



DEAN OF SMU LIBRARIES
Position specification

Southern Methodist University invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of SMU Libraries. With oversight of SMU's main library and seven specialty libraries, the Dean oversees operations essential to the educational and research mission of a vibrant institution enthusiastically working toward significantly improving its academic stature.

Institutional profile

A nationally-ranked, private research university, SMU is a distinguished institution for global scholarship and creative activity with a liberal arts tradition. SMU's nearly 12,000 diverse, high-achieving students come from all 50 states and 90 countries to take advantage of the University's small classes, hands-on research opportunities, leadership development, community service, international study, computational resources, and innovative interdisciplinary programs. The University offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs with a strong foundation in the humanities and sciences throughout its seven schools.

SMU's faculty includes members or fellows of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Academy of Inventors. Faculty members have won awards and funding from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment of the Humanities, among many others. In 2015, SMU completed a \$1.15 billion comprehensive fundraising campaign. The University's endowment stands at \$1.5 billion.

SMU recently announced an investment of \$85 million in the areas of high-performance computing and data science. The quality of the recruited student body continues to improve, as represented by an incoming class of 2017 average ACT score of 30 (95th percentile).

Now in its second century of achievement, SMU is increasingly recognized for the ways that it supports students, faculty, and alumni as they become ethical leaders in their professions and communities. The University's entrepreneurial spirit lives in people from every academic discipline who see opportunities to create something new in the world – and work hard to bring their innovations to life. SMU's relationship with Dallas – the progressive urban hub of one of the nation's fastest-growing regions with 7 million residents – offers unique learning, research, social, cultural, and career opportunities that provide a launch pad for our students, faculty, and alumni to make a global impact. Members of the SMU community are energized by unbridled opportunities – from teaching, learning, and research to creative, artistic, and athletic endeavors.

The University is nonsectarian in its scholarship and teaching and committed to academic freedom and open inquiry. SMU was founded by Dallas civic leaders and what is now the United Methodist Church.

SMU Libraries

Fondren Library. As the main library on campus, Fondren Library's mission is to support and engage faculty and students in the educational and research activities of the SMU community. Fondren Library, which underwent a \$17 million renovation in 2016, houses the Caren H. Prothro Learning Commons, the Collaborative Café, the Hillcrest Foundation Exhibit Hall, and the recently restored Fondren Centennial Reading Room. The following programs and services are provided through Fondren Library: subject librarians; information literacy; first-year experience programming; outreach and engagement; digital scholarship and open access publishing; spatial literacy and geographical information systems support; document delivery; pick-up service; interlibrary loan; and government depository.

The Technology Services department of Fondren Library in collaboration with SMU's Office of Information Technology, provides support for several systems that serve all libraries, including Alma, ILLiad, CONTENTdm, EZProxy, and MediaBank. The department also includes the *Norwick Center for Digital Solutions*, the digital collection and curation unit, responsible for digitizing, annotating, and presenting selected items from special collections in DeGolyer and Hamon Arts Libraries.

DeGolyer Library houses special collections and archives and serves the research community internally and throughout the world. With an emphasis on the humanities, business history, and the history of science and technology, DeGolyer Library today holds more than 150,000 rare books; over 2,500 separate manuscript collections adding up to 3 million documents; approximately 1 million photographs; 3,000 early maps; 2,000 periodical and newspaper titles; and a sizable collection of printed ephemera.

Jake and Nancy Hamon Arts Library supports and enhances the educational programs, curriculum development, and research activities of the Meadows School of the Arts. The library collects print, electronic, audiovisual, and special collection materials that serve the School and the Dallas arts community. The library houses collections in the visual and performing arts, with strengths in the art of Latin America, Iberia, and the Americas, play scripts, costume design, film and media studies, dance, extensive performing editions of solo keyboard and vocal works, and parts sets for instrumental chamber ensembles.

Bridwell Library, which supports the Perkins School of Theology's graduate programs, is regarded as among the best theological libraries in the world. While primarily serving the faculty and students of the Perkins School, it is the University's principal research resource for the fields of theology and religious studies. In addition to the print materials available in the general collection of more than 350,000 items, the library also provides access to a wide array of digital books, journals, and databases. Bridwell's special collections contain approximately 51,000 printed books, ranging from the fifteenth to the twentieth century. Among the library's special collections are significant holdings in early printing, English and American Methodism,

theology, religion, and book arts. These collections are interpreted through class instruction, lectures, publications, and exhibitions. Reference librarians are available to help students discover and use the many resources of Bridwell Library.

Business Library of the Cox School of Business combines many of the features of a traditional university library with the latest in online databases, search tools, and presentation facilities. Through the Business Library, students, faculty, and staff have access to instruction and research assistance from dedicated business librarians to enhance their use of current business news and financial, industry, and market data from premier providers. In addition, the library contains a group presentation room and a multimedia studio. The Kitt Investing and Trading Center, added in 2011, is a state-of-the-art instructional and research facility designed to integrate financial data and technology into the finance curriculum, enhance innovative faculty research, and teach students practical finance and investment applications.

Underwood Law Library, which supports the Dedman School of Law, is the largest private academic law library west of the Mississippi River. Its collections include approximately 673,000 law-related volumes and equivalents, ranking the library among the top 20 percent of law libraries in the United States. The subject area strengths of the library's collections correspond to the Law School's curricular strengths: taxation, securities, corporate law, air and space law, commercial and banking law, constitutional law, law and medicine, and international law.

SMU Scholar is the digital repository that provides access to the scholarly and creative work of the University's community. The libraries are committed to promotion of open access and seek opportunities to preserve, provide access to, and publish not only the scholarly works of our community but also locally produced journals.

Fort Burgwin Library serves the students and faculty in the SMU-in-Taos, New Mexico program. The collection, closely tailored to the Taos curriculum, focuses on the history, literature, archeology, cultures, and environment of New Mexico, its native people, and its neighboring states in the Southwest. The library collection consists of approximately 9,000 books and a small collection of journals and maps.

Principles

The principles that have guided – and will continue to guide – the evolution of SMU's library system are as follows:

- SMU is conducting a broad and inclusive campus-wide dialogue regarding how to advance the University's academic excellence to the level of a premier research and teaching university with global impact. To support the quest for greater academic quality, SMU's libraries merit prominent consideration because they uniquely intersect all aspects of the University's academic enterprise;
- The coherence of SMU's library system that will enable the new Dean to oversee an inclusive and ambitious visioning and strategic planning process for SMU Libraries;
- The University's commitment to providing library resources consistent with the University's accreditation and the accreditation of schools within the University; and

- SMU's commitment to library stakeholder groups, including those within Bridwell Library, Business Library, and Underwood Law Library.

The Role

Reporting to the Provost, the Dean of SMU Libraries will be responsible for all of the combined libraries at SMU (with a dotted line responsibility for the Underwood Law Library). The coordinating body for SMU Libraries is the Collaborative Council, which will foster coordination and service to University stakeholders across all libraries. The Collaborative Council will be chaired by the Dean of SMU Libraries and will include the directors of Bridwell Library, Business Library, DeGolyer Library, Fondren Library, Hamon Arts Library, and Underwood Law Library.

The integrated library system structure will facilitate the new Dean's leadership of fundraising efforts. Accordingly, the Dean will have access to staffing in support of fundraising. The Dean of SMU Libraries will serve as an *ex officio* member of the SMU Libraries Executive Board and Friends of the SMU Libraries, which represent all SMU libraries.

The Dean of SMU Libraries will sit on the Council of Deans and the Council of Academic Leadership.

Priorities

The Dean of SMU Libraries will lead SMU Libraries in support of the University's goals and objectives with respect to academic affairs. Specific opportunities awaiting the Dean include the following:

Strategic planning

- Lead an inclusive strategic planning process for SMU Libraries that renews the University's vision for their future in the 21st century, anticipating long-term needs for service, staffing, technology, and facilities;
- Provide intellectual leadership in the curation, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge at a time when the University seeks to enhance its academic excellence;
- Support the teaching and research mission of the University in partnership with faculty and University leadership;
- Implement the structure of SMU Libraries to strengthen the spirit of collaboration among all the libraries; and
- Foster synergistic partnerships among the libraries in support of the University's research and educational objectives.

Operational effectiveness

- Develop and implement the annual budget, aligning resources with academic priorities;
- Efficiently manage the business operations of the libraries; and
- Evaluate and prioritize the need for technological systems and tools and the appropriate staffing support.

Collection management

- Assess and develop the general collections and steward the premier special collections;
- Foster SMU Libraries' extension of knowledge and services in the curation and preservation of research data;
- Expand the Libraries' efforts to digitize and digitally preserve its special collections and make them available in digital collections;
- Support new trends that are emerging from the technological landscape in a digital age.

Raising resources and visibility

- Work closely with the University's Development and External Affairs office to strengthen philanthropic relationships in support of the mission of SMU Libraries;
- Advocate for SMU Libraries through coalitions with allied institutions – internationally, nationally, regionally, and locally – with regard to issues of concern to academic research libraries; and
- Articulate a compelling vision for the future of SMU Libraries that inspires broad support.

Qualifications

The Dean of SMU Libraries will be a visionary 21st century leader. The successful candidate will possess an MLS degree, an MLIS degree, or the equivalent; an additional graduate degree would be a plus. In addition, strong candidates would be expected to demonstrate excellence in the following:

- Visionary perspective on the new roles that academic research libraries will play in the future;
- Reputation for consultative decision-making;
- Expertise in the field of library and/or information science (and, ideally, also in another academic discipline);
- Extensive experience providing library services to effectively support an institution's mission of education, research, and service;
- Knowledge of state-of-the-art information systems in higher education, such as networked information technologies, library information databases and systems, academic and enterprise computing, and digital library systems;
- Commitment to developing of best practices for the acquisition, preservation, and use of printed and digital materials;
- Proven track record of setting and achieving strategic goals;
- Understanding of the changing nature of scholarly communication;
- Demonstrated success in integrating technology to support and improve services, build collections, and enable innovative programming;
- Effective resource management;
- Commitment to fostering diversity and inclusive excellence; and
- Dedication to academic excellence and the highest ethical standards.

Contact

Inquiries, nominations, and expressions of interest may be sent in confidence to:

SMULibraries@parksquare.com.

Southern Methodist University will not discriminate in any program or activity on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression. The Executive Director for Access and Equity/Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies and may be reached at the Perkins Administration Building, Room 204, 6425 Boaz Lane, Dallas, TX 75205, 214-768-3601, accessequity@smu.edu.

Hiring is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of a background check.