The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the nation’s oldest public university, seeks applications and nominations for the position of Director of the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library and Associate University Librarian for Special Collections. This position provides an experienced, collaborative, and enthusiastic leader an excellent opportunity to work in an environment with a deep respect for scholarship and a vibrant vision of the academic special collections library in the 21st century. Located at the heart of the campus, the Wilson Library with its five distinguished research collections supports the work of the seasoned scholar, the beginning student, and the interested public.
The Wilson Special Collections Library includes the North Carolina, Rare Book, Southern Folklife, and Southern Historical Collections, and University Archives and Records Management Services. These collections are all served by the Departments of Research and Instructional Services, Cataloging and Archival Processing, and Conservation. The collections occupy a spacious, iconic building that for many citizens symbolizes North Carolina’s commitment to higher education. The combined collections hold over 800,000 books including 300,000 rare and unique items, 26 million manuscripts, and 3 million photographs, films, artifacts, and other non-textual items. The Wilson Library employs more than 50 librarians and support staff.

The Director reports to the University Librarian and Associate Provost for University Libraries and as Associate University Librarian is a member of the University Libraries’ senior leadership team. Responsible for the leadership and general administration of the Wilson Library, the Director’s tasks include budget management, planning, policy formulation and oversight, librarian and staff development, innovative development of the Library’s user services, collection development programs, cooperative activities and outreach, facilities and infrastructure, information technology, and digital library programs. The Director will articulate a clear vision for the role of Wilson Library and ensure the development and implementation of a strategic plan for its future, including engaging in an upcoming University capital campaign and leading efforts to secure grants.

**The Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library**

The Wilson Special Collections Library, located on Polk Place at the heart of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus, is home to the University Libraries’ five main special collections:

**The North Carolina Collection**

- North Carolina Collection Gallery
- Photographic Archives

The North Carolina Collection (NCC) is the largest and most comprehensive collection of traditional library materials related to a single state. With 350,000 books, pamphlets, government publications, maps, microforms, artifacts, and printed ephemera, plus 1.8 million photographs, its holdings document the history, literature, and culture of North Carolina. The NCC Gallery offers exhibits and historic period rooms that illuminate the state’s rich history. The NCC hosts the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center (digitalnc.org), a program offering digitization and digital publishing services to cultural heritage institutions across North Carolina. [http://library.unc.edu/wilson/ncc/](http://library.unc.edu/wilson/ncc/)

**The Rare Book Collection**

The Rare Book Collection (RBC) is Wilson Library’s window on the world. It includes more than 160,000 printed volumes as well as substantial holdings of broadsides, original graphics, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, and literary and historical papers. The
RBC has cultivated particular strengths in the history and development of the book, early imprints, English literature, French history and literature, and Spanish and Catalan drama. Other emphases include Latin American history and literature, Irish literature, 20th-century avant-garde and counterculture publications, and the Russian Diaspora. Rare Book Collection

The Southern Folklife Collection

The Southern Folklife Collection (SFC), one of the nation’s foremost archival resources for the study of American folk music and popular culture, has more than 250,000 sound recordings, 3,000 videos, and 8 million feet of motion-picture film, as well as photographs, song folios, posters, manuscripts, ephemeral items, and research files. The collection documents all forms of Southern musical and oral traditions. Southern Folklife Collection

The Southern Historical Collection

The Southern Historical Collection (SHC), long at the center of inquiry into the history and culture of the American South, contains more than 20 million primary source documents—from letters, diaries, scrapbooks, ledgers, maps, and literary manuscripts to photographs, oral histories, films, and email—that document all periods of Southern history since the late 18th century. Southern Historical Collection

University Archives and Records Management Services

University Archives and Records Management Services (UARMS) serves as the repository for the historically valuable, official, unpublished records of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the major administrative offices of the University of North Carolina System, and oversees the retention and disposition of University records. Its mission is to ensure that records of enduring value are preserved and made accessible for future generations. University Archives and Records Management Services.

The five special collections hold unique and rare books, organizational records, personal and family papers, photographs, moving images, sound recordings, and artifacts that document the history and culture of the University, the state, the region, the nation, and the world. Conservation and sound preservation laboratories that serve the special collections are also located within the building.

The Wilson Library is recognized as a place where all students, scholars, and visitors are welcome to pursue their research and interests. Throughout the year, the collections in the Wilson Library offer public events and exhibitions that highlight their renowned collections. The Wilson Library building opened in 1929 as the main library for the university and was named for University Librarian Louis Round Wilson in 1956. Additions to the building in 1952 and 1977 helped to increase the capacity for its collections, but in 1984 the main library collections were moved to the new Walter Royal
Davis Library, which is the main university library today. In 1987, the Louis Round Wilson Library opened as the special collections library for UNC.

Collections in the Wilson Library have a long history of receiving grant awards to support special projects. Funded activities have ranged from cataloging and processing of special collections to preservation and access grants for audiovisual collections to infrastructure upgrades for better collection protection. The Library has received support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Grammy Foundation, the National Film Preservation Board, and the National Recording Preservation Foundation, among others. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants funded through the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the State Library of North Carolina have also provided a source of support for special projects, including development and hosting of the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center (digitalnc.org).

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this recruitment. All applications, inquiries, and nominations, which will remain confidential, should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document. For more information about the Wilson Library, please visit http://library.unc.edu/wilson/

The Director and Associate University Librarian role

The Director of the Louis Round Wilson Library and Associate University Librarian for Special Collections is responsible for the leadership and administration of Wilson Library, including budget management, planning, policy formulation and oversight, librarian and staff development, innovative development of user services, collection development programs, cooperative activities and outreach, facilities and infrastructure, information technology, and digital library programs.

Representing the Wilson Library to campus administration and external audiences, the Director is also expected to be deeply engaged in development opportunities and expanding donor support. S/he regularly represents the Library and the University in regional, national, and international discussions relating to special collections libraries and their development. The Director reports to the University Librarian and Associate Provost for University Libraries and as Associate University Librarian is a member of the University Libraries’ senior leadership team. The Director will oversee a staff of more than 50 librarians and staff. An organization chart for the University Libraries and for the Wilson Library can be found at http://library.unc.edu/about/orgchart/

The Director must be an energetic and staunch advocate for the Wilson Library on all matters, from budget and staffing to positioning for involvement and best advantage in University initiatives and in the academic life of the University. As the leading advocate for the Wilson Library at all levels, the Director will enhance the libraries’ reputation and visibility, articulating their vital role in supporting students and faculty as they pursue...
scholarship, learning and teaching. S/he will consistently and clearly make the case for the Wilson Library in University settings and outside the University. A public representative of the libraries, the Director will play an important role in the University and greater Triangle communities.

Key opportunities and challenges for the Director will include:

- **Providing visionary leadership for Wilson Library**

  The new director will be joining one of the most renowned special collections libraries at a time when special collections and services are enjoying unprecedented popularity and significance in academic studies. This will be the ideal time to lead the staff in developing and articulating a vision and plan that will serve as a framework to help the entire Wilson Library move smoothly into the future. The new director will have the opportunity to administer, lead, and nurture a dynamic staff as it builds capacity and comes together as a true team. As Associate University Librarian for Special Collections, the director will have the opportunity to extend these leadership skills to concerns and opportunities throughout the library system.

- **Updating the Library Building**

  The Wilson Library is a historic and complex building that is ready for restoration and renovation. During the next five years, a variety of funding sources will be available to support improvements both in infrastructure (HVAC, elevators, life safety) as well as programmatic changes such as exhibit, research and information service, and teaching space to enhance the building’s beauty and functionality. These efforts must ensure that the building can securely house some of the world’s most precious scholarly materials and that staff have the most up-to-date technologies and spaces to provide superior service. This work will enable the Wilson Library to remain the symbol of scholarship and learning for the people of UNC and for North Carolina.

- **Enhancing Wilson Library’s interior space**

  As one of the major historical buildings on the Chapel Hill campus, the Wilson Library is a majestic, handsome building that makes it an attractive destination for researchers and visitors alike. The visitor experience and the library’s role on campus can be enhanced as the Director ensures that the spaces and facilities are both attractive and user-friendly. Some of its most impressive features, such as the Grand Reading Room, can be developed so that its appeal as a destination for visitors and as a research institute is strengthened. Exhibition spaces can better reflect the wealth of material held in the Library.

- **Increasing campus awareness of what Wilson Library has to offer**

  An important part of the Director’s role will be an ongoing educational and marketing effort that builds a deeper and broader campus awareness of the tremendous resources and
services the Wilson Library offers and its capacity to support the teaching, research, and creative activities of the community. The Director will need to maintain strong channels of communication to determine the best ways to continue to support students in their projects and faculty in their teaching and scholarly endeavors.

- **Leading and further developing a strong, service-oriented staff**

The success of the Wilson Library is a reflection of its talented, high achieving and energetic staff that is committed to providing exemplary service. These characteristics are one of its core strengths. The Director will continue to guide professional growth and development and define and implement programs to mentor and develop librarians and staff. This is especially important given the growing levels of expertise required by both librarians and staff in an increasingly technology-focused environment. The Director will extend an already well-established culture of service, leading an enthusiastic library staff in the direction of a shared and well-articulated vision of the future.

- **Developing and augmenting Wilson Library’s resources**

To achieve the ambitious goals that the Wilson Library has for the future, it is essential for the director to augment the resources that come from the University budget. Wilson Library has an established track record of programmatic grant acquisition. The goal is to continue this strong path, as well as to have the Director pursue other funding opportunities, especially in conjunction with the University’s upcoming capital campaign.

- **Representing Wilson Library externally**

Part of the Director’s role will be to represent the Wilson Library and the University in professional associations regionally, nationally, and internationally, and to be a spokesperson on issues of importance to the field. This includes participation in consortia and organizations to share and extend resources.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Required qualifications for this role include:

- Master’s degree from an ALA-accredited program or other appropriate advanced degree(s)
- Significant achievement in the administration of special collections or other cultural or research-oriented institution
- Demonstrated effective leadership of staff and experience with organizational development
- Ability to articulate a vision and provide strategic direction for special collections libraries in a rapidly changing environment
- A record of success in planning and program development
- Demonstrated understanding of the role of special collections in the research university environment
- A record of collegiality and accomplishment in collaborative activity
- Strong public presentation skills
- Excellent written communication skills
- Knowledge of the requirements of special collections facilities

Preferred qualifications include:

- A PhD or second Master’s degree
- An understanding of the issues of scholarly communication and the challenges faced by the 21st century research library
- Experience in collection development and management
- Ability to deploy digital technologies for preservation and access
- Successful fundraising and grant-seeking experience
- Commitment to excellence in research and teaching
- Demonstrated leadership and participation at the national, regional, and state levels in professional associations
- Familiarity with program assessment methodologies
- Experience with building oversight and/or renovations projects

The University and the Libraries

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is the country’s oldest state university. UNC Chapel Hill has an enrollment of approximately 29,000 students, employs more than 3,700 members of the faculty, and offers 77 doctoral degrees as well as professional degrees in medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy and law. The UNC Health Sciences Library is part of the University Libraries and is a recognized leader within the Association of Academic Health Science Libraries. The University Library collections include nearly 8 million volumes. The Library is a member of the Association of Research Libraries and the Center for Research Libraries. Together with the libraries at Duke University, North Carolina Central University, and North Carolina State University, the members of the Triangle Research Libraries Network (TRLN) provide services and collections to their students, faculty, and staff in support of the education, research, and service missions of the universities.

The University Libraries are committed to increasing the diversity of its staff, and therefore welcomes applications from candidates who bring additional dimensions to our mission and work. The University Libraries invest proudly in our employees, strive to create a diverse environment of respect and collaboration, and encourage vision and innovation.
The Region

The Triangle region is one of the most desirable places to live and work in North America and offers its residents a wide array of recreational, cultural, and intellectual activities. The mountains or the seashore are less than half day’s drive from Chapel Hill.

Salary and Benefits

This is a twelve-month librarian appointment; salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. Standard state benefits of annual leave, sick leave, and State or optional retirement plan. At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, librarians are members of the general faculty and are represented on the Faculty Council.

Review of submitted credentials will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Applicants should include a current vita and cover letter reviewing their experience, strengths, and accomplishments. Inquiries, nominations and applications should be submitted electronically to:

    Beverly Brady
    Isaacson, Miller
    263 Summer Street
    Boston, MA 02210
    http://www.imsearch.com/5760

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is an equal opportunity employer that welcomes all to apply, including protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. The University of North Carolina is strongly committed to the diversity of our faculty and staff.