

I. DEPARTMENT: Special Collections

II. POSITION: Metadata Assistant

III. CLASSIFICATION: Library Assistant II

IV. NAME OF INCUMBENT: Vacant

V. POSITION NO.: 003411

VI. JOB PURPOSE

One member of the team of faculty and staff who provide technical processing, preservation, digitization, and public service support for the various collections housed in the Special Collections Department. Works with materials in a variety of formats including print, digital, audio, and photographic. Provides direct assistance to library users in person, via telephone, or electronically. Assists with building and maintaining the various finding aids that make it possible to locate items in the department's collections. Assists with building and maintaining the digital presence of the library through various platforms.

VII. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Provides direct user assistance on a scheduled basis or as needed at the departmental service desk.
 - a. Assists library users in identifying, locating, and using departmental resources including books, maps, on-line catalog, digital collections, manuscript collections, photographs, film footage, finding aids, etc.
 - b. Provides informal instruction in the use of departmental resources for individuals and groups.
 - c. Answers reference questions for users in person, on the telephone, or online.
 - d. Interprets and assures the implementation of official library policies.
- B. Performs general collection management functions that maintain the physical order and condition of resources in the department and the library.
 - a. Assists with maintaining appropriate records and preserving materials through appropriate techniques.
 - b. Assists with shifting of collections in the Special Collections Department or other areas of the library, and materials in and between the McWherter Library collections and remote storage in the Brister Hall.
 - c. Monitors the physical conditions of the stack areas and the reading room to ensure that conditions are appropriate for collections and library users. Reports problems as appropriate.
 - d. Checks order of materials in the collection on a regular basis to insure items are arranged in correct order. Makes shelving/filing corrections as necessary.
 - e. Identifies damaged items in the collection so appropriate repairs can be made.
- C. Supports the development, maintenance, and use of collections housed in the Special Collections Department.

- a. Applies basic archival and conservation techniques in accessioning and processing items being added to or maintained in the collection.
 - b. Creates and updates the finding aids for various resources in the collection, as needed.
 - c. Assists in creating and maintaining the Libraries' digitized special collections in the University Libraries Digital Repository (ULDR) by providing continuity and consistency for the development, preservation, display, and access for the online collections.
 - d. Scans photographs and other materials being converted to digital collections whether being added to the ULDR or responding to user needs.
 - e. Creates metadata for objects being added to the ULDR.
- D. Maintains proficiency in areas of expertise and responsibility.
- a. Participates in appropriate training sessions offered for University Libraries' faculty and staff.
 - b. Participates in appropriate training sessions offered on campus or through Human Resources.
 - c. Participates in appropriate professional development activities and/or organizations.
- E. Performs other duties as assigned.
- a. Collects and submits appropriate statistics related to departmental work.
 - b. Serves on library committees and task forces as appropriate.
 - c. Undertakes special assignments or projects assigned by the immediate supervisor or the Dean of University Libraries.

VIII. DIRECTION RECEIVED

Reports to department head and/or their designee.

IX. DIRECTION GIVEN

Supervises student workers as needed. May be involved in training staff.

X. JOB SPECIFICATIONS

Requires an Associate's degree and at least two years of appropriate work experience. An equivalent combination of education and experience would be two years of college and four years of relevant work experience.

XI. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

This is a full-time permanent position requiring a 37.5-hour work week. The primary work schedule for this position is Monday through Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm.

XII. REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND CHARACTERISTICS

- A. Experience serving users in a customer service environment, preferably in an academic library.

- B. Experience and comfort with using computers in a work setting.
- C. Good keyboarding skills and working knowledge of standard productivity software such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Adobe Photoshop, scanning software, and e-mail.
- D. Ability to organize and analyze information.
- E. Good attention to detail and ability to complete work with a high level of accuracy.
- F. Ability to communicate effectively both in person and remotely in oral and written forms.
- G. Good interpersonal skills that will support courteous and professional interactions with library users and coworkers from diverse backgrounds.
- H. Skill in understanding, interpreting, and accurately following directions given verbally or in writing.
- I. Good judgment and good problem solving skills
- J. Willingness to learn and subsequently implement new tasks and skills.
- K. Ability to work independently and accept responsibility for work to be done.
- L. Ability to maintain a positive attitude while coping with organizational change.
- M. Ability to recognize the limits of the authority of this position and know when to appropriately refer matters to a higher authority.

XII. WORKING CONDITIONS

Technologically oriented academic research library where the materials in the Special Collections Department represent the unique resources that distinguish this institution's collections from other research collections. Position has a significant public service component requiring frequent interaction with the public in person, by telephone, and/or electronically. Position requires some standing, walking, and reaching in order to assist library users. Incumbent must be able to stoop, bend, and lift up to 40 pounds. Responsibilities might require the individual to pull and/or push wheeled book carts weighing up to 300 pounds.

Description last updated: November 2021, December 2021