

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- POSITION:** Natural Language Processing Specialist (AI)
- RANK:** Assistant University Librarian or Associate University Librarian
- REPORTS TO:** Senior Director, Academic Research Consulting and Services (ARCS)
- SALARY:** Minimum salary \$56,362. Actual salary will reflect selected professional's experience and credentials
- REQUISITION #:** 70963

DEADLINE DATE: Opened Until Filled - review of applications will begin on April 1, 2021

JOB SUMMARY

The George A. Smathers Libraries seek a creative, collaborative, and services-oriented candidate to enhance research support in the areas of Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Digital Sciences. As part of UF's partnership with Nvidia and the university's AI Initiative (<https://ai.jobs.ufl.edu/>), this position leads the Smathers Libraries' commitment to "AI for everyone". The NLP Specialist (AI) is a year-round (12 month) tenure-track faculty position with primary responsibilities in instruction, consultation, and project work in NLP, text mining, predictive text, and related areas. The position works with library colleagues, researchers, and educators from throughout the University of Florida community to create, identify, and evaluate learning resources in the areas of NLP and Digital Sciences; advocate for the role of the Smathers Libraries in supporting related education and research; and build effective, inclusive, collaborations across the campus community.

As a member of the Academic Research Consulting and Services (ARCS) department, the NLP Specialist synergizes with existing specialists who provide expertise in bioinformatics analysis, data management, informatics, rigor and reproducibility, systematic reviews, and related areas (<http://arcs.uflib.ufl.edu/>). ARCS is strategically expanding its support to AI education, research, equity, and outreach, with this position formally liaising to other expert faculty hired through the university's AI Initiative. The NLP Specialist sets a foundation in NLP for UF students from all majors, and faculty and staff interested in incorporating NLP technology and techniques to their discipline-specific teaching and research.

The library encourages team member participation in reaching management decisions and consequently the Natural Language Processing Specialist will serve on various committees and teams. To support all students and faculty and foster excellence in a diverse and collaborative society, the libraries are actively seeking candidates who bring culturally-rich lived experiences to work with individuals of diverse backgrounds, experiences, races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, and perspectives. The Natural Language Processing Specialist will pursue professional development opportunities, including research, publication, and professional service activities in order to meet criteria for tenure and promotion.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Creates and develops strategies for the libraries' NLP and Digital Sciences support program based on

an understanding of client needs; cultivates this program into a national leader in library-based NLP and Digital Sciences support services.

- Develops and provides NLP resource instruction and training, consultation, and other related services and responds to campus support needs that arise.
- Provides expertise on a range of NLP-related databases and tools; directs clients to AI tools and computing resources.
- Provides engaging and effective instruction in a variety of modes and venues that might include face-to-face, online, one-on-one, workshop, guest lecture, and credit-bearing course.
- Identifies, evaluates, and/or creates effective materials for do-it-yourself learning in NLP subject areas.
- Serves as the primary library liaison to faculty hired through UF's AI initiative.
- Participates as an active member of the ARCS department and the Health Science Center Libraries (HSCL) tenure home, including projects, planning, policy formation, and decision-making.
- Connects with related units across campus to provide services and resources.
- Performs scholarly research and provides service at the institutional and professional levels as related to assignment and in accordance with [HSCL tenure and promotion criteria](#).

QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

- Master's degree or above in a field focused on text-mining, text-analysis or data sciences (e.g., linguistics, digital humanities, human-computer interaction, or information science)
- For appointment at the Assistant University Librarian rank, three years of relevant experience and for appointment at the Associate University Librarian rank, eight years of relevant experience
- Proficiency in analysis of text data, including knowledge or experience in methodologies for text mining, machine learning, document classification, and natural language processing
- Proficiency in one or more computer languages and tools used in data analysis (e.g., R, Python, C++, Unix)
- Familiarity with finding and accessing natural language datasets, including text- and image-format corpora
- Record of creating and maintaining strong collaborations within a culturally-diverse user community of faculty, students, staff, administrators, or the general public
- Knowledge of and experience in adult learning through teaching, training, and/or instruction
- Excellent communication skills including effective presentation and writing skills
- Strong analytical and organizational skills
- Commitment to including individuals of diverse backgrounds, experiences, races, ethnicities, gender identities, sexual orientation, and perspectives in research, teaching, service, and other work
- Strong potential for meeting the requirements of [HSCL tenure and promotion](#)
- Initiative, flexibility and the ability to adapt to a complex, rapidly changing academic environment
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively with faculty, students, staff, administrators, and the general public

Preferred:

- PhD in a relevant field
- Experience and strong interest in grant writing
- Experience with high performance computing as applied to natural language processing and/or analysis of textual data
- Experience addressing challenges in using natural language datasets, including multilingual data, bias, creation, curation, metadata, disambiguation, etc.
- Professional experience working in an academic research library

Note: Research indicates that applicants from underrepresented groups are hesitant to apply for positions if they do not meet all of the required and preferred qualifications. We want to emphasize that the preferred qualifications are not required and that we are committed to helping our future colleague develop the

preferred skills. Additionally, applicants are encouraged to communicate the ways in which their work fulfills the required qualifications in ways that may not be obvious.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EEO

The University of Florida is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status in all aspects of employment including recruitment, hiring, promotions, transfers, discipline, terminations, wage and salary administration, benefits, and training. We are dedicated to the goal of building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff within a culturally diverse and pluralistic environment; we strongly encourage applications from women, members of underrepresented groups, individuals with disabilities, and veterans.

If an accommodation due to a hearing or speech disability is needed to apply for this position, please call 352-392-2477 or the Florida Relay System at 800-955-8771 (TDD).

BENEFITS

[University benefits](#) for this position include retirement plan options, insurance benefits, paid family leave (parental and medical), tuition fee waiver program, and employee assistance program, as well as paid time off and holidays. Gainesville, Florida, has no state or local income tax. The [UF Screen, Test & Protect Program](#) provides guidelines and resources related to COVID-19.

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

The University of Florida (UF) is the state of Florida's preeminent university. The state's oldest and most comprehensive university, UF is among the nation's most academically diverse public universities and won the 2018 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization. UF is currently sixth among "Top Public Universities" in the U.S. News and World Report and second among Forbes "Best Value Public Colleges (2016). UF has a long history of established programs in international education, research and service. It is one of only 17 public, land-grant universities that belong to the Association of American Universities. At UF we have some of the top faculty in the country. In addition to attracting over \$900 million in research each year, they foster the uniquely collaborative environment that transforms potential into actual results. UF traces its beginnings to a small seminary in 1853 and is now one of the largest universities in the nation, with more than 50,000 students. The University of Florida seeks to address key challenges of our time, from COVID-19 to racism. For more information, please consult the UF homepage.

The University of Florida is building an AI program with both breadth and depth: The depth to produce top Ph.D.'s in AI technology and the breadth to infuse AI into UF's entire curriculum so that all students, graduate and undergraduate, regardless of their major, develop basic awareness and competence in how AI is transforming their future careers. This will equip every University of Florida student to help Florida build a tech-driven, high-wage economy in fields as diverse as medicine, agriculture, defense, manufacturing, software development, education, business, and more. The impact will be far reaching—the University of Florida student equipped with this knowledge will work independently with AI and data science to create new markets, new technologies, and an increasingly inclusive, ethical and just future. The University of Florida has committed to hiring 100 AI-focused faculty across the entire university. These faculty are being sought as members of interdisciplinary teams that span multiple colleges, where UF will leverage its existing expertise as well as new faculty to tackle some of society's most pressing challenges.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LIBRARIES

The libraries at the University of Florida form the largest information resource system in the state of Florida with seven libraries and three off-campus facilities. The [George A. Smathers Libraries](#) are comprised of six of the campus libraries, and all of the off-site facilities. The only library outside of this system is Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center at the Levin College of Law. The libraries hold over 6 million print volumes, 8.1 microfilms, 1.5 million e-books, 145,000 full-text electronic journals, over 1000 electronic databases, 1.3 million documents and 1.4 million maps and images. The libraries maintain partnerships and engages in a variety of collaborative, international projects while [engaging with the UF community](#). We are a member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and other regional library consortia. The [library](#)

[staff](#) consist of more than 300 FTE librarians, technical/clerical staff and student assistants. The George A. Smathers Libraries are strong advocates for inclusion and intellectual freedom. The Libraries' commitment to both is articulated in the [Inclusion Statement and Intellectual Freedom Statement](#).

ARCS

The Academic Research Consulting and Services (ARCS) Department provides expert information and data services to discipline-diverse researchers at all levels (faculty, students, and staff). Department members and library faculty experts who are part of ARCS bring a network of expertise in bioinformatics, data management, geographic information systems, reproducibility, research compliance and metrics, systematic reviews, scholarly communications and other publishing-related activities. ARCS members also partner with the libraries' liaison librarians, subject specialists assigned to specific UF departments, colleges, and other units. The goal of the ARCS team is to support the UF community throughout the research life cycle—from project conception, through data collection and analysis, to publication and beyond.

GAINESVILLE COMMUNITY

Gainesville, Florida and the surrounding community are home to approximately 257,000 people and both the University of Florida and Santa Fe College. The city is surrounded by over 40 nature parks, including many spring-fed lakes and rivers, with many paved and unpaved trails for recreation and is situated just over an hour from the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Gainesville is known as an [award-winning](#) and innovative city friendly to both professionals and families. The [Guide to Greater Gainesville](#) combines award winning photography and compelling articles that capture all of the reasons for calling Gainesville your next home. The area has numerous cultural institutions and is a haven for sports fans. Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, Tallahassee, and St. Augustine are all within a two-hour drive.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, submit

- a cover letter detailing your interest in and qualifications for this position
- a written statement, no more than one page, on your vision for how this libraries-based position will contribute to the goal of “AI for everyone”
- your current resume or CV
- a list of three references including their contact information (telephone number and email address)

Applications will be reviewed beginning April 1, 2021. Submit all application materials through the Jobs at UF online application system at [Requisition 70963](#). Failure to submit the required documents may result in the application not being considered. If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact Tina Marie Litchfield, George A. Smathers Libraries Human Resources Office, at tlitchfield@uflib.ufl.edu.