

ARL Member Representatives Retiring or Stepping Down—Spring/Summer 2023

Below are bios of three ARL member representatives who will be retiring or stepping down in spring or summer 2023.

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Alberta Davis Comer

Dean of Libraries, The University of Utah



In June, Alberta Comer will retire as dean of libraries at The University of Utah, a position she has held since 2013. In her ten years as dean, she has steered the libraries through a bedbug infestation (two months after she started), an earthquake, and the ongoing COVID pandemic.

Alberta and her development team have been especially successful, raising more than \$15 million in cash donations and more than \$30 million in gifts-in-kind. These donations supported many of the projects listed below, and more.

Early on in Alberta's tenure as dean, the library created a family reading room and lactation space, one of the first on campus. In addition, the library launched an expanded graduate reading room and writing center and greatly increased the number of its student study spaces. In 2018, the library opened Katherine's Courtyard, an

outdoor space that invites creative expression and research across the arts, which includes a four-season enclosure that fully opens to the outdoors for warmer months and fully closes and has radiant floor heating in the winter.

Alberta led the development of ProtoSpace, a space that hosts a variety of digital scholarship and fabrication activities. This space also hosts Digital Matters, a joint venture with the colleges of Humanities, Fine Arts, Architecture+Planning, and the School for Cultural and Social Transformation; it serves as the locus for computationally enhanced humanities and arts research and pedagogy. With demand for new programming space a top priority, more than one-third of the print collection was relocated to compact shelving.

In collaboration with the Utah Museum of Fine Arts (UMFA), Alberta served as co-principal investigator on a four-year joint research and scholarly engagement initiative between the UMFA and the Marriott Library, generously funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional funds from The University of Utah's Office of Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and the colleges of Humanities, Mines and Earth Sciences, Fine Arts, and Health. The recently completed grant enabled UMFA and Marriott Library staff to collaborate on shared exhibitions and programming, emphasizing the ongoing relevance of the UMFA's and Marriott's collections in scholarly and creative endeavors and illustrating the synergetic possibilities that unfold when museum and library objects are used in tandem.

As dean, Alberta also oversaw The University of Utah Press, which began in 1949 and is the oldest university press in the state. With a dedicated full-time staff of seven, the press currently publishes numerous award-winning titles in subject areas that include anthropology; archaeology; environmental studies; and Western, Utah, and Mormon history, among others.

The library houses the Book Arts Program, which has partnered with the College of Fine Arts to offer a minor and certificate in book arts since 2011 and plans to introduce a major in 2024. The fine press, Red Butte Press, also publishes under the Book Arts Program.

Alberta has demonstrated a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) by creating the position for—and hiring—an assistant dean to oversee EDI efforts in the library. Through Alberta's leadership, the university's three libraries, Marriott, Eccles Health Sciences, and Faust Law, have increased collaboration to best serve students, faculty, and staff. In addition, during her tenure, salaries have increased significantly for staff and faculty.

Alberta has served on a number of ARL committees, including the Member Engagement and Outreach Committee (2018–2021), the Diversity and Leadership Committee (2014–2016), and as chair of the ARL Academy Advisory Group (2016–2017). She served on the LYRASIS Board of Trustees and on the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) Board as a member-at-large and as treasurer. She also served on the Salt Lake City Public Library Board and served as secretary on its executive board. She has been an active member in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), serving on its Management and Marketing Committee.

In 2019, Alberta and the library's associate deans, co-authored the book, *Strategic Planning for Academic Libraries: A Step-by-Step Guide*, published by the American Library Association (ALA).

Over the past ten years, the library's marketing and public relations department expanded, providing the means for expansive outreach and exposure. A social media program was fully established, large-scale student events and programming—both for campus and the external community—were launched, and a 50-year library anniversary was celebrated campus-wide.

Last fall she will co-teach, for the fifth time, a one-credit in-person class, History and Geology of Utah's National Parks, at The University of Utah's Asia Campus in South Korea.

Formerly the library dean at Cunningham Memorial Library, Indiana State University, Alberta served as editor of *Indiana Libraries* as well as editor of *Cognotes*, the daily paper for the ALA Annual Conference and Midwinter Meeting.

Joy Kirchner

Dean of Libraries, York University

Joy Kirchner will retire as dean of York University Libraries at the end of June 2023, after leading the libraries since 2015.

Under Joy's leadership, a new York University Libraries strategic plan and a new organizational restructure has been launched to reinforce the libraries' expertise in community-engaged archives, digital scholarship, data and repository infrastructure, scholarly communications, and research in alignment with the university's academic plan and its research-intensification priority. In tandem, a multiyear Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging planning framework and road map was also launched.

At York, Joy initiated two campus steering committees to advance campus engagement and policies on open access, open education, and data management. One of these, the Open Access & Open Data Steering Committee, which she co-chairs, led to a York University Senate-approved university open-access policy in 2019. More recently, she is co-chairing a new campus Open Education Steering Committee to advance campus engagement in open-education initiatives. She also serves on the York University President's Advisory Council on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), where the committee is working towards a comprehensive EDI framework for the university. She was asked to serve on the university's Affirmative Action (AA) Committee, where all faculty appointments are reviewed through an equity and AA lens.



Joy's current research and scholarship is focused on building collaborative networks to advance, resource, and provision emergent areas in digital scholarship. She has a long history of providing consultation to other North American institutions, including several library consortia, on advancing open-access policies and programs.

Joy was elected to serve on SPARC's Steering Committee and on the Ontario Council of Research Libraries Executive Committee. She is a member and a past chair of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) flagship Advancing Research Committee and is chair of CARL's Open Education Working Group. She is also a champion for the Hemispheric University Consortium Library Network.

In the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), Joy has served on the ARL/CARL Task Force on Marrakesh Treaty Implementation (2020–2023), Association Meeting Program Planning Task Force (2020–2021), Scholars and Scholarship Committee (2019), and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2017–2020). Joy was an ARL Leadership Fellow in the 2011–2012 cohort.

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Prior to going to York, Joy was the associate university librarian for content and collections at the University of Minnesota, where she launched a new Open Scholarship and Publishing Office, and she was the head of The University of British Columbia (UBC) Scholarly Communication and Copyright Office. Previously she was a librarian at Columbia University.

MacKenzie Smith

University Librarian & Vice Provost of Digital Scholarship, University of California, Davis



MacKenzie Smith will retire as university librarian and vice provost of digital scholarship at UC Davis at the end of June 2023, after more than a decade at UC Davis and nearly 40 years in academic research libraries.

If there is one theme that characterizes MacKenzie Smith's career in librarianship, it is that she is a leader amongst leaders. Throughout her career she has been a champion for the use of technology and digital resources for research and teaching, open access, modernizing library workflows with new technologies, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

In many respects, MacKenzie has long embraced the idea that digital scholarship and the use of technology resources are key ingredients in reimagining the role of university libraries. As a visionary in this area, MacKenzie has focused on developing partnerships to advance research in the digital age.

Open access continues to be a growing and well-deserved evolution in the world of librarianship, and it is one that MacKenzie hopes will remain at the forefront of our discussion as it relates to advancing scholarship more broadly across our discipline.

MacKenzie has explored ways to infuse new life into library technical operations by using the efficiencies of the web and modern online data formats. She believes that leveraging new and emerging technologies, libraries can be seen as innovative partners for the stakeholders we serve.

MacKenzie's commitment to DEI has centered around developing and maintaining an inclusive environment for library users of all backgrounds and abilities. She has worked to elevate diverse perspectives through collections, exhibits, and events and to partner with other university departments to create new venues for scholarship about underrepresented voices.

A career in librarianship is a career of service, and MacKenzie's career is reflective of that creed. In her professional endeavors outside of UC Davis, MacKenzie has served on the boards of the UC Press, the Authors Alliance, and the Global Council of OCLC. She has chaired the University of California's Council of University Librarians.

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MacKenzie has served on several Association of Research Libraries (ARL) committees and working groups, including the Research and Analytics Committee (2020–2022), Innovation Lab Committee (2017–2020, vice-chair 2019–2020), Nominating Committee (2013), and E-Research Working Group (2010–2012, 2013–2015).

Additionally, while MacKenzie is nationally respected for her scholarship in information technology and digital management, she also finds time to enjoy mentoring emerging professionals in librarianship. For ARL, she served as a Leadership and Career Development Program (LCDP) career coach in 2020–2021.

MacKenzie has held appointments at Harvard and MIT, leading their respective digital library and archive initiatives. She is a proud alum of the University of Washington and the University of Chicago. In addition to her professional and academic pursuits, the Seattle, Washington native finds time to enjoy reading, rowing, and the occasional glass of wine.