



University Librarian

Washington, D.C.

THE SEARCH

Georgetown University, the nation's oldest Catholic and Jesuit institution of higher learning, invites applications and nominations for the position of University Librarian (UL). The University seeks a dynamic, collaborative, and innovative library professional to lead the organization as it evolves and grows. The first phase of renovations to the main campus library, Lauinger Library, will be completed in December 2025 as Pierce Reading Room is transformed; subsequent phases and fundraising will be critical priorities for the next UL. In addition, a new library space on Capitol Campus will serve students and faculty in a soon-to-be-completed (later in 2025) multi-use education facility. The next UL will therefore have the opportunity to bring these and other projects online, building and shaping the Georgetown Library of the 21st century.

Georgetown University provides students with a world-class learning experience grounded in the tenet *cura personalis*—care for the whole person. Ranked 24th among national universities by U.S. News and World Report, the University enrolls over 20,000 students from all 50 states and more than 150 countries. Georgetown offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees, as well as programs and certificates, through the College of Arts & Sciences, the McDonough School of Business, the Walsh School of Foreign Service, the Georgetown University Law Center, the Graduate School, the School of Medicine, the School of Health, the School of Nursing, the School of Continuing Studies, the McCourt School of Public Policy, and the Earth Commons (Georgetown's Institute for Environment and Sustainability).

Reporting to the Provost, the University Librarian will work with colleagues within the Library, across the institution, and beyond to articulate a vision and chart a course for the future, attending to collections, services, space, and organizational development. The Georgetown University Library holds 4.2 million print and electronic resources as well as extensive collections of manuscripts and rare books, audio-visual materials, microforms, graphics, and government documents. Annual expenditures of the Library are approximately \$15 million, with staff and librarians numbering 85.

Georgetown seeks an individual with a record of inspiring leadership; a vision that embraces and meets the challenges presented by a rapidly changing information and technological environment; tactical and operational abilities to execute on that vision; and the management skills to lead and develop a talented,

diverse workforce and maximize the Library's financial and human resources. The ideal candidate will bring to the role significant experience and perspective in leading a research library, nuanced understanding of the scholarly ecosystem in which academic research libraries operate, and a strategic mindset about the opportunities that libraries must seize.

A search committee has been formed, and the national executive search firm Isaacson, Miller has been retained to assist the committee in its work. Confidential inquiries, nominations and applications can be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Established in 1789, Georgetown is a private, urban, international research university committed to Jesuit education in the liberal arts tradition, with respect for diversity and open dialogue in the pursuit of truth. One of the world's leading academic and research institutions, Georgetown is a vibrant community of exceptional students, faculty, alumni, and professionals who are dedicated to real-world applications of their research, scholarship, faith, and service. Students are challenged to engage in the world and become "people for others," especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of society. These values are at the core of Georgetown's identity.

The University's 104-acre main campus ("Hilltop Campus") and Medical Center are located on the hilltop of historic Georgetown in the northwest corridor of Washington, D.C., overlooking the Potomac River. The Georgetown Law Center is located at the foot of Capitol Hill ("Capitol Campus"), with access to Congress, the Supreme Court, and numerous agencies, administrative boards, and commissions of the federal government and the District of Columbia. Further development of the Capitol Campus is under way and includes a building that houses the McCourt School of Public Policy, a newly renovated student residence hall, a multi-use education facility that will include the Capitol Campus library space, and an additional building that hosts many of the University's Centers and institutes. Other locations for learning include a facility in Doha, Qatar, a villa in Fiesole, Italy, and residency at Campion Hall (Oxford).

In November 2024, Dr. John J. DeGioia stepped down as President of the University, after a remarkable 23 years of leadership. The longest-serving president in Georgetown's history and the first lay president to lead a Jesuit institution of higher education, he expanded the impact and footprint of the university while strengthening its Catholic and Jesuit identity and deepening its commitment to academic excellence.

Dr. Robert Groves is currently Interim President of Georgetown. For the previous 12 years he served as Executive Vice President and Provost. He is also the Gerard J. Campbell, S.J. Professor in the Math and Statistics Department as well as the Sociology Department.

A presidential search is underway and is expected to conclude with a new president in place by Fall 2026.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Georgetown University relies on its libraries every day to enable and inspire the work of faculty and students. Library collections and services empower students and faculty as they access, evaluate, and create knowledge. The collections are both wide and deep, reflecting the long history of the institution as well as the breadth of the curriculum and faculty scholarship. In addition to the general collections, the [Library's special collections](#) include over 160,000 rare books and manuscript collections and a wealth of fine prints and paintings, graphic arts, photographs and slides, including the University Art Collection, and video and audio materials. The library's [digital scholarship services](#) offers a diverse set of contemporary services, tools, and training including space and equipment for audio and video recording and editing; the [Maker Hub](#) provides access to a variety of manual and computer-controlled tools and training, inspiring active learning, creative problem-solving, and entrepreneurship. The [Research Services Department](#) provides assistance and teaching to faculty, staff, and students across Georgetown and includes a robust group of liaison librarians who work closely with Georgetown faculty and students via library instruction, research consultations, outreach, and events.

Georgetown is also the repository for the [Archives of the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus](#) (Maryland Province Archives), and the Library plays an important role in the University's engagement in the ongoing process of understanding its historical role in the institution of slavery. Librarians, archivists, faculty, and graduate and undergraduate researchers are working to expand digital resources and what is known about slavery and segregation related to Georgetown and the Maryland Jesuits. New findings can be found in the [Georgetown Slavery Archive](#), which was launched in 2016. The project was initiated by the Archives Subgroup of the Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation and is part of the University's [Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation](#) initiative.

[Georgetown University Library](#) includes five facilities:

- **Joseph Mark Lauinger Memorial Library**, Georgetown's main campus library, houses materials in the humanities, social sciences, and business; U.S. federal government documents; and the [Booth Family Center for Special Collections](#), which includes rare books, manuscripts, Woodstock Theological Library special collections (one of the oldest and most notable theological collections in the United States, integrated with the Lauinger Library in 2020), the University Archives, and the University Art Collection. Lauinger also serves as the home for digital scholarship, the Gelardin Media Center, and the Maker Hub.
- **Blommer Science Library** serves undergraduate and graduate programs in biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, and physics. A large portion of the Blommer collection is available electronically.
- **The School of Continuing Studies (SCS) Library** serves the School of Continuing Studies, supporting life-long learners across a variety of online and in-person master's degrees, certificate programs, summer and high school programs, ESL programs, and executive education programs. The SCS library will likely be integrated into the new Capitol Campus Library opening in the fall of 2025.

- **The new Capitol Campus Library** will serve students and faculty in the soon-to-be-completed multi-use educational facility. In Fall 2025, library staff will provide in-person and virtual teaching and consultation services, along with course reserves, book delivery, and pickup services.
- **The Bioethics Research Library**, a specialized collection of books, journals, newspaper articles, legal materials, regulations, codes, government publications, and other relevant documents concerned with issues in biomedical and professional ethics, represents the world's largest collection related to ethical issues in medicine and biomedical research.
- **Riggs Memorial Library** was the main university library from 1891 to 1970. Today the library is managed by the Office of the President and serves as a convening space for high-level university functions. Though Riggs is not open for visitation or general use, it continues to serve its original purpose of housing books. Items requested from Riggs are delivered by the University Library Access Services staff.
- Also part of the library system, but not reporting to the UL, are the Dahlgren Memorial Library, which serves the University's Medical Center; the law libraries; and the Library affiliated with Georgetown University in Qatar. The UL works collaboratively and coordinates services with the separately appointed librarians of these libraries.

Additional information

- Georgetown Library participates in a robust resource sharing consortium, the [Washington Research Library Consortium \(WRLC\)](#), which also provides a shelving facility for more than 1 million volumes of the library's less-used materials.
- Georgetown is also a member of the [Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities \(AJCU\)](#), the [Association of Research Libraries \(ARL\)](#), [OCLC](#), the [Council on Library and Information Resources \(CLIR\)](#), and the [Coalition for Networked Information \(CNI\)](#). Georgetown was a founding member of the [Catholic Research Resources Alliance](#), an initiative to present scholarly Catholic resources through a portal to the research community worldwide, and is closely affiliated with the [Universities Studying Slavery Consortium](#).
- The Georgetown University Library has three advisory committees that support the University Librarian in setting the direction for library activities: the Faculty Library Advisory Committee, the Georgetown University Library Board (the external advisory board), and the Student Library Council.
- In 2023, the University launched its \$3 billion [Called to Be](#) campaign. The Library is one of the campaign's priorities. To date, about one-third of the Library's goal for the campaign--approximately \$26 million--has been raised and directed toward the Library.

ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

The UL is the chief administrative officer for the Georgetown University Library and is responsible for its operational areas and functions, including development and curation of collections; coordination and delivery of library services; and management of staff, budgets, and facilities. The UL also plays an important external role, championing and broadcasting the work of the library; engaging with faculty,

lecturers, students, and administration; fundraising with public and private sectors in support of library programs; and working collaboratively with the colleagues in the profession.

This position reports to the University Provost and oversees approximately 85 staff and non-tenured librarians. The 2025 operating budget for the Georgetown Library is approximately \$15.4 million, with a collections budget close to \$7 million.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The University Librarian will:

Provide visionary, strategic leadership for the Library.

The University Librarian will advance and execute a compelling vision for the Georgetown Library. Such a vision must honor and steward the past and position the Library for the future. In this context, the UL's vision must consider and balance attention to Georgetown Library's print resources and highly-valued special collections; emerging technologies and new forms of information; faculty scholarship and teaching in established and emerging disciplines; developments and advances in teaching, scholarship and inquiry; and most critically, the future of information.

Engage, elevate, integrate.

To succeed, the University Librarian must foster connections across the institution and identify and provide services that substantially contribute to the academic enterprise. The Library is well-regarded, and users are satisfied with the services they receive. Still, there is opportunity for the Library to become more connected to other units around campus, to raise awareness of and expand its instruction activities, to increase its salutary impact on student life, and to offer expert counsel to faculty and academic leaders about fair use, copyright, use and acquisition of non-print materials, and open-access publishing. The next UL must also continue working closely with the Medical, Law, and Georgetown School of Foreign Service in Qatar libraries at Georgetown in developing ways to collaborate and share scholarly resources and areas of expertise.

In addition, Georgetown has been an instrumental member of the Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC). The University Librarian will continue to capitalize on Georgetown's Washington, DC location and pursue other synergistic, creative relationships with local institutions such as American University, George Washington University, Howard University, Amazon's HQ2 campus, Folger Shakespeare Library, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and [Smithsonian Institutions](#).

Leverage the Library's resources for maximum impact and value.

The University Librarian must have the knowledge and ability to manage the Library's human, financial, and physical resources adroitly. This knowledge must extend to hiring and staffing; the maintenance and enhancement of collections and services; the allocation of storage space; and other areas of Library management. Accounting for the current fiscal climate and increasing subscription and technology costs, the role requires the ability to think creatively, devise structural solutions, enlist allies and partners, work collaboratively, and enact decisively.

The next UL must also successfully develop and create opportunities for individual and organizational giving, thereby expanding the Library's resource base and its capacity. Working with the Office of Advancement, the UL will present a clear, compelling vision for the Library; serve as an energetic champion of the Library; and position the Library as a critical element to aid the University writ large in achieving its strategic goals.

Transform library space.

One of the opportunities possible with future fundraising support is the ongoing transformation and renovation of Lauinger Library, which will increase and modernize its interior space. The first phase of this effort, the renovation of the Pierce Reading Room, is underway, and the next UL will lead continued work to build the Georgetown Library of the 21st century.

Lead and strengthen Library staff and Library culture.

The successes of the Georgetown Library are and have been enabled by talented, high-achieving, and loyal staff members. As a leader and a manager, the UL will develop consistency in the provision of high-quality service; guide professional growth and development; and define and implement programs to mentor and retain the diverse, multi-generational librarians and staff. The UL will lead with clear communication, build a culture of transparency, and exemplify values of collaboration and empathy.

Commit to a community of inclusivity and diversity, in keeping with Jesuit principles.

At the heart of Georgetown is a commitment to the Jesuit principles of caring for the whole person and being people for others. Inclusivity and diversity are core to Georgetown's identity: it aims to be a community reflecting the full range of human experiences, a community that values differences, a community that seeks opportunities to serve others in commitment to justice and the common good, and a community that fosters respect for human dignity and promotes the welfare of all. The Library has made significant progress in this regard. The next UL will continue this work, demonstrating investment in the lasting success of these efforts.

KEY QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will possess credentials appropriate to the leadership of a modern research-intensive library and a record of accomplishment in an academic discipline and/or library/information science. An advanced degree in library science and/or other graduate degree is strongly preferred.

In addition, the successful candidate will possess many, if not all, of the following qualifications, professional experiences, and personal qualities:

- Demonstrated leadership experience in academic scholarly communities and proven managerial ability in a complex organizational setting;
- Ability to articulate a vision and provide strategic direction in a rapidly changing information environment;
- An understanding of the major challenges facing academic research libraries today, such as collection development, new trends in publishing, artificial intelligence, media, and other technology integration, space planning, and the need for effective staff and organizational development to support rapidly changing user needs and expectations;
- Knowledge of trends and practices in teaching and scholarly research, including open access, open-educational resources, and scholarly publishing reform;
- Awareness of existing and emerging technologies that have the potential to transform the way information is gathered, made, disseminated, used, and stored, and demonstrated ability to discern those with strategic importance to the institution;
- Demonstrated ability to represent the library externally and effectively articulate the goals, values, and vision of the library in such a way that builds relationships and deepens financial support for the library;
- Experience in strategic planning, space planning, assessment, budget management, and resource allocation;
- Success in fostering university, state and/or national cooperation in resource sharing, networking, and collection development;
- Sensitivity to issues of shared governance and recognition of the need to reach out to faculty and students for feedback;
- Commitment to professional growth and development of talented library faculty and staff;
- An appreciation of Jesuit values, which include a commitment to social justice and global engagement, alongside rigorous intellectual discovery;
- Evidence of strong interpersonal skills: to work collegially, to write and speak effectively, to attract and mobilize support, to inspire confidence and trust, to navigate intercultural differences with understanding and skill, and to maintain a positive and empowering work culture.

TO APPLY

Inquiries, nominations/referrals, and applications, including a curriculum vitae and letter of interest, should be sent electronically and in confidence to:

Anita Tien, Partner
Andy Marshall, Managing Associate
Christina Errico, Senior Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller
Georgetown University, University Librarian

Georgetown University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer fully dedicated to achieving a diverse faculty and staff. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply and will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation), disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.