innovation.

The Role:

The Collections Strategy Librarian provides coordination and advice on the provision, assessment and integration of library collections in support of the university's instructional and research programs. This position will provide evidence to support current collections management decisions and actively anticipate and communicate new collections trends in the library world to the Dal Libraries community. The successful candidate will report to the Associate University Librarian, Resources. She/he works closely with the University Librarian, the Associate University Librarians, the Dal Libraries Administrative Officer, the Resources managers and staff, the librarians responsible for Special Collections and the Off-Site Repository, and with subject specialists across the system.

Main Areas of Responsibility:

- Provide advice and coordination on collections issues in support of the university's instructional and research programs
- Evaluate potential new collections for quality of content, navigability, and capabilities for integration into delivery systems currently in place
- Maintain a high level of awareness about new collection models and emerging technologies for collection delivery in an increasingly mobile environment
- Facilitate the successful integration of new collections into existing discovery tools and discovery methods across the system by working cooperatively with the Managers of E-resources, Resources and Subscriptions, System-wide Resources, and IT staff
- Develop effective collection retirement and/or replacement strategies
- Work with the AUL Resources and key personnel in licensing and negotiation for electronic resources
- Disseminate information about new or retiring collections to library staff and library clientele. In cooperation with the Library Communications Officer and subject specialists, develop a comprehensive and effective collections communication plan
- Analyze and report on data and trends regarding collection growth, usage, material costs, expenditures, etc. to inform decisions regarding the Libraries' collections, to project budgetary needs, to develop collection strategies and to inform stakeholders of the value of Library collections
- Coordinate and oversee the work of the Manager of Acquisitions & Metadata, the Manager of E-Resources and Subscriptions and the Manager of System-wide Resources
- Assist in the evaluation of collections and collections-related systems in relation to the Libraries' strategic and operational goals and the expectations of the university community
- Work with subject librarians and other staff members to assess the adequacy of library collections and services in support of external reviews or accreditations of academic programs and proposals of new programs, majors, minors, and certificates
- Contribute to Dal Libraries' strategic initiatives through participation in various projects and committees, such as scholarly communication, research data management, digital scholarship, and instruction
- Actively contribute to local, consortial, regional and national collections initiatives to stay abreast of collection development trends; serve as Resources representative on projects and consortial initiatives with CAUL, CARL, CRKN, Novanet
- Participate in Library fundraising, gifts, and stewardship efforts as they relate to collection development
- Instruct and assist clients remotely and on site to discover a variety of print and electronic resources through the Novanet LiveHelp service
- Contribute to librarianship by carrying out professional research and/or scholarly work

Qualifications:

- An MLIS degree from an ALA accredited program or equivalent is essential
- A strong commitment to public service and excellent interpersonal skills are required
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Familiarity with key aspects of ILS systems especially related to collections (acquisitions, cataloguing, serials)
- Familiarity with licensing and negotiations for electronic resources
- Demonstrated experience in coordinating and overseeing the work of staff in a supervisory capacity
- Ability to acquire, assess, interpret, and present collections-related data in a variety of formats
- In-depth, up-to-date knowledge of scholarly communications issues and related systems and tools
- In-depth, up-to-date knowledge of modern collection practices in academic libraries
- Successful instructional, research, and reference experience in an academic library is desirable
- Effective time management, organizational, and project management skills
- Demonstrated ability to manage multiple projects concurrently, to set and meet deadlines and to adapt to new and changing situations, priorities and technologies
- Interest in and aptitude for learning and adapting emerging technologies
- Proven ability to work independently as well as collegially as a productive member of a team is essential

Salary and Benefits:

Rank and salary are dependent upon qualifications and experience, and subject to the terms of the Dalhousie Faculty Association Collective Agreement. The position will not be filled at a rank higher than Librarian II.

Please send a letter of application and current resume, including the names of three references, by March 21st, 2014 to:

Janice Slauenwhite
Dalhousie Libraries
Killam Library Administration Office
6225 University Avenue, PO Box 15000
Halifax, NS B3H 4R2

Electronic applications are preferred and can be sent to: janice.slauenwhite@dal.ca

"All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Dalhousie University is an Employment Equity/Affirmative Action employer. The University encourages applications from qualified Aboriginal people, persons with a disability, racially visible persons and women."