

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER LIBRARY

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR (AI AND IDEAS ADOPTION)

VACANCY REF: PSX-023382

Salary:	Grade 9 c£86,000 per annum
Hours:	Full time
Duration:	Permanent
Location:	Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

Name: Professor Christopher Pressler

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Job Purpose

To deliver the Library's vision in the new context of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. To provide thought leadership for the Library and to convene specialist knowledge across the University on our changing world. To take a leading role in coordinating the Library's regional, national and especially international partnerships in the developing fields of AI and wider transformation. To lead the systems and digital development work of the Library in the new and developing context. To lead and implement the Library's culture of an ideas-led workforce. To lead on the Library's engagement with ID Manchester.

Principal Accountabilities:

- To lead the Library's AI and Ideas Adoption (AIIA) Directorate to ensure the optimisation of the next information revolution for one of the world's great libraries.
- To act as the Library's principal convenor of specialist knowledge across the University in AI and computational developments in order to ensure the Library's continuing role in the research lifecycle.
- To lead the systems and digital development work of the Library in order to maximise the Library's capacity for creativity, innovation and service delivery.

- To work closely with all parts of the Library in leading vital change in agility, ways of working, doing things differently and translating ideas into impact.
- To put students at the heart of relevant developments in AI and to act as a conduit between technology and pedagogy.
- To work across Professional Services and Faculties in order to maximise the Library's position as a bridge between the administrative and academic functions of the University.
- To lead the development of consortia approaches, where necessary in the search for efficient and disruptively creative solutions to the changing world.
- Enhance the reputation and profile of the University Library as being at the forefront of innovation in support of University strategy.
- As ID Manchester develops, to lead on the unparalleled opportunities for a major research Library to work in entirely new ways with the City of Manchester, ID Manchester's innovation companies and their related public impact.
- Take an active role in the strategic development of the Library, and to work closely with the University Librarian, Library Executive Team, Library Leadership Team, and other managers to ensure the opportunities inherent in AI and other technologies are envisioned and implemented.
- Along with other members of the Library Executive Team, to deputise for and / or represent the University Librarian as necessary.

Internal and External Relationships

Internal

This role operates at the most senior level in The University of Manchester Library, the third largest academic library system in the UK and one of the acknowledged great libraries of the world.

The Library is at the heart of Britain's largest single-site university and one of the world's top research universities. The internal relations required by this role are of a very significant scale and variety. It will be essential that the role holder can develop and maintain multiple and often complex relationships and also act with credibility in both technical and political terms.

At the centre of this role is the ability to design, support and develop one of the Library's core values, which is that of an ideas-led workforce. It is essential that the role holder can inspire and question, create and allow space for others to generate ideas. Our culture considers pure exploration and pragmatic application to be equally important.

External

The external relations for this role are exceptionally complex but given the seismic changes taking place in information and computing they are also filled with opportunity.

All members of Library Executive Team have multiple regional, national and international partnerships as part of their roles. The Associate Director, AIIA will focus on those that allow Manchester to learn from and contribute to those partners who are at the leading edge of developments in AI, wider technological transformation and the future of computing in libraries and education.

The role also requires relationship management with senior representatives from system and software suppliers to influence product development and delivery to meet the University's research, teaching and social responsibility objectives.

Although the University operates across the world, the Library is presently focusing resource on selected universities in the US and India and also through the Manchester-Toronto-Melbourne Research Alliance.

Knowledge and Skills

- Proven ability to lead transformation and to think in an original and creative manner.
- Exceptional knowledge and experience of computing trends in higher education and a strong background in computer science, information systems/management or mathematics.
- Significant experience of leading technology based teams in both conceptual and operational success.
- Detailed understanding of AI technology and related change and their relevance to contemporary research libraries.
- Successful experience of leadership at a senior level with an ability to inspire and bring people with you.
- Exceptional communication and collaboration skills.
- Proven ability to influence within and beyond the University and an energetic approach, in particular to international partnerships.

An instinct for questioning the status quo and an alertness to pre-emptive opportunities.

Qualifications, Experience and Ethos

Ideally good first and/or higher degrees in Computer Science, Information Systems, Information Management or Mathematics.

Strong understanding of UK and international higher education developments in AI.

Preferably knowledge of research libraries in terms of systems and digital development.

A commitment to the pursuit of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in our workforce, collections and ways of working.

Promote the University's Environmental Sustainability Strategy and demonstrate commitment to it through actions and decision making.

Understand the influence of area of activity on carbon emissions and wider environmental impacts. Responsible, in collaboration with colleagues, for developing plans to reduce carbon emissions and to identify and address barriers to further this reduction. Lead on embedding more sustainable practice and empowering action within sphere of influence and control.

Direct Reports

Lead a team of 30 digital analysts and developers:

Head of Digital Services (x1):

Digital Support Services – Manager (x1) / Digital Support Analysts (x3) / Student Digital Support (x6)

Systems – Manager (x1) / Systems Support Analysts (x3) / Systems Assistants (x4)

Head of Digital Development (x1):

Software Development – Senior Developer Management (x1) / Software Developers (x6)

Digital Communications – Senior Digital Communications Developer (x1) / Web & Digital Design Development (x1)

Software Development Tech – Senior Software Development Tech (x1)

Key Library Teams

The AD-AIIA will work across the Library's 33 teams but some priority teams include:

Teaching, Learning & Students (x24)

Teaching & Learning Development (x3)

E-Learning (x3)

Engagement (x13)

Teaching Collections (x13)

Collections Management (x24)

Metadata & Discovery (x22)

Research Services and Open Research (x20)

Projects & Business Analysis (x5)

Curatorial Practices and John Rylands Research Institute (Special Collections) (x104)