

## Manitoba Library Association



April 25, 2018

Dr. Steven Robinson  
Interim President  
Brandon University  
Office of the President  
Room 116, Clark Hall 270-18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 6A9

RE: Elimination of University Librarian at Brandon University

Dear Dr. Robinson;

The Manitoba Library Association champions library excellence and advocates for the development of comprehensive library services throughout Manitoba. We were saddened to hear the news regarding Brandon University's elimination of nine senior positions, but are especially concerned about the elimination of the University Librarian position.

Universities create, disseminate and preserve knowledge and a university library fully supports all of these activities. Academic libraries face enormous challenges while providing services and resources to students and staff. The acquisition of resources means not just managing budgets, but also judiciously selecting materials to create balanced collections of print or online resources, negotiating technical access for seamless access, understanding licensing requirements and copyright law. As researchers and professors create knowledge, a university library provides access to documents from around the world (not everything is online), helps researchers meet important open access criteria usually tied to funding opportunities and negotiate open access fee discounts with reputable publishers. University libraries are very involved in creating preservation copies of publications born digital or digitizing early printed materials and these activities further disseminate knowledge. University libraries are crucial in helping students develop excellent information seeking skills, enabling them to find, evaluate, analyze and legally use information. These skills are essential for their careers and their ongoing education after graduation.

It is a complex world where a cookie cutter approach will not benefit anyone. Technology has drastically changed operations in many sectors including libraries yet the skills and competencies of librarians remain relevant and necessary. A university librarian with the formal training, the experience, the leadership skills and the acumen will be able to cohesively direct the diverse activities mentioned earlier, strategically plan for the future and better serve the academic community.

We urge you to reconsider your decision to eliminate this position.

Sincerely,

Alix-Rae Stefanko  
President  
Manitoba Library Association