

UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI



**Jay I. Kislak Chair and Curator,
University of Miami Libraries**

Leadership Profile

Summer 2023



WittKieffer

Executive Summary

The [University of Miami Libraries](#) is seeking an individual to provide curatorial vision, direction and sustained innovative programming for the Kislak Collection of the Early Americas, Exploration and Navigation of the Kislak Center at Miami. The Jay I. Kislak Chair and Curator (Kislak Chair and Curator) will be responsible for ensuring preservation, intellectual access, exhibition and public programming, as well as ongoing collection development for all thematic components of the Kislak Collection of the Early Americas, Exploration and Navigation at the University of Miami. Nominations, inquiries and applications are invited.

[The University of Miami](#) is one of the nation's leading research universities in a community of extraordinary diversity and international vitality. The University is a privately supported, non-sectarian institution located in Coral Gables, Florida, on a 260-acre subtropical campus with operations at two additional locations throughout the greater Miami region: Medical campus (downtown Miami) and the Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Science campus (Virginia Key). The University comprises eleven degree granting schools and colleges, including Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Communication, Education and Human Development, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Music, Nursing and Health Sciences, and Marine, Atmospheric and Earth Science.

[The Kislak Center at the University of Miami](#) is the home of Special Collections and University Archives, each distinctive collections within the University of Miami Libraries (www.library.miami.edu). *Special Collections* acquires, preserves and provides access to rare and unique scholarly resources. Special Collections houses an outstanding array of scholarly resources including rare books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, architectural drawings, prints, broadsides, posters, audio-visual materials, newspapers, journals and other research materials. Prized collections include the *Kislak Collection of the Early Americas, Exploration and Navigation*, the Rare Books Collection, the Helen C. Purdy Florida Collection, the Jackie Gleason Collection, the Artist Book Collection (including the Marvin and Ruth Sackner Collection of Artists' Books) and the Counterculture Collection. *University Archives* is the official University of Miami repository of records documenting the institution's history. *University Archives* identifies, collects, and preserves materials that have enduring historical value, makes them accessible, and promotes their use to the University community, alumni and members of the community beyond the University.

[The Kislak Collection of the Early Americas, Exploration and Navigation](#) was assembled by Jay I. Kislak, prominent collector, philanthropist, and Miami resident for more than 60 years. The overarching theme is exploration and cultural encounters with a particular emphasis on Florida, early American history, and the cultures of the Caribbean, Latin America and Polar exploration. The Collection includes some of the most important primary source materials related to the history of the early Americas. The Collection gift is enhanced by a partnership agreement with the Miami Dade College and Kislak Foundation promoting exhibitions, research, education and public outreach, all designed to serve students and faculty, residents of the local community, and a global scholarly network.

Reporting to the Head of Special Collections, the Kislak Chair and Curator will foster, inspire and support collaborative collection building as well as scholarly and public engagement with Kislak collections and programming at affiliated programs of the University of Pennsylvania, Library of Congress and Miami

Dade College. The inaugural Kislak Chair will be assisted by one staff member, and will manage a budget for collection development, programming and special projects. The Kislak Chair and Curator will support in-depth research projects in the disciplines of archaeology, history, cartography, epigraphy, linguistics, ethno-history, ethnography, bibliography, and sociology, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary projects that combine disciplines in novel and productive ways. The Kislak Chair and Curator will also help to advance the strategic goals of the University of Miami Libraries and must demonstrate a track record and commitment to supporting diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.

This is a senior-level library faculty position. The successful candidate will qualify for appointment at the rank of Librarian Professor, the highest rank within the library faculty series. Senior library faculty are hired on five-year, renewable contracts. A graduate degree in library science from an ALA-accredited institution, archival science degree or an equivalent combination of relevant advanced degree and library and archives experience is required.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy at the end of this document.

Role of the Kislak Chair and Curator, Special Collections

Reporting to the Head of Special Collections, the Kislak Chair and Curator will:

Scholarship and institutional leadership

- Provide leadership in developing and executing interpretive activities such as exhibitions, writing, speaking, tours, and teaching that promote a greater understanding of the Kislak Collection of the Early Americas, Exploration and Navigation.
- Participate in development activities in support of the Kislak Collection and Kislak Center and in preparation of grant applications.
- Select rare books, manuscripts, maps, photographs and other media within the subject area of the early Americas in order to expand and strengthen the Kislak Collection of the Early Americas, Exploration and Navigation.
- Build relationships with associates in the book and auction market.
- Provide specialized reference support for researchers working in the Kislak Collection and related material in the Special Collections, collaborating closely with



Kislak Center reference and research services faculty and staff.

- Engage in research and publishing activities that promote the Kislak Collection including the production of scholarly contributions through articles, book chapters and other relevant research outputs.
- Co-teach courses at the invitation of University departments on topics that draw directly upon the Kislak Collection and related material in Special Collections.
- Mentor undergraduate students participating in the Library Research Scholars program on projects related to the Kislak Collection.
- Develop and oversee the Kislak Center at the University of Miami Graduate Fellows program.
- Contribute to the broader institutional mission and work of the Kislak Center by participating in regular meetings with the Center's curatorial group, serving on University of Miami Libraries committees, and collaborating with colleagues across the Center, Libraries and University.
- Collaborate with Preservation Strategies staff to establish treatment priorities.
- Collaborate with Metadata and Discovery Services staff and Digital Strategies staff to promote enhanced access to the collections by consulting on cataloging and digitization priorities and projects, including grant-funded initiatives.
- Represent the Kislak Center within professional and scholarly communities related to early modern book and manuscript history, and serves as a liaison with relevant faculty at the University of Miami.



- Manage a discretionary fund to facilitate education and research activities pertaining to the Kislak Collection.

Kislak partnerships

- Serves as University of Miami lead in coordinating exhibitions and public programs under the rubric of South Florida's partnership across the Kislak Foundation, University of Miami, and Miami Dade College.
- Collaborate with national partners at Miami Dade College, the University of Pennsylvania, the Library of Congress and the Kislak Foundation to ensure that the broad public impact of the generosity of the Jay I. Kislak and the Kislak Foundation is both sustained and amplified through coordinated collection development, digitization, preservation, exhibition, public programming, teaching, undergraduate mentorship, research and scholarship.
- Communicate and work closely with the Special Collections team in potential projects including designing and implementing cross-institutional and traveling exhibits; using the combined technology and expertise of Kislak network partner institutions to create unified digital exhibits and collection portals; foster coordinated public programming around the Collection themes across the Kislak network and beyond.



Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- The successful candidate will qualify for appointment at the rank of Librarian Professor, the highest rank within the library faculty series.
- Graduate degree in library science from an ALA-accredited institution, archival science degree or an equivalent combination of relevant advanced degree and library and archives experience.
- Knowledge and competencies required to build distinctive collections with the particular focus of the Kislak Collection of the Early Americas, Exploration and Navigation.
- Knowledge and understanding of key issues and trends in special collections and archives in large academic research libraries.
- Experience managing and leading a team.
- Experience in collection development, especially working with rare books, maps, manuscripts and dealers.
- Demonstrated skill in providing high quality, user-centered research support services, preferably in an academic library.
- Demonstrated ability to design projects and bring them to conclusion in a timely fashion.
- Excellent interpersonal, written, and oral communication skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work collegially and effectively with faculty, staff, and students.
- Evidence of continued professional development.

Preferred:

- Advanced degree (master's or doctoral) in a subject or discipline relevant to Kislak Collection.
- Evidence of active engagement in research and a record of publishing in their field.

About University of Miami

University of Miami



A vibrant and diverse academic community, the University of Miami has rapidly progressed to become one of America's top research universities. A private research university with more than 17,000 students from around the world, the University of Miami is a vibrant and diverse academic community focused on teaching and learning, the discovery of new knowledge, and service to the South Florida region and beyond.

The University comprises 12 schools and colleges serving undergraduate and graduate students in nearly 350 majors and programs.

Established in 1925 during the region's famous real estate boom, the University of Miami is a major research university engaged in \$324 million in research and sponsored program expenditures annually. While the majority of this work is housed at the Miller School of Medicine, investigators conduct hundreds of studies in other areas, including marine science, engineering, education, and psychology.

Mission

The mission of the University of Miami is to transform lives through education, research, innovation, and service.

Jay I. Kislak Collection of the Early Americas, Exploration and Navigation

The [Kislak Collection of the Early Americas, Exploration and Navigation](#) was assembled by Jay I. Kislak, a prominent collector, philanthropist, and Miami resident for more than 60 years. The collection comprises more than 3,500 books, manuscripts, maps, documents, photographs, and artifacts that convey a panoramic view of the history of the Americas from Pre-Contact Indigenous cultures, hemispheric cultural encounters, the colonial period, and global exploration through the 19th century.

Jay Kislak built his collection over the course of 60 years, hoping it would provide a resource for studying the multi-faceted history of the lands and peoples of the Americas through varied and sometimes



contrasting points of view. The collection is particularly rich in primary source materials on Florida, early American history, the Caribbean, Mesoamerican archaeology, and Polar exploration.

The Collection includes some of the most important [primary source materials](#) related to the history

of the early Americas. The Collection gift is enhanced by a partnership agreement with the [Miami Dade Collection](#) and Kislak Foundation promoting exhibitions, research, education and public outreach, all designed to serve students and faculty, residents of the local community, and a global scholarly network.

A portion of the Kislak Collection has been digitized and made available online. The Kislak Collection is available for research in the University of Miami Libraries Special Collections.

The Kislak Center at the University of Miami

At the heart of UM's Coral Gables campus, a former lecture hall has been [renovated](#) and transformed into a place of learning and discovery to benefit the entire community: the [Kislak Center at the University of Miami](#). Established with a [landmark gift](#) to the University of the Jay I. Kislak Collection of the Early

Americas, Exploration and Navigation, the Center houses of [Special Collections](#) and [University Archives](#), distinctive collections within the University of Miami Libraries and [the Gallery at the Kislak Center](#) showcases items from the Kislak Collection.

The Center features a grand reading room in which to serve local and distant researchers. The Center also serves as a key University



community engagement resource, hosting public programming for the University's centers, institutes, schools, colleges, and libraries during the evening and weekend hours.

University of Miami Libraries

The mission of the University of Miami Libraries is to provide faculty, students, researchers, and staff with the highest quality access to collections, information services, learning support, and digital expertise in support of the University's mission to transform lives.

The University Libraries consistently rank among the top 50 research libraries in North America according to the Association of Research Libraries investment index, drawing scholars from around the world through its important print and electronic collection of over 4 million volumes and nearly 170,000 e-journals and serials. The University Libraries comprises six libraries across all three of the University's



campuses in Coral Gables, on Virginia Key, and in the Health District near downtown Miami. Libraries on the Coral Gables campus include: the interdisciplinary [Otto G. Richter Library](#); the [Architecture Research Center at the School of Architecture](#); the [Judi Prokop Newman Information Resource Center at the Herbert Business School](#); and the [Marta and Austin Weeks Music Library at the Frost School of Music](#). The Miller School of Medicine campus hosts the [Louis Calder Memorial Library](#), and the Rosenstiel School of Marine,

Atmospheric, and Earth Science campus hosts the [Rosenstiel Library](#). The Libraries include several distinctive collections programs. The Roberto C. Goizueta Pavilion at the Richter Library is home to the [Cuban Heritage Collection](#). Also in Richter, the Kislak Center at the University of Miami (dedicated in 2019) is home to [Special Collections](#) and [University Archives](#).

Building a Culture of Belonging

The University of Miami is committed to building a Culture of Belonging as a foundational element of its strategic plan, the [Roadmap to Our New Century](#). The University of Miami Libraries is committed to the implementation of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in all aspects of our operations, at all levels of the organization, including staffing, collections and services, spaces, and resources. The University Libraries strive to create an equitable and inclusive environment where all employees and patrons are treated with kindness, dignity, and respect. Additional information can be found here: <https://www.library.miami.edu/about/diversity-statement.html>

Strategic Plan 2017-2025: Transforming Lives – Opening Worlds

The University of Miami Libraries undertook a participatory planning process during the academic year 2016-2017 to align the Libraries' vision, mission, and strategic priorities with the University's Roadmap to Our New Century, as well as relevant trends in the higher education and research library environments.

Four principles guided the process: (1) focus on broad participation and engagement; (2) build a culture that embraces change and fosters achievement; (3) deepen organizational capacity; and (4) rely upon shared leadership. More information can be found [here](#).



Special Collections

[Special Collections](#) acquires, preserves, and provides access to rare and unique scholarly resources. Officially founded in 1978, Special Collections serves as a scholarly resource for students, faculty, and staff of the University of Miami, and local, regional, national, and international scholars and researchers.

Special Collections houses an outstanding array of scholarly resources including collections of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, architectural drawings, prints, broadsides, posters, audio-visual materials, newspapers and journals, and other research materials.

Special Collections now maintains approximately 50,000 rare books and publications; 500 manuscript and archival collections (representing 10,500 linear feet of materials); 100,000 photographs; 5,000 maps; and 2,000 architectural drawings to support the teaching and research interests of faculty and students.

Prized collections include the Kislak Collection of the Early Americas, Exploration and Navigation, the Rare Books Collection, the Helen C. Purdy Florida Collection, the Jackie Gleason Collection, the Artist Book Collection, the Marvin and Ruth Sackner Collection of Artists' Books and the Counterculture Collection which includes 15,000 zines. Additional strong collection areas include Florida, the Caribbean, Latin women's history, culinary history and environmental activism.

University Archives

The [University Archives](#) is the official institutional repository of records documenting the history of the University of Miami. The department identifies, collects, preserves materials that have enduring historical value, makes them accessible, and promotes their use to the University community, alumni, and members of the community beyond the University.

Libraries Leadership

Charles Eckman, Dean of Libraries



Charles D. Eckman is Dean and University Librarian at the University of Miami. He previously served as dean of library services at Simon Fraser University (2010-2013), director of library collections at the University of California, Berkeley (2006-2010), and principal government documents librarian and head of the social sciences resource group at Stanford University (1997-2006). Dr. Eckman has managed and consulted for several digital library and open access initiatives. He currently serves as Vice President of the International Association of University Libraries. His past service includes membership on the boards of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (2012-2013) and the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (2011-2013). He served on the Depository Library Council to the Public Printer (2003-2006). Dr. Eckman's research interests include information policy, open access initiatives, digital scholarship, and the history of scholarly communication. He has managed and consulted on a variety of digital library initiatives including several Federal grant-funded projects. He holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from UC Berkeley (1987), Ph.D. in politics from Princeton (1986), and a B.A. in political science from Indiana University (1979).

Cristina Favretto, Head, Special Collections



Cristina Favretto is the Head of Special Collections. Special Collections houses the Libraries' rare books and manuscripts, which also include rare maps, photographs, scrap books, art work, and oral histories and other historical materials. Cristina is responsible for further building and facilitating access to these collections, with the aim of forming a world-class research collection. She and her team also curate physical and virtual exhibits, host class visits, and work with community members to ensure that the rich history of South Florida is preserved and made available to researchers everywhere. Before joining Special Collections, Cristina has held a variety of posts throughout the country, including Head of Special Collections at San Diego State University, Curator of Rare Books at UCLA's Charles E. Young Library, and Director of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture at Duke University. She has also worked at the Boston Public Library, Harvard University Libraries, and the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She received her M.L.S. and C.A.S. (Certificate of Advanced Studies) at the University of Pittsburgh, and her B.A. in English Literature and Art History at the State University of New York at Albany.

Coral Gables, Florida



The Coral Gables campus, the University's main campus, is home to two colleges and seven schools and is located on a 239-acre tract in Coral Gables, approximately seven miles from downtown Miami. These academic units include the School of Architecture,

College of Arts and Sciences, Miami Herbert Business School, School of Communication, School of Education and Human Development, College of Engineering, School of Law, Phillip and Patricia Frost School of Music, and School of Nursing and Health Studies. The Department of Continuing and International Education is housed on the campus.

The campus is one of South Florida's prime destinations for a rich variety of arts and culture offerings. The Lowe Art Museum houses South Florida's largest and most varied art collection and hosts traveling exhibitions. The Jerry Herman Ring Theatre brings vitality to the South Florida cultural community. The acoustically superb Gusman Concert Hall and Clarke Recital Hall are the sites of hundreds of concerts, including Festival Miami, spanning the musical spectrum that are presented by the Frost School of Music. The Cosford Cinema screens a wide variety of first-run, classic, rare, and art-house films. The Coral Gables campus is also home to the University's celebrated intercollegiate athletics program.

Since the millennium, many major new facilities have been added to the Coral Gables campus—Watsco Center, Weeks Music Library and Technology Center, Flipse Building, Epstein and Kosar Faculty Building at the School of Business Administration, Wolfson Building and International Building at the School of Communication, Perez Architecture Center, Schwartz Center for Nursing and Health Studies, Palley Pavilion for Contemporary Glass and Studio Arts at the Lowe Art Museum, University Village (the first housing project, which includes 800 student beds, in more than 35 years), Newman Alumni Center, and the Shalala Student Center. The Lennar Foundation Medical Center, a 200,000-square-foot ambulatory medical facility, opened on the campus in 2016.

Procedure for Candidacy

Compensation will be competitive and will be commensurate with the experience and qualifications of the person selected. The University of Miami offers a comprehensive benefits package including paid pension plan; partially paid medical and dental insurance plans; life, disability, and long-term care insurance available; tuition remission; thirteen paid holidays; and twenty-two days annual vacation. Additional employment benefits available include credit union; Employee Assistance Program; bookstore and sporting event discounts; and optional fee-based membership in a state-of-the-art wellness center. Moving allowance is available. No state or local income taxes.

All applications, nominations and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting The University of Miami in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by **July 10, 2023**. Review of applications will continue until the position is filled.

The University of Miami also requires you apply through their website as well. The link to do so can be found [HERE](#).

Application materials, nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Jessica Herrington and Sarah Seavey
[**UMiamiKislakChair@wittkieffer.com**](mailto:UMiamiKislakChair@wittkieffer.com)

The University of Miami is an Equal Opportunity Employer - Females/Minorities/Protected Veterans/Individuals with Disabilities are encouraged to apply. Applicants and employees are protected from discrimination based on certain categories protected by Federal law. Click [here](#) for additional information.