



Position Description

The University of Memphis seeks a dynamic Executive Director of the University Libraries who is prepared to lead a large library system within a Carnegie R1 Research University through the rapidly evolving landscape of information literacy and technology in higher education. The University Libraries seek to continue evolving from a traditional role as a repository for physical books and periodicals to becoming the center of intellectual life and collaboration for the University, which has far-reaching implications for space utilization, resource acquisition, and organizing staffing patterns to meet the demands of a large institution.

The University Libraries' mission is to provide information resources and support that fosters student success and pillars research and scholarship for an increasingly dynamic society. The University Libraries strive to support lifelong learning, innovation, and student success. The Executive Director must be a strong visionary and innovator who will anticipate change and integrate the collective wisdom of various constituents to create a contemporary library that is the nexus of the University and the broader community. The Executive Director will lead the University Libraries in meeting the institution's major goals of improving recruitment, retention, degree attainment, and development of students and research at all levels.

The University Libraries includes approximately 22 faculty and 53 professional and paraprofessional support staff, including Academic Learning Support (UM3D). The University Libraries serves the university communities through the McWherter Library facility and three branch libraries—Health Sciences, Music, and Lambuth Campus Libraries. In addition, McWherter Library houses Special Collections, Government Publications, and UM3D, which offers a variety of outcomes-focused academic learning support services to faculty. All these areas allow the Libraries to support a diverse range of students and disciplines. As a member of the Provost's leadership team, the Executive Director will work to ensure organizational efficiency and effectiveness; share responsibility for policy formation, resource allocation, and organizational development; contribute to shaping strategic initiatives; and play a key role in establishing priorities and assessing outcomes in alignment with the University's transition to the Responsibility Centered Management budget model.

Qualifications

The Executive Director must have demonstrated significant achievement in leadership, scholarly activities, and administration. Specifically, the candidates must demonstrate evidence of the following qualifications:

- A master's degree from an ALA accredited library and information science program (an additional doctoral degree in a relevant discipline or professional area is preferred).
- Significant prior leadership experience, achievements, and/or previous success in transforming/reimagining libraries.
- Demonstrated record of professional/scholarly activity in information science or related areas.

The University

The University of Memphis (UofM) is one of two flagship public institutions in Tennessee and is classified among the highest level of research activity nationwide as a Carnegie R1 University. The UofM serves approximately 22,000 students as a leading student-centered, urban public institution. The University is committed to its core values, which include student success and access, as well as diversity and inclusion. Academic offerings include bachelor's degrees in more than 250 areas of study, master's degrees in more than 50 subjects and doctoral degrees in 26 disciplines. The UofM supported an institutional record of \$86 million in research awards for FY23 and has an operating budget of \$500 million. In athletics, the Tigers compete for championships at the NCAA Division I level across 18 varsity sports. Located in the heart of culturally rich Memphis, the UofM is experiencing significant growth and development — a huge transformation since our founding in 1912. See: www.memphis.edu.

The City of Memphis

Located on the Mississippi River in West Tennessee, Memphis features vibrant entertainment and art, spacious nature and outdoor areas, culinary excellence, multiple Fortune 500 companies and more. The city is home to some of the world's top corporate and biomedical research entities, including FedEx, AutoZone, International Paper, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. A beautiful and culturally rich city, Memphis brings the benefit of highly competitive real estate prices and an excellent quality of life. Attractions include:

- National Civil Rights Museum
- Beale Street
- Graceland
- Sun Studio
- NBA's Memphis Grizzlies
- Memphis Zoo
- World-class music venues and museums
- Memphis Symphony, Opera Memphis, Ballet Memphis

Application Process

The UofM invites letters of nomination, applications (letter of interest, complete CV, and names of at least 5 references) or expressions of interest to be submitted to the search firm assisting the University. Confidential review of materials will begin immediately and continue until the appointment is made. It is preferred, however, that all nominations and applications be submitted prior to Friday, January 26, 2024.

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Equal Employment & Institutional Equity

The University of Memphis does not discriminate against students, employees, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs and activities sponsored by the University of Memphis.