



## Vice Provost and Lindseth Family University Librarian

Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) seeks an energetic, innovative, and collaborative candidate to serve as the next Vice Provost and Lindseth Family University Librarian (VPUL) and oversee the Kelvin Smith Library (KSL). CWRU is launching the search in response to Arnold Hirshon's decision to retire at the end of 2021, after an impactful eleven-year tenure that strengthened the Library's reputation as a hub of scholarly learning and innovation. The next VPUL will join a vibrant academic community dedicated to supporting teaching, learning, scholarship, and research and enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration across the campus and will build connections with the local community.

### About Case Western Reserve University

[Consistently ranked](#) as one of the country's leading private research institutions, [Case Western Reserve University](#) is a member of the [Association of American Universities \(AAU\)](#) that offers a robust learning environment for approximately 5,300 undergraduate and 6,400 graduate and professional [students](#). Students enroll in the schools of [dental medicine](#), [engineering](#), [management](#), [medicine](#), [law](#), [nursing](#), and [social work](#) and the [College of Arts and Sciences](#). Students can further engage with 100 interdisciplinary academic and research [centers and institutes](#), all within an academic culture that promotes and values innovation of all kinds. Hailing from over 90 countries and representing every state in the union, students learn from the University's 3,700 full-time faculty, are supported by 3,200 staff, and connect with an [alumni network](#) of more than 110,000 individuals.

Case Western Reserve's "[North Star](#)" [statement of purpose](#) highlights the aspiration to "be a community where humanity, science, and technology meet to create a just and thriving world." The University has a \$1.2 billion operating budget, \$331.7 million in sponsored research funding (2018-19), and a \$1.87 billion endowment (as of June 30, 2019). The University will celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026.

### Cleveland, Ohio

With something to offer to people from all backgrounds, [Cleveland](#) (CLE) is a mid-sized city that [is recognized for](#) its thriving health care and biotechnology industries, [lively arts and cultural scene](#), low cost of living, four-seasons climate, and [wealth of natural resources](#). Home to the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](#), Cleveland hosts a [vibrant culinary scene](#), from food trucks to five-star restaurants, and renowned theater offerings, from the African-American theater at [Karamu House](#) to [Playhouse Square](#), the country's largest performing arts center outside of New York City.

The University's 267-acre campus sits in the heart of University Circle, one of Cleveland's most energetic and culturally robust communities comprising 40 cultural, medical, educational, religious, and social service institutions. University Circle consists of 550 park-like acres close to the city's vibrant [downtown](#), which is home to a [botanical garden](#), [museum of art](#), [museum of contemporary art](#), [museum of natural history](#), and a [world-renowned orchestra](#). Cleveland is also home to some of the country's most loyal sports fans, and fans of just about any sport can find a team to love in CLE, including [baseball](#), [football](#), [basketball](#), and [hockey](#).

## About the Kelvin Smith Library

A member of the [Association of Research Libraries](#) (ARL), [Kelvin Smith Library](#) is the main library supporting the teaching and research of the University with emphasis given to the College of Arts and Sciences, the Case School of Engineering, and the Weatherhead School of Management. KSL is the knowledge and creativity commons of the University and strives to be the information laboratory for knowledge collection, connection, creation, and curation. KSL serves as an essential space on campus for study and research and has continued to assist users through various digital and remote services through the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether in cyberspace or in person, KSL ceaselessly strives to create warm, inviting, and effective spaces where users can take full advantage of the abundance of resources and services that KSL offers.

In a typical year, KSL welcomes more than 400,000 visitors and engages over 400 classes with nearly 8,500 participants who utilize library instruction. Quality of service is of the utmost importance. The staff's dedication is reflected by the fact that KSL is consistently one of the most positively reviewed departments at the University, receiving a 98 percent satisfaction rate in a recent survey. KSL currently houses approximately 3.3 million materials, of which 1.45 million are electronic resources. KSL is also home to the Cramelot Café as well as resources centers, including [UTech CARE Center](#) for technological support and the [Writing Resource Center](#).

## Astronomy Library

The [Astronomy Library](#) is a satellite library of the Kelvin Smith Library, located within the University's Department of Astronomy but serving all members of the CWRU community. The astronomy research collections contain over: 3,000 books, atlases, star catalogs, and reference works; over 4,000 bound periodical volumes; and 480 linear feet of observatory publications. Patrons also have access to astronomy resources online.

## Freedman Center for Digital Scholarship

Located on the first floor of Kelvin Smith Library, the [Freedman Center for Digital Scholarship](#) (FC) covers over 2,700 square feet of workspace featuring state-of-the-art equipment, diverse hardware, and cutting-edge software to harness the power of modern technology and intellectual creativity. The FC contains many spaces suitable to a variety of academic and research needs, including the [Research Floor](#), which houses a collection of powerful research workstations, the [Collaborative Commons](#), and video rooms. The Center is partially maintained by an endowment established by Samuel B. and Marian K. Freedman.

## [Kulas Music Collection](#)

The Kulas research collections contain 42,000 items, including books, scores, media, microforms, and music periodicals as well as access to online databases. Users can borrow books and scores or utilize the space's listening and reading areas for media and reference collections. The Collection also partners with the [Robinson Music Library](#) at the Cleveland Institute of Music, allowing faculty, staff, and students from CWRU to borrow many additional items.

## Special Collections and Archives

[Scholarly Resources and Special Collections](#) is home to the Kelvin Smith Library's rare books and manuscripts collections and the University's archives. The primary research materials that make up these collections span centuries, from ancient Greece and Rome through 21<sup>st</sup>-century archival records, and draw use by CWRU faculty, students, visiting scholars, and the general public. These materials are rare and fragile items that must be used in the building. KSL houses the Henry R. Hatch reading room on the second floor for this purpose, under the helpful supervision of staff. Notable collections include the [Cleveland Play House Archive](#), [Papyrus from the Oxyrhynchus and Hibeh Sites](#), [Puppet Plays from the Wilhelm Scherer Collection](#), [The Otto F. Ege Collection](#), and more. Significant recent acquisitions include "On the Revolution of the Heavenly Spheres," the second edition of Nicolaus Copernicus' revolutionary theory that the planets revolved around the sun and not the earth, and "The Tragedie of Hamlet Prince of Denmark" by Edward Gordon Craig, one of only 322 handmade copies of this work in existence. Collections of local interest include first editions by Hart Crane, black writers Charles Chesnutt and Langston

Hughes, and books from the personal library of Henry Adams with a presentation copy of Mont Saint Michel and Chartres. In addition, Special Collections contains 80 percent of the books from the original collection of the Western Reserve College library of 1850.

Also housed within Special Collections, the [University Archives](#) maintains the corporate memory of Case Western Reserve University by preserving and using University records and publications of continuing value. Materials in the Archives document the significant aspects of the University's development and serve as a convenient source of reliable information about University programs, people, policies, and property.

## Staff

Behind KSL's facility, services, and resources is a strong team of talented [staff](#). Over 55 strong, KSL's team is composed of creative, dedicated individuals who are passionate about the Library's service mission and who reflect KSL's stated values of openness, collaboration, personalized service, agility, innovation, and experimentation. Their energy and commitment allow KSL to "punch above its weight," particularly when compared with other ARL member libraries. KSL staff serve as essential partners to researchers, faculty, and students, and from time to time, coauthor papers. Librarians are embedded into the research process and formally serve as department liaisons, allowing for deeper and sustained relationships.

## Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK)

[OhioLINK](#) is Ohio's statewide academic library consortium, serving 88 institutions plus the State Library of Ohio. KSL is a founding member of the group, which was established in 1992. The consortium provides access to more than 44 million books; 33 million electronic journal articles; 200,000 e-books; more than 100,000 theses and dissertations from students at 36 Ohio institutions; nearly 85,000 images, videos, and sounds; and 100 research databases. OhioLINK enables its members to leverage economies of scale to deliver IT infrastructure, content negotiation, and access to collections at a fraction of the cost if those collections had to be purchased by individual institutions.

## Governance

The VPUL reports to [Ben Vinson III](#), who was appointed Provost and Executive Vice President on July 2, 2018. During his time at CWRU, Dr. Vinson has spearheaded the [Think Big](#) strategic planning initiative and has increased collaboration and entrepreneurship on campus. Vinson is an accomplished historian of Latin America and the recipient of the 2019 Howard F. Cline Book Prize in Mexican History for his book, *Before Mestizaje: The Frontiers of Race and Caste in Colonial Mexico*. He is chairman of the board of the National Humanities Center and a member of the board of the National Humanities Alliance. He serves on the advisory board for Dartmouth's Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's board. He is a former member of the University Council for the United States International University–Africa. The VPUL serves as a vital member of the Provost's Advisory Council, along with other key administrators and academic leaders.

In addition to working with all 55 staff members of KSL, the VPUL directly oversees several administrators. These positions include:

- Associate Director, Academic Engagement Services;
- Associate Director, Creation and Curation Services;
- Associate Director, Public Engagement Services and Library Administration;
- Director, Library Development; and,
- Department Assistant, Library Administration.

Furthermore, the VPUL frequently consults with members of the [KSL Visiting Committee](#).

## Fiscal Affairs

Working closely with the Director of Library Development, the VPUL actively engages in philanthropic and development activities on behalf of KSL. Friends of the Library can support KSL through an unrestricted gift. Additionally, donors can give explicitly to [Special Collections and Archives](#) or to [The Imagine Fund](#), which supports strategic, immediate priorities and ongoing operations. Donors also contribute to the [Freedman Student Fellowships](#) program, a new endowment that provides direct grants and employment to students in the digital scholarship field. Students receive paid internships to either work on faculty or staff digital projects or apply for grants for research related to digital scholarship. On average, the KSL has raised approximately \$350,000 from nearly 230 contributors each year over the past five years. In 2021, Jon Lindseth and the Lindseth family endowed the position of VPUL to become the Vice Provost and Lindseth Family University Librarian.

### Other University Libraries

Three additional libraries complete Case Western Reserve's library system. The directors of each of the following libraries report to their schools' respective deans and collaborate with the Vice Provost and Lindseth Family University Librarian.

#### **The Judge Ben C. Green Law Library**

The [Judge Ben C. Green Law Library's](#) mission is to provide outstanding service and information access to the students, faculty, and staff of the law school community. The Library's collections are extensive, in print and electronic forms, and consist of more than 700 electronic services, library catalogs, and a wide range of software services. The Green Law Library holds complete collections of federal and state law, law reviews, current law services, an extensive British and Commonwealth collection, and special collections in international law, law and medicine, and environmental law. The Library supports the law school curriculum and is the legal resource for the Case Western Reserve University community, including alumni.

#### **Lillian and Milford Harris Library**

[The Lillian and Milford Harris Library](#) is the specialized library for the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and houses nearly 45,000 volumes. It is one of few libraries in the country entirely dedicated to social work literature and scholarship. The Library works to advance and inform social work scholarship, research, education, and practice by providing access to multiple information resources and providing information literacy programming.

#### **Cleveland Health Sciences Library**

The [Cleveland Health Sciences Library](#) (CHSL) supports the schools of dental medicine, medicine, and nursing, and the departments of biology and nutrition. CHSL serves as a resource library in the [Greater Midwest Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine](#) and operates in two locations: The [Allen Memorial Medical Library](#) and the [Health Education Campus Library](#). The combined collections total more than 430,000 volumes including electronics and collectibles, journal subscriptions numbering in excess of 60,000, electronic books numbering over 60,000, and print books numbering over 118,500. In addition, the Allen Memorial Medical Library is home to the Dittrick Medical History Center and its archives, medical artifacts, and books on the history of medicine.

#### **The Next Vice Provost and Lindseth Family University Librarian**

Building on the success of retiring Vice Provost and Lindseth Family University Librarian Arnold Hirshon, the next VPUL will manage an operating budget of nearly \$8 million, a library staff of approximately 55, and more than 3.3 million print and electronic resource materials. Overseeing the Kelvin Smith Library and working closely with the directors of three other campus libraries, the VPUL will foster conceptions of the library for the 21<sup>st</sup> century while championing and supporting faculty and student research across disciplines. The VPUL will join a dedicated, creative, and exceptionally service-oriented staff who are passionate about upholding the University's educational mission. Working collaboratively with this team and leaders across the University, the new VPUL will address the following opportunities and challenges that align closely with the University's *ThinkBig* strategic plan:

## Challenges and Opportunities

- **Support and Enhance University-Wide Efforts to Increase Interdisciplinary Learning and Research:** Working with the Provost and senior team, the VPUL will advise on academic issues affecting the entire University and support the advancement of university-wide priorities. Specifically, the VPUL will play a leading role in leveraging the Library's resources and connections to encourage new and enhance existing interdisciplinary relationships across the University through supporting pioneering research and innovative teaching and learning practices.
- **Uphold and Augment Commitments to and Engagement with the Cleveland Community:** Reflecting university-wide priorities, the VPUL will have the opportunity to increase collaboration and partnerships with valued institutions and resources throughout Cleveland and the region more broadly. Specifically, the VPUL will provide leadership in achieving social impact through closer partnerships with other regional libraries and educationally oriented institutions.
- **Lead Budget Management and Garner Additional Resources:** Case Western Reserve University is currently working within a committee structure to evaluate the funding model for the Kelvin Smith Library holistically and will specifically address ongoing inflationary costs for acquisition and long-term staffing priorities. As this process and the Library move toward a new budget model, the VPUL will play a pivotal role in leveraging and extending these financial resources for maximum impact. Furthermore, the VPUL will build upon KSL's previous development success to deepen donor engagement and support as well as explore options for new sources of revenue.
- **Prioritize the Advancement of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity Initiatives:** Case Western Reserve University aspires to be an inclusive environment, believing that the creative energy and variety of insights that result from diversity are a vital component of the intellectual rigor and social fabric of the University. As a scholarly community, Case Western Reserve is inclusive of people of all racial, ethnic, cultural, socioeconomic, national and international backgrounds, welcoming diversity of thought, pedagogy, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, political affiliation, and disability. The VPUL will embody these values and enhance the KSL's culture of inclusion through continuously identifying inequities in library services and resources and overcoming them by supporting knowledge acquisition.
- **Engage in Ambitious and Inspiring Strategic Planning:** Building upon KSL's [draft strategic plan](#), the VPUL will incorporate community feedback and adapt priorities to reflect a new post-COVID-19 normal. The VPUL will ensure that the plan is consistent with the University's "[Think Big](#)" strategic plan and will fully articulate desired outcomes, milestones, required resources, and responsible parties. Furthermore, the VPUL will ensure that priorities are achieved on time and will frequently communicate updates to the community.

## Qualifications and Personal Characteristics

The next VPUL will be a collaborative community builder prepared to lead and manage KSL's services and collections. The ideal candidate will hold an ALA-accredited degree (or international equivalent) or an advanced degree in a relevant field. The ideal candidate will also possess many of the following qualifications and personal characteristics:

- Strategic visioning and implementation experience within a library setting;
- A passion for engaging deeply in library, technological, and digital innovation and thinking creatively about the future of academic libraries;
- A deep understanding of the modern research library;
- Demonstrated success in championing library services and resources to support learning and scholarship across an institution and in pursuit of increased interdisciplinarity;

- Extensive librarian and administrative experience in an academic library setting, preferably within a research university;
- Experience working collaboratively with stakeholders inside the library, across departments, and within the local community;
- Ability to forge partnerships and connections between a library and its local community;
- Record of increasing library resources through successful advocacy and fundraising activities;
- Extensive background in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion work;
- Exquisite communication skills and a dedication to transparency;
- Ability to leverage the energy of the Library's driven and dynamic people;
- Commitment to enhancing the profession broadly through participation in national organizations and investment in library staff development;
- A willingness to take strategic and calculated risks;
- Record of successful donor engagement and a desire to fundraise;
- A relationship-focused leadership style that values data-driven decision making and empowering colleagues;
- A commitment to environmental sustainability; and,
- Unwavering energy and enthusiasm about the work of the Library.

For more information, please visit Case Western Reserve University's homepage at [case.edu](http://case.edu).

The anticipated start date for this position is January 1, 2022. For best consideration, please send all nominations and applications to:



Shelly Weiss Storbeck, Global Education Practice Lead and Managing Director  
Matthew Bunting, Managing Associate  
Anne Koellhoffer, Senior Associate  
[CWRULibrarian@StorbeckSearch.com](mailto:CWRULibrarian@StorbeckSearch.com)

*In employment, as in education, Case Western Reserve University is committed to Equal Opportunity and Diversity. Women, veterans, members of underrepresented minority groups, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.*