

MEMORANDUM

To: All Librarians, Archivist and Staff at Western Libraries, Board of Governors, President's Leadership Team, Senate, Campus Council, SOGS and USC Executive, Affiliate University College Presidents

CC: Chief Librarian Selection Committee, University Secretary

From: Florentine Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

Date: March 26, 2024

**Re: Announcement of new Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian –
Geoffrey Robert Little**

On behalf of Western's Board of Governors, President Alan Shepard, and the Senate Librarian Selection Committee, I am very pleased to share that **Geoffrey Robert Little** has accepted a five-year term as Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, effective July 22, 2024.

Geoffrey comes to Western from Concordia University where he has held a series of leadership positions since 2010, including his current position of Associate University Librarian for Scholarly Communication. Prior to his service at Concordia, Geoffrey managed public affairs and outreach for one of the largest academic libraries in the world at Yale University (2007-2010). Geoffrey will bring to Western his considerable experience with public services planning and delivery, project and information technology management, collection stewardship, donor engagement, and consensus-building leadership in an academic library environment.

Among his accomplishments at Concordia, Geoffrey played a pivotal role in the creation and launch of Concordia University Press, a non-profit scholarly publisher with a strong commitment to equity and accessibility. He also led the development of a multi-phase digital preservation service as well as the implementation of ORCID across the university.

An active and engaged researcher within academic librarianship, Geoffrey has published and presented widely, receiving grants and awards from organizations and funding bodies including SSHRC. In 2023 he was the Patricia Fleming Fellow in Bibliography and Book History at the University of Toronto and a Visiting Scholar at Massey College.

Geoffrey holds a Master of Arts in History from Concordia (2015) and a Master of Information Studies from University of Toronto (2007). He will maintain his rank of Senior Librarian upon his arrival at Western.

I want to congratulate and thank the members of the Librarian Selection Committee for their excellent work throughout this recruitment process: Brenda Bell (Director of Operations, Western Libraries), Manina Jones (Professor/Chair, English Writing and Studies), Donna Kotsopoulos (Professor and Dean, Faculty of Education), Elizabeth Mantz (Collections and Content Strategies Librarian), Alanna Marson (Research and Scholarly Communication Librarian), Linda Miller (former Vice-Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), Penny Pexman (Vice-President, Research), Sophie Roland (Professor/Chair, Music Performance Studies), Matheus Sanita Lima (graduate student), and Kamran Siddiqui (Vice-Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies).

On a final note, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to Catherine Steeves for her significant contributions to advancing the strategies and priorities of Western Libraries during her two terms as Chief Librarian.