

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: Curator, Baldwin Library of Historical Children’s Literature

RANK: Assistant University Librarian or Associate University Librarian

REPORTS TO: Chair, Special and Area Studies Collections Department

SALARY: Minimum salary \$59,219 at the Assistant University Librarian rank
Minimum salary \$68,495 at the Associate University Librarian rank
Actual salary will reflect selected professional’s experience and credentials

The University of Florida offers a competitive benefits package including health, retirement, paid time off, discount programs, professional development and worklife support. [Learn more.](#)

JOB NUMBER #: 531024 ([Apply online](#))

DEADLINE DATE: May 6, 2024 - applications will be reviewed as received

JOB SUMMARY

The George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida seek a collaborative, curious and knowledgeable colleague to lead the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature. The Curator of the Baldwin Library of Historical Children’s Literature is a year-round (12 month) tenure track library faculty position, which will lead a preeminent collection known for its exceptional breadth and depth in Anglo-American holdings. The Baldwin Library supports emerging scholarship by actively diversifying its holdings and applying a critical lens to collections and activities. The Curator oversees major endowment funds supporting collection development and programming, including speaker series and research fellowships.

The Curator manages materials and access, from acquisition to cataloging and digitization, and engages the UF campus and beyond through instruction, exhibits, collection promotion, and collaboration on projects and work groups. The Curator deepens and expands support for the study of children’s literature and interdisciplinary topics, and engages with faculty, students, and the [Center for Children’s Literature and Culture](#). The Curator oversees fellowship programs which support the research of scholars, librarians and educators in the Baldwin Library, and serves as a bridge between public and academic librarians through the [Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship](#).

The Libraries encourage faculty and staff participation in reaching management decisions, and consequently the Curator of the Baldwin Library will serve on various committees and teams. The Curator will pursue professional development opportunities, including research, publication, and professional service activities to meet library-wide criteria for tenure and promotion. The Smathers Libraries is

committed to creating a thoughtful, equitable, and inclusive culture that provides space for innovation and creativity. We support that commitment by offering a fulfilling work experience that allows for collaboration, growth, and development as well as shared perspectives.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Curator will establish an inclusive vision for the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature, skillfully managing and developing collections, services and programs, with support from colleagues and resources in the department and across the Libraries.

- **Vision:** Provide strategic direction for the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature, skillfully managing and developing collections, services and programs. Create and update collection policies, and provide curatorial leadership.
- **Knowledge/Selection:** Acquire materials to meet emerging needs and to maintain strengths of the collection, staying current in areas of expertise required for best practices in field and for collection priorities. Establish and maintain vendor relationships.
- **Management:** Manage all aspects of the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature holdings, support and services. Evaluate needs for and plan processing of materials, space and location, preservation and conservation, coordinating activities in collaboration with technical services staff and others.
- **Administration:** Manage personnel, projects, materials, and space allocations effectively, with sound stewardship of assets (funds, data, holdings). Report regularly on these activities, with efforts in seeking external funding through grants coordinated with Libraries grants staff. Maintain and cultivate relations with donors, in coordination with Libraries' administration and development staff.
- **Access:** Facilitate access to the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature by providing research assistance, consultations, and orientations; availability for general public services as needed by Department; and general knowledge and promotion of Department collections and activities.
- **Instruction & Support:** Seek out and respond to requests for course-integrated instruction and specialized sessions for academic courses, with time commitments for co-teaching or teaching a course approved by Department Chair.
- **Creation of Library Knowledge:** With a priority for digital access, create structure and access to relevant research tools such as bibliographies or other descriptive guides in support of research and teaching. Design exhibitions, catalogs or interpretive writings to promote access in and outside UF.
- **Outreach:** Promote awareness of the collection through programs and events related to the collection and associated academic programs, tours.
- **Professional Development and Scholarship:** Acquire and maintain personal knowledge in children's literature and culture, with dissemination appropriate to work role and the mission of the University, and external recognition of expertise. Presentation, publication and creative outcomes are marked by originality, innovation, impact, peer evaluation and/or national or international distinction. Primary assignment activities that meet several of these criteria and comprise distinct research or creative endeavors are scholarship.
- **Service Activities:** Contribute to and participate in planning, policy development and departmental decision making related to services and collections in the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections, the George A. Smathers Libraries, and to the University. Contribute to and participate in appropriate professional and library organizations in a manner that has an impact on the profession and contributes to the diffusion of knowledge. Contribute to the public good through engagement with communities, consistent with work role and assignment at the University.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

- Master's degree in library science from an ALA accredited library school or advanced degree in a field relevant to children's literature or historical childhood studies.

- Minimum two (2) years of relevant experience for appointment as Assistant University Librarian. Minimum eight (8) years of relevant experience required for appointment as Associate University Librarian.
- Knowledge of and experience working with children’s literature or historical childhood studies as an academic discipline.
- Experience curating or providing access to library, archival or other collections.
- Demonstrated experience with making libraries more accessible, and welcoming through teaching, research, or service.
- Excellent oral and written communication and presentation skills.
- Ability to work effectively in teams and individually with faculty, staff and students.
- Initiative, flexibility, and the ability to seek out opportunities in a complex, dynamic academic environment.
- Demonstrated organizational and planning skills.
- Strong potential for meeting the [requirements of tenure and promotion](#).
- Evidence of excellent interpersonal skills including oral and written communication.
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively with faculty, students, administrators, and the general public.
- Initiative, flexibility, and the ability to adapt and work creatively in a complex, rapidly changing academic environment.
- Strong potential to meet the requirements for tenure and promotion outlined in the [departmental by-laws](#).

Preferred:

- Evidence of creative and innovative approaches to access and use of library materials.
- Experience with instruction, exhibitions, and/or engagement relevant to a learning or knowledge environment.
- Record of creating and maintaining strong collaborations.
- Familiarity with information and digital-based technologies for office and library systems.
- Experience creating and maintaining online content.
- Experience relevant to managing budgets.
- Supervisory experience.

BALDWIN LIBRARY OF HISTORICAL CHILDREN’S LITERATURE

The [Baldwin Library of Historical Children’s Literature](#) contains more than 130,000 books, ephemera such as board games and puzzles, and a small number of manuscript collections. The Baldwin Library has the largest collection of Early American juvenile books (pre-1823) of any academic institution. The Baldwin Library is also strong in comparative editions, particularly of the following works: *Robinson Crusoe*, *Pilgrim’s Progress*, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, and *Aesop’s Fables*. The Baldwin Library began when Ruth M. Baldwin donated her collection of 35,000 items to the University of Florida in 1977. These materials were primarily from the 17th century through 1900, from the United States and the United Kingdom, and books that were used by children. The historical strength of the Baldwin Library is Anglo-American children’s literature, comprising the most comprehensive collection in the specialization among academic libraries. Since 1980, the collection has grown to include materials through the present day, and expanded to include young adult literature, series books, nonfiction, and specialty editions, with additional interdisciplinary areas such as interactive technologies, race, and science increasingly diversifying the collection.

The Baldwin Library is part of the [Special and Area Studies Collections Department](#), which embraces international, circulating, and special collections in its holdings, services, programs, and personnel responsibilities. It is one of four preeminent collections that distinguish Smathers Libraries, along with the

Latin American and Caribbean Collection; the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica; and Florida History Collections. The department is committed to promoting intercultural understanding and acceptance among library users and library staff by educating, empowering, and creating self-awareness in the context of a global society. We are committed to using the Libraries' expertise, programs, collections, and services to foster an environment of inclusion and equality with fairness, appreciation for individual differences, and respect for all.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LIBRARIES

The libraries at the University of Florida form the largest academic information resource system in the state of Florida with seven libraries and two off-campus facilities. The [George A. Smathers Libraries](#) are comprised of six campus libraries and off-site facilities. In addition to this system, the [Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center](#) is part of the Levin College of Law. The Libraries hold over 6.27 million print volumes, 1.5 million e-books, over 197,000 full-text journals, over 1000 electronic databases, 1.3 million documents, and 1.4 million maps and images. Distinctive holdings include the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, Latin American and Caribbean Collection, Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature and the P.K. Yonge Library of Florida History. The Libraries maintain partnerships and participate 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](#) comprises 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 and Intellectual Freedom Statements](#). Support for professional development is central to the Smathers Libraries. Supports include a formal mentoring program, a robust training program, release time for research and professional service, a comprehensive grants program, and funding for professional development travel.

LIBRARIES LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Smathers Libraries acknowledge that the main (Gainesville) campus of the University of Florida is located in the ancestral territory of the Potano and later the Seminole peoples. The Smathers Libraries acknowledge its obligation to honor the past, present, and future Native residents and cultures of Florida.

THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

The University of Florida (UF) was named the #1 public university in the country by the Wall Street Journal in its "2024 Best Colleges in the US" report and is also currently among the "Top Ten Public Universities" in the U.S. News and World Report and seventh in Forbes "Colleges that Deliver a High Bang for Your Tuition Buck" (2023). The University of Florida (UF) is the state of Florida's preeminent university, as well as the state's oldest and most comprehensive university. UF is among the nation's most academically diverse public universities and is one of only 17 public, land-grant universities that belong to the [Association of American Universities](#). UF has 16 academic colleges offering a variety of established programs for students seeking to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees. In addition to attracting over \$1.25 billion in research expenditures last year, UF Faculty foster a uniquely collaborative environment that transforms potential into actual results. UF is one of the largest universities in the nation, with more than 60,000 students. A snapshot of the [student body diversity statistics](#) is available online from UF Institutional Planning and Research. [Learn more about the University of Florida and what makes us great.](#)

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 University of Florida provides ongoing [guidelines and resources related to COVID-19](#).

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The University of Florida is an equal employment employer and is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), parental status, national origin, age, disability, genetic information (including family medical history), political affiliation, military service, or other non-merit-based factors. These protections extend to all management practices and decisions, including recruitment and hiring, appraisal systems, promotions, training, and career development programs. We're committed to attracting, hiring, and retaining top talent by valuing diversity of thought, skill, and experience. As an equal opportunity employer, we believe in fostering environments where team members feel included, valued for their differences, and empowered to do their best work. The University of Florida is a public institution and subject to all requirements under the Florida Sunshine and Public Records laws.

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

GAINESVILLE COMMUNITY

Gainesville and the surrounding community are home to approximately 280,000 people and both the University of Florida and Santa Fe College. Beautiful natural areas, including many spring-fed lakes and rivers, are a boon for outdoor adventurers. Museums, music festivals, and major performing arts institutions round out the community's rich cultural heritage. The city is just over an hour from the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Gainesville is 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 the reasons for calling Gainesville your next home. The City of Gainesville is a progressive municipality that seeks to [promote racial equity](#). The area has numerous opportunities for participating in community athletics 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
- your current resume or CV
- a list of three references including their contact information (telephone number and email address)
- a written statement regarding "How would you engage diverse audiences with this preeminent collection of historical children's literature?". (250 words)

Apply by 11:55 pm (EST) on May 6, 2024 (applications will be reviewed as received). Submit all application materials through the Jobs at UF online application system at [Job Number 531024](#). 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 Joseph Piazza, George A. Smathers Libraries Human Resources Office, at jpiazza@ufl.edu.