THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA LIBRARIES

Associate Dean for Special Collections

RESPONSIBILITIES: The University of Alabama Libraries seeks an innovative and energetic Associate Dean to lead the Libraries’ large and diverse Special Collections and Archives. The successful candidate will possess a 21st-century vision for providing programs and services that enhance the discovery and accessibility of collections. In addition, the Associate Dean will possess the demonstrated ability and experience to coordinate the expansion of existing distinctive collections and establish and carry out a collection development plan responsive to the new collecting opportunities that will anticipate and reflect the teaching and research agenda of American higher education over the next quarter century. The Associate Dean will play a leadership role in planning for a major move that will permit Special Collections to be prominently located in the heart of campus adjacent to those academic programs which rely most heavily on the Libraries’ rare and unique holdings; the Associate Dean will serve on the Libraries Executive Committee, the Dean’s Advisory Council and other leadership groups in the Libraries, on campus, and nationally.

REQUIREMENTS: A documented record of strong managerial skills as they relate to planning, facilities, budget, and user services; five or more years leadership experience in a special collection, museum, or large library setting; documented ability to grow and promote diverse collections; exceptional oral and written communication skills; MLS from an ALA-accredited program or equivalent (e.g., significant Rare Book School training or significant and extensive experience in the antiquarian book trade with a focus on Americana); graduate study in American History, American Studies, or related field. Prior to employment the successful candidate must pass a pre-employment background investigation.

PREFERRED: Candidates at mid-career wishing to advance rich collections to national prominence; graduate degree in American History, American Studies, or related field with strong emphasis on the South, or extensive background working in and managing special collections relating to the South; documented experience working with diverse donor/friends groups and other forms of fundraising.

ENVIRONMENT: The Libraries’ special collections include Hoole Special Collections Library, University Archives, and the A. S. Williams III Americana Collection. Noteworthy collection strengths include but are not limited to Southern economic, political and social history; Civil Rights; African-American studies; book arts; gender studies; popular culture; and Southern fiction. An extensive photo archive of the South, ca. 1850 to the present (largely unpublished and unstudied), oral histories of prominent national and Civil Rights figures, sheet music, and sound recordings in a broad range of formats and subjects round out the collections. Archival collections include records management, the University Archives, and extensive collections of historical documents, literary archives and correspondence. Approximately 12.5 FTE faculty and staff, and 6 FTE student assistants are employed in the Libraries Division of Special Collections. Thanks to exceptional financial support from the University and its donors and to a well-trained and highly dedicated staff, the University of Alabama Libraries ranks 66th among 115 U.S. and
Canadian university libraries qualifying for membership in the Association of Research Libraries and 37th among libraries at publicly funded universities in the U.S., belonging to ARL. The Libraries is also a member of the Council on Library and Information Resources, the Center for Research Libraries, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries and Project Bamboo. The Libraries recently opened a state-of-the-art digital humanities center and maintains an ongoing program to digitize special collections, supported in part by a $1.5 million gift.

The University of Alabama, the state’s flagship public university and the senior comprehensive doctoral level institution in Alabama, is ranked in the top 50 public universities. It is located in Tuscaloosa, a metropolitan area of approximately 100,000, with a vibrant economy, moderate climate and a reputation across the South as an innovative, progressive community with an excellent quality of life. Easy access to mountains, large cities and the Gulf Coast. The Libraries’ homepage may be accessed at http://www.lib.ua.edu.

**SALARY/BENEFITS:** 12-month tenure track appointment. Rank and salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Strong benefits including professional development support and tuition fee waiver. Substantial moving allowance may be available.

**TO APPLY:** Applications are accepted online only at https://facultyjobs.ua.edu. Click Search Positions. Click 219101- University Libraries in Organization drop down box. Please include your application, resume, and names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of three references.

Position open until filled. Applications received by February 6, 2012 are assured of receiving full consideration.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER**