

OCULA Councillor at Large - 3 year term (3 positions up for election)

Garni Assadourian



My name is Garni Assadourian, and I am hoping to serve OCULA as a councillor-at-large. Though I am at the beginning of my career, my longtime commitment to accessibility and inclusion in academia was a driving force in becoming a librarian. Through OCULA, I hope to have the chance to put this passion into action to support intellectual curiosity, diversity, and research integrity. As a new librarian, I would like to build relationships with and get to know other librarians across institutions to work together and learn from each other. Ultimately, I am interested in approaching my work from multiple perspectives, and convening with fellow librarians will diversify and thus fortify my skillset.

My beliefs align with the OLA at large in that;

- I believe that supporting and practicing inclusivity in libraries brings more diverse ideas and viewpoints that help to enrich our libraries to represent the vast world of knowledge around us
- Ideas and principles in academic librarianship should be developed, practiced, shared and evaluated among librarians from different institutions and backgrounds to apply and execute them effectively, prioritizing student and faculty needs

I sincerely hope to join OCULA to help make academia a welcoming place for all.

Casey Hoeve



It is a pleasure to introduce myself and express my interest in serving in the OCULA Councillor at Large position. My name is Casey Hoeve, and I presently serve as the Associate University Librarian for Content, Access, and Open Licensing at McMaster University. I have dedicated the past 13 years of my career to collection development in libraries and can provide expertise on the provision of content in a rapidly changing user environment. I am seeking this opportunity to advance our profession, OLA's mission, and serve our user community in a leadership role. I intend to further OLA's goals through the following actions:

- Advocating for equitable access to library resources through facilitating needs-based conversations between libraries and vendors.

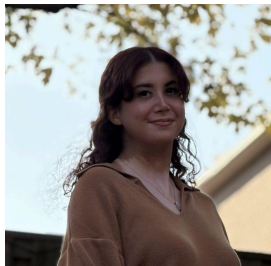


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- Ensuring DEIA is a prioritized focus, and that underrepresented groups have a voice in determining the direction in which we serve our communities in collections and programming.
- Developing support networks to enhance the skills of our professionals to meet the current and future needs of user communities.

I am enthusiastic to have the privilege of using this position to empower our association and members to grow and successfully engage with the public.

Sahar Kasiri-Motlagh



My name is Sahar Kasiri-Motlagh and I am writing this with the intent to be an OCULA Councillor at Large for the next three years. I am at the start of my career within academic libraries, but I have experience in serving the public within many different environments. Being the OCULA student representative for the past year has given me insight on how academic libraries contribute and support the larger librarianship scene, and I hope to continue this support. Within this position I hope to:

- Provide support for incoming and current LIS students and their ideas, specifically within academic librarianship
- Advocate for nuanced and equitable changes within librarianship to ensure that communities are seen and heard
- Work with all OLA Divisions to support the association, the members, and future librarians and information professionals

Academic librarianship doesn't have to be stagnant, there are considerable actions that can be taken to support the communities we serve. Ultimately, I hope to learn and to make an impact during my time with OCULA.

Juliene McLaughlin



Hi! My name is Juliene McLaughlin and I'm interested in serving as a Councillor for OCULA. I've been a librarian at the University of Guelph for almost eight years. Primarily, I've worked in the Assessment & User Experience fields, but I also had a short stint backfilling a colleague as the Manager of Access Services. I have experience serving in various roles that have contributed to the profession at-large including several OCUL Collaborative Futures committees, peer reviewer of journal

publications and conferences, conference planning, and simply as an active participant in the academic library community. I am returning to work feeling refreshed and inspired after an eight-month Research Leave, and I'm seeking out new opportunities that excite me like working with new folks towards lofty goals at the professional level. I'm specifically interested

in exploring Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (OLA's Strategic Priority #1) and Membership & Engagement (Strategic Priority #2) within the OCULA framework. As part of this work, I'd like to deepen my understanding of the broader library landscape, learn more about strategy and decision-making at the professional level, and create connections within the community.

Karen Nicholson



My name is Karen Nicholson and I'm putting my name forward to serve as OCULA Councillor. I have twenty-plus years of experience in academic libraries in Ontario and Quebec, working in various public service and management roles: information literacy librarian, coordinator, manager, and Interim AUL. I've been involved with several associations including CREPUQ (now BCI), CARL, and ACRL. I teach courses in the MLIS program at Western and research / publish in the areas of critical librarianship and critical information literacy.

I'm interested in this opportunity because I want to contribute my expertise, but I'm also interested in collaborating with and learning from others; some of my most rewarding professional experiences have come from working with the ACRL. Areas where I feel I can help further OLA's goals include:

- Growing career paths and professional development opportunities for library workers from early to late-career
- Contributing to making OLA, and the profession, more equitable, diverse, and inclusive
- Building or strengthening opportunities for engagement with the broader library community

I'm excited about this opportunity to learn more about the OLA, build connections with OCULA and other division members, and help the OLA advance its mission and goals.

Magdalen Sinson



After many years working in both private and public libraries, I've recently transitioned to academic librarianship. This new experience has given me fresh insights and renewed enthusiasm, which I would be eager to bring to the OCULA council.

The values that led me to pursue librarianship closely align with those of the OLA: promoting equitable access to resources; encouraging lifelong learning and continuous advancement; and embedding equity, diversity, and inclusion in everything we do.

Service in the council would allow me to contribute to initiatives that uphold these values, such as planning the OCULA Conference to support professional growth, and engaging in important discussions around how to enhance the relevance and impact of our work in the



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face of change and challenges like the rise of misinformation and the increasing role of AI in higher education.

I've personally benefited from the guidance and support of academic librarians who helped me transition into academia, and I'd love this opportunity to give back. Serving on the OCULA council would allow me to support fellow librarians, deepen my understanding of the challenges and needs in academic libraries, and contribute to the advancement of academic librarianship.