



Dr. Jeff Ollerhead, Provost and Vice-President, Academic and Research
Mount Allison University

January 23, 2018

Dear Dr. Ollerhead,

As President of the Atlantic Provinces Library Association, I am writing on behalf of APLA's 300-plus members to express concern at the recent news, reported in a CBC article, that Mount Allison University is considering eliminating the position of University Librarian. We understand that the decision is pending and take this opportunity to share our view.

The academic library has been under a great deal of pressure in recent years to adapt to continuous and rapid change resulting from technological advances, and the new publishing models and information-seeking behaviours these have engendered. The transition from print to digital has been difficult, complex and expensive, and has led to all manner of collaborations – regional, national and international – to best manage change, take advantage of new opportunities, and control costs. New library services have been made possible by new technologies, and user expectations are high. Strong library leadership has been required along the way to ensure success as new services are deployed, and library professionals are called upon to develop new skills and take on new roles and responsibilities.

University Librarians achieve their positions after years of working within the field of librarianship. They have specialized knowledge and experience with the unique set of issues facing libraries today. They provide the leadership required to ensure that faculty and students have access to the information resources they need, as well as the services to support their teaching, research and learning. They ensure a sound return on investment for their institutions.

Mount Allison University has an excellent national reputation with a history of providing strong library services. The leadership of a qualified University Librarian is critical for ongoing success and we urge you to maintain this position.

Kind regards,

Kathryn Rose
APLA President 2017-18