

Interim Representatives New to the Association of Research Libraries



Dianne Babski was appointed acting associate director, Division of Library Operations (LO) at the National Library of Medicine (NLM) effective March 1, 2020.

As acting associate director of LO, Babski is responsible for the budget, facilities, administration, and overall management of one of NLM's largest divisions. She is responsible for more than 450 staff who provide health information services to a global audience of health care professionals, researchers, administrators, students, historians, patients, and the public. In her acting role, Babski oversees a national network of over 8,000 academic health science libraries, hospital and public libraries, and community organizations to improve access to health information. Babski will also serve as the scientific review administrator to the federal advisory committee recommending journals for MEDLINE (Literature Selection Technical Review Committee).

Babski has served as the deputy associate director for LO since April 2013. As deputy, she led the inaugural year for the Data Science @NLM Training Program for NLM staff, served as acting head of the Coordinating Office of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, and acting head of the National Information Center on Health Services Research & Health Care Technology.

Prior to joining NLM in 2005, Babski worked in the Scientific Review Program of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, developing peer review tools and database resources. She also worked on the NASA SPACELINE data project that supplied space life sciences citations and indexing to MEDLINE. She has a BS in biology and biochemistry and an MIM from the University of Maryland, College Park.



Earnstein Dukes is the interim dean of libraries at the Texas Tech University Libraries. In addition, Dukes also is responsible for the supervision of staff responsible for the management of the library systems. She was a representative from the libraries to the graduate school on the implementation of electronic theses and dissertations at Texas Tech.

Previously, Dukes has held positions at the University of Memphis, University of Texas at Dallas, Fort Worth Public Library, and the College Center for Library Automation in Tallahassee. Most recently, Dukes was the systems librarian and later associate dean of libraries at Texas Tech.

Dukes received her BA at Northwestern State University in Louisiana. She also holds an MLS from Clark Atlanta University. She has done additional coursework in public administration. She has volunteered as a court-appointed special advocate (CASA) since 2011 and has been a mentor with MentorTech since 2002.

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Scott Miller is deputy undersecretary overseeing Science, Collections, and Interdisciplinary Support at the Smithsonian Institution. Miller previously held leadership positions at the National Zoological Park, the National Museum of Natural History, the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology in Nairobi, Kenya, and the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii. He helped establish and lead the Consortium for the Barcode of Life—an international network developing DNA-based identification tools to make biodiversity information more widely available.

Miller maintains an active research program with more than 200 publications. His current research focuses on the integration of systematics, ecology, biogeography, and conservation of insects and plants. Miller has a BA from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a PhD from Harvard University.



Marilyn Myers is serving as interim dean of the University of Houston Libraries. Myers has been associate dean for academic and research services since joining University Libraries in 2008. Positions held prior to coming to the University of Houston include head of Collection and Bibliographic Services and director/dean at Arizona State University (ASU), West Campus, where Myers was engaged to build a library collection from the ground up for a newly established campus. As one of the early ASU West staffers she participated in the development of the campus, serving as president of the first West Campus Academic Senate and as chair of the University Ombudsperson Committee. Prior to this position Myers was coordinator of collection development, Wichita State University Libraries. While at Wichita State she was twice elected president of the University Senate.

Over the course of her career Myers has been active with the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS), Special Libraries Association, Council of Planning Librarians, International Ombudsman Association, Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR), and the International Coach Federation. Currently Myers is president of the Houston Chapter of ACR, member of the New Roles and Changing Landscapes Committee of ACRL, member of the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) Equity Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce, and serving in the mentorship programs of ACRL, LLAMA, and the Texas Library Association.

Myers holds an MLS from the University of Illinois, an MA in geography from Kansas State University, and has completed coach training through Adler International Learning. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Phi Mu, and Gamma Theta Upsilon.

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Brian Rennick serves as the interim university librarian at Brigham Young University's Harold B. Lee Library. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Missouri–St. Louis, a master's degree in computer resources and information management from Webster University, and a master's in library science from the University of North Texas.

Most of Rennick's career has been spent in software development. His work in a diversity of industries—finance, government, manufacturing, and education—has provided him with a broad perspective on information technology matters. His current research interests are focused on library systems, linked data, user experience design, and digital scholarship.



Charlene Sorensen joined the University of Saskatchewan Library in 2006 and has undertaken a variety of roles including serials coordinator, head of Description and Discovery, associate dean, and one year as interim dean. As associate dean she oversaw collections, technical services, and University Archives & Special Collections. She became acting dean on May 1, 2020.

Sorensen's previous library experience includes work with Health Canada and the NRC-Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (now the National Science Library). She earned a BA in classics at the University of Saskatchewan and an MLIS at the University of Western Ontario. Within the discipline of academic librarianship, her research interests include change management, leadership development, and sound communication practices for collection cancellations.



Deb Ward is interim vice provost for libraries and university librarian at the University of Missouri (MU) Libraries, effective November 28, 2019. Ward has been the director of the MU health sciences libraries, which includes the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library and the Zalk Veterinary Medical Library, for over 20 years. In 2016, she also became the associate university librarian for specialized libraries.

Ward has been active in local, regional and national library organizations. Ward was a co-creator of the Missouri AHEC Digital Library, an information service for health care providers in the state of Missouri, created in partnership with the Mid-Missouri Area Health Education Center. In addition, she has been the principal investigator for the Missouri coordinator for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine since 2002. She is a partner with three other campus collaborators in the three-year project "Librarians as Catalysts for Healthy Communities," funded by the Institute of Library and Museum Services.

Previously, Ward held a number of administrative appointments at three other academic health sciences libraries. She earned a BA in German and an MA in education from Eastern Kentucky University. She also earned an MLS from the University of Kentucky.