

SEARCH PROFILE:

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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Iowa State University of Science and Technology (www.iastate.edu), one of the nation's leading land-grant institutions, invites applications and nominations for the position of **Colonel Gary G. Swenson, Ph.D. Endowed University Librarian**. This is an endowed senior leadership position responsible for all university libraries.



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Ranked as one of the nation's top 50 public universities by U.S. News, Iowa State is located in Ames, a community of 67,000 that enjoys numerous national recognitions for its quality of life, its business environment, and its focus on youth. Iowa State serves over 30,000 students. The university is a student-centric leading research institution with a comprehensive land-grant mission of education, innovation, extension, and outreach that benefits Iowans and the world. Innovate at Iowa State reflects the university's national leadership for providing innovative and entrepreneurial opportunities for all students. More information on Iowa State's mission, vision, and aspirations

can be found in the University's [2022-2031 Strategic Plan](#).

Iowa State offers approximately 100 undergraduate degree programs and nearly 200 fields of study leading to graduate and professional degrees. Iowa State has led the development of several fields of study that are central to the land-grant movement, including engineering, agriculture, human sciences, and veterinary medicine. Extension, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2003, traces its roots to Iowa and early outreach programs.



THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The **University Library** (www.lib.iastate.edu) is a student-centric R1 academic library providing world-class collections, services, and technologies to advance research and instruction in every discipline at Iowa State University. The University Library consists of Parks Library, the main library on central campus, as well as the Veterinary Medical Library in the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Remote Library Storage Facility. The library has an operating budget of approximately \$24 million, as well as a \$5 million endowment and private giving of more than \$500,000 annually. The library also enjoys a collaborative relationship with academic partners and campus co-curricular leaders and also serves as a focal point for local community engagement.

The **Parks Library** is the intellectual and social heart of Iowa State's campus and a highly visible expression of its commitment to student success and research excellence. Serving nearly one million visitors annually, the library is a dynamic academic commons integrating study, technology, wellness, and community. Parks Library offers extensive seating and varied study environments; robust public computing, printing, and technology lending; specialized spaces such as Studio 2B for recording and livestreaming; and learning labs that support innovative pedagogy. The library also plays a central role in student wellbeing through initiatives such as Cyclone Support Central, developed in collaboration with the divisions of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs.



THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

The **Colonel Gary G. Swenson Ph.D. University Librarian** (an endowed position) serves as a senior academic leader, reporting to the Senior Vice President and Provost and advancing the university's land-grant mission around three strategic leadership pillars:

- **Student Success:** Advancing learning and belonging by stewarding high impact library spaces and services that support students throughout their academic journeys. This work includes fostering flexible study environments, ensuring access to technology and learning resources, supporting affordability through course reserves and open educational resources, and curating globally informed collections and partnerships.
- **Research Excellence:** As an essential component of Iowa State's research infrastructure, cultivating an environment where discovery thrives by ensuring seamless access to scholarly resources and data, strengthening interdisciplinary research support, and advancing open scholarship, data sharing, and scholarly communication practices that extend the reach and impact of Iowa State research.
- **Technology and AI Leadership:** Leading the thoughtful integration of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to enhance research, teaching, and operational effectiveness while maintaining a strong commitment to ethics and stewardship.

The University Librarian is a member of the campus administration, responsible for advancing excellence, supporting the development of strategies and action planning, and generating internal and external support. The University Librarian is expected to be a leader in attracting and advancing excellent academic librarians and library staff and building collaborative relationships both inside and outside the university. The successful candidate for the position will bring a mindset that values current success but also seeks innovation and best practices consistent with a world-class R1 institution.

The University Librarian leads a team of 103 staff and 100 student employees across 12 departments: administration, access and acquisitions, access services, collections and open access, communications, digital scholarship and initiatives, library IT, metadata services, preservation, research and instruction, and special collections, and University Archives.



QUALIFICATIONS

REQUIRED:

- An earned master's degree or equivalent professional degree, and ten years of related experience

PREFERRED:

- An MLS or graduate degree in library or information science from an American Library Association-accredited institution.
- Ph.D. in an academic discipline.
- Significant leadership experience in academic libraries, with a demonstrated understanding of challenges and opportunities facing academic libraries and higher education.
- Strong budgeting expertise and financial acumen, with the ability to translate resources into financial strategy and organizational impact.

- A record of data-driven, evidence-based decision-making in a transparent and collaborative environment.
- Excellent communication skills (written, spoken, interpersonal).
- Experience in personnel management with evidence mentoring and development in support of a high-functioning team.
- Exposure to fundraising and creating engaging opportunities for increased visibility.

Academic Search is assisting Iowa State University in this search. All inquiries, nominations, and applications will be held in strict confidence. To learn more about this opportunity and discuss your qualifications and interest, potential applicants are encouraged to schedule a confidential conversation with our Senior Consultant, Stacey Morgan Foster, JD Stacey.foster@academicsearch.org.



DEADLINE FOR BEST CONSIDERATION:

While the search remains open until closed, the deadline for best consideration is April 3, 2026.

The University Librarian is expected to start by August 1, 2026 (negotiable).

APPLICATIONS

Applicants should send three separate documents (each in PDF format) to Academic Search at IowaStateUL@academicsearch.org: Applicants needing reasonable accommodation to participate in the application process should reach out to Stacey.foster@academicsearch.org.

- A detailed **cover letter**, addressed to the Search Committee, addressing your interest in this position and the specific ways you meet the qualifications and expectations outlined in this search profile.
- A current **full resume or curriculum vitae** that includes relevant education, positions/titles, responsibilities, and accomplishments.
- A list of **five professional references**, including their names, titles, organizations, phone numbers, and email addresses, noting your relationship with each reference.

References will not be contacted until later in the search process upon the candidate's permission.

All nominations and applications will be held confidential until finalists are publicly announced.

NOMINATIONS

Although nominations are not required to be considered for this position, leaders who know of outstanding candidate are welcome to submit confidential nominations by sending an email to IowaStateUL@academicsearch.org. Be sure to include the nominee's full name, position, institution/organization, and email address. Academic Search will notify individuals of their nomination, provide details about the position, and encourage them to apply.

COMPENSATION

Compensation will be commensurate with experience.

For a quick snapshot of Iowa State's benefits for new employees, Snapshot of Iowa State's [benefits for new employees](#)

Iowa State University employees enjoy comprehensive [health and work-life benefits](#):

- Medical and dental insurance
- Retirement benefits including defined benefit and defined contribution plans
- Generous vacation, holiday, and sick time and leave plans
- Onsite childcare
- Life insurance and long-term disability insurance
- Flexible Spending Accounts
- Various voluntary benefits and discounts
- Employee Assistance Program
- Wellbeing program

OTHER

Visit the Iowa State University website at www.iastate.edu/

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, creed, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, genetic information, sex, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity, 2680 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, email eooffice@iastate.edu.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting Iowa State University in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services to higher education institutions, associations, and related organizations.

Academic Search was founded by higher education leaders on the principle that we provide the most value to partner institutions by combining best practices with our deep knowledge and experience. Our mission today is to enhance institutional capacity by providing outstanding executive recruitment services, executive coaching, and transition support, in partnership with our parent organization, the American Academic Leadership Institute.

