Washington University in St. Louis seeks nominations for and expressions of interest in the position of Vice Provost and University Librarian. Reporting to the Provost, the University Librarian will be expected to expand the reach and access to print and digital collections and programming in support of research, teaching, and learning; foster internal and external partnerships and collaborations; collaborate with the communities of scholars on campus; recruit and nurture a diverse, professional staff; and garner and manage resources toward strategic goals.

The Washington University Libraries are a system of 10 campus facilities featuring vast print and electronic collections; and expert librarians, curators, archivists, and staff. The main library is the John M. Olin Library, a 197,000-square-foot research library housing humanities, social sciences, engineering, and special collections; a technology center; a dual-purpose café and extended-hours study space; reading rooms; lounges; and small-group studies. A major expansion and transformation of Olin is underway that will add 16,000 square feet and increase special collections exhibition and storage capacity; improve the quantity and variety of seating, study, and research spaces; implement a new north entrance for seamless access; and enhance the accessibility and visibility of specialized research services and special collections.

The Libraries as a whole house more than 5 million ebook and print titles, journal titles, database subscriptions, and over 100,000 AV titles. The main Olin Library houses over a million and a half volumes. The collections consist of materials in a number of languages; after English, the top languages collected are German, Spanish, French, and Chinese. Of particular note among the Libraries’ collections are the Film & Media Archive’s Henry Hampton Collection, an archive of unique materials documenting the civil rights movement and other aspects of American history, the Eames & Young and Russell Sturgis architectural photograph collections, the Modern Graphic History Library, the Modern Literature Collection which is part of the Manuscript Collection. Other distinctive collections include contemporary German literature, Shimeon Brisman Collection in Jewish Studies, Third Reich, Islamic Studies, sheet music collection, popular literature, and U.S. Government publications. As an U.S. government documents depository, the Libraries provide access to federal information in a variety of formats.

The digital library, the online gateway to all digital collections at the University, is administered by the Scholarly Publishing unit of the Libraries. Scholarly Publishing offers support to scholars creating digital projects, and promotes, houses, and preserves these projects. The Libraries are also home to Data and GIS Services which makes Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) and data visualization available to the entire university community. In recent years, the Libraries have significantly expanded external funding from gifts and grants to support new, including those to support public service and community engagement initiatives that address social justice challenges in disadvantaged or under-served communities. For example, the Andrew M. Mellon Foundation has funded Documenting the Now and,
under the aegis of the Center for Humanities at Washington University, the Divided City Initiative. These two projects focus respectively on the ethical collection, use, and preservation of social media data and the history and current reality of urban segregation in St. Louis and in a range of global cities. The Libraries are home also to Documenting Ferguson, a freely available resource to preserve and make accessible the digital media captured and created by community members following the shooting death of Michael Brown in 2014.

The Libraries of Washington University in St. Louis are a member of the Association of Research Libraries, the Center for Research Libraries, the HathiTrust, the Greater Western Library Alliance, and MOBIUS (an alliance of 75 Missouri libraries), among other organizations. St. Louis is also home to an extraordinary set of other libraries and archival collections: the Peter R. Raven Library of the Missouri Botanical Garden, the St. Louis Mercantile Library, the Steedman Architectural Collection at the St. Louis Public Library, and the Library and Research Center at the Missouri Historical Society.

The Position
The Vice Provost and University Librarian oversees 142 staff members and is responsible for an annual budget of $23 million. The libraries’ organization includes 6 Associate University Librarians, 28 subject librarians, and 8 curators/archivists.

The next University Librarian will be expected to provide intellectual and strategic leadership in the curation, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge at a time when Washington University in St. Louis seeks to sustain the excellence of its undergraduate education while strengthening its graduate and doctoral programs. Through the ongoing development of the general collections and the building of special collections, she or he must support the teaching and research mission of the university in partnership with the faculty and university leadership. The University Librarian must have a strong vision for the position of the Library in the digital age and support the Libraries extension of knowledge and services in curating and preserving various forms of research data such as data sets, 3D renderings and visualizations, software artifacts and other materials emerging from today’s technological landscape.

The University Librarian must lead the staff and manage the business operations of the library; evaluate and prioritize the needs for and then invest in relevant technology; implement space allocations and designs for the modern library era; strengthen ties and build coalitions with allied institutions; and advocate for the libraries and their missions. The Library enjoys strong philanthropic support and the University Librarian is expected to work closely with the Library National Council and University Alumni development office to raise funds for the library.

Qualifications
The successful candidate will possess expertise in an academic discipline and/or the field of library/information science; a record of setting and achieving strategic goals; a deep understanding of the changing nature of scholarly communication; a vision for the new roles academic research libraries will play; demonstrated success in integrating technology to support and improve services, build collections, and enable innovative programming; a proven record managing resources effectively; a commitment to developing best practices for the acquisition, preservation, and use of printed materials;
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and an uncompromising commitment to academic excellence, to the highest ethical standards, and to the creation and support of a vibrant and broadly diverse community of faculty, students and staff across the University. A relevant graduate degree is required.

The University
Washington University in St. Louis is a global leader in research and education with approximately 12,500 full-time students divided evenly between undergraduate and graduate/professional, 3,000 full- and part-time faculty members, and more than half a billion dollars in annual research expenditures. Founded in 1853, the university is an independent, Research 1 university with nearly 60 of the university’s graduate and undergraduate programs ranked in the top 25 by US News & World Report. The university’s undergraduate program is currently ranked at 14 overall and seventh in admissions selectivity, and the School of Medicine is number 6 nationally. Washington University attracts students and faculty from all 50 states and more than 100 countries, and the university offers more than 300 programs leading to bachelors, masters, doctoral, and professional degrees. The university is organized into seven academic units: the School of Engineering & Applied Science, the School of Medicine, the Olin Business School, the Brown School of Social Work, the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, the School of Law, and Arts & Sciences. Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton and Provost Holden Thorp lead the university. This dynamic leadership team is among the most experienced and talented in American higher education. Nearing the completion of a capital campaign that surpassed $2 billion, the University is in the early stages of planning strategy for the next ten years.

The City
Greater St. Louis is the 19th-largest metropolitan area in the United States with a population of approximately 3 million. Thanks in large part to Washington University, other regional universities, and key Fortune 500 corporations, St. Louis is a national hub for important research and business development, especially in the fields of medicine, biotechnology, and science. The university’s Danforth campus is located 10 miles west of downtown St. Louis and is surrounded by a number of vibrant neighborhoods, such as the Central West End and University City’s Delmar Loop. Consistently ranked among the nation’s best places to live and raise a family, the St. Louis region offers affordable neighborhoods and high quality schools, in addition to all of the amenities of a major city. The city provides numerous opportunities to enjoy professional sports, attend cultural events, and participate in a wide range of recreational activities, including the world-renowned St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team. Bordering the university campus is Forest Park, one of the largest urban parks in the U.S., and home to many of the region’s major cultural institutions including the St. Louis Art Museum, the Missouri History Museum, the St. Louis Science Center, the Missouri Botanical Garden, and the St. Louis Zoo.

The Search
Inquiries, nominations and applications are invited. Although the search will remain open until the position is filled, review of candidate materials will begin immediately. Candidates should provide a curriculum vitae, a letter of application that addresses the responsibilities and requirements described
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herein, and the names and contact information of five references. References will not be contacted without prior knowledge and approval of the candidates.

Materials should be sent electronically via e-mail to the university’s consultant, Dr. Jonathan Fortescue of Park Square Executive Search, at 92226@parksquare.com. Documents that must be mailed may be sent to Jonathan Fortescue, Ph.D., Managing Partner, or Kyle Meingast, Senior Associate, Park Square Executive Search, LLC, 125 Summer Street, 18th Floor, Boston, MA 02110. Phone: 617-401-2991.

Washington University in St. Louis is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Washington University welcomes difference on our campus in the form of gender, race, ethnicity, disability, geography, socioeconomic status, age, politics, religion, philosophy, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and veteran status. All applicants who share this goal are encouraged to apply.