

Kelly A. McCusker

she/her/hers

kelly.mccusker@ucdenver.edu

EDUCATION

Master of Public Administration (MPA), *University of Colorado Denver*

Master of Science in Library and Information Science (MSLIS), *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Bachelor of Education (BEd) in Primary Education, *York University (Canada)*

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in East Asian Languages and Cultures, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

EXPERIENCE

Auraria Library (Denver, CO)

Serving the University of Colorado Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver, and Community College of Denver

Collection Development Program Lead Librarian, August 2022 – present

- Manage and prioritize collection development work and projects, including supervising four full-time faculty, one of whom supervises student employees.
- Manage the development of consistent methods for building collections to help internal and external users understand how we select materials and decide to cancel or weed resources.
- Lead the development of a library-wide impact report, including collecting data across library departments, creating new data collection opportunities, writing the report, and working with university communications for creation of the report.
- Led the coordination of, decision-making, and communication about the cancellation of \$508,000 of resources, 13.9% of the learning materials budget. Organized the collection of usage and cost statistics, analyzed resources for diverse content, reviewed vendor ethics' profiles, and gathered feedback from almost 400 users on potential cancellations. Developed a comprehensive communication plan to ensure internal and external users were aware of the process and final decisions.
- Lead the review of current and new resources to support diversity, equity, and inclusion in our collections to ensure our collections represent views and perspectives of the campus community. This has included advocating for the purchases of ethnic studies databases; allocating funds to purchase older books related to ethnic studies, gender studies, and social justice in ebook format; and supporting the review of books with outdated language.
- Created critical documentation to help new and current employees become successful in taking on new roles or responsibilities. These include a collection development manual outlining expectations and projects, comprehensive onboarding plan for new collection development librarians, training and expectations document for new student employee supervisors, support and safety overview, and collection development vision and priorities.

Scholarly Communication & Collection Development Program Lead, Dec. 2020 – July 2022

Researcher Support Librarian, August 2014 – November 2020

- As Lead managed the work of the scholarly communication and collection development group, which

comprised of four faculty. Supervised 2-3 faculty directly.

- As Lead, led scholarly communication and collection development projects which involved assigning tasks and deadlines for projects; coordinating with other library departments; developing and supporting new initiatives; and promoting resources, services, and knowledge both internally and externally.
- Directed the development, promotion, and teaching of research workshops, including data management, EndNote, poster design, impact factor, copyright, and others. Entailed coordinating groups to create learning outcomes, lesson plans, handouts, presentation slides, online guides, and supplementary learning materials. Workshops helped faculty, staff, and students develop new research skills to support their teaching, learning, and research.
- Managed LibGuides, an online research guides platform, for the entire library by organizing guide analysis, updates, and revisions. Created LibGuides Standards to ensure guides meet basic accessibility and quality.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Champaign, IL)

Behavioral Sciences Librarian / Assistant Professor, October 2012 – July 2014

Geography Services & Sociology Specialist, September 2011 – October 2012

SpencerStuart (Chicago, IL)

Information Specialist, February 2008 – December 2010

GRANTS & AWARDS

- University of Colorado Denver, Inclusive Excellence Grant for Building a Spanish Language Children's and Young Adult Books Collection, 2026 (\$5,000)
- University of Colorado Denver, Inclusive Excellence Grant for Creating a Game Collection at Auraria Library: Come in and Play, 2025 (\$5,000)
- Colorado Department of Education, State Grant to Libraries, 2025 (\$13,626 for library collections)
- University of Colorado Denver, Faculty Excellence Award in Librarianship, 2025
- University of Colorado Denver, Center for Faculty Development & Advancement, IRC Faculty Professional Development Grant, 2025 (\$475 to attend the ER&L Conference)
- Colorado Department of Education, State Grant to Libraries, 2024 (\$13,599 for library collections)
- University of Colorado Denver, Inclusive Excellence Grant for Events, Conferences and Professional Development, 2024 (\$2,500 to attend the IDEAL Conference)
- University of Colorado Denver, Auraria Library Faculty Excellence in Leadership and Service Award, 2024
- Colorado Department of Education, State Grant to Libraries, 2023 (\$13,887 for library collections)
- University of Colorado Denver, Auraria Library Faculty Excellence in Leadership and Service Award, 2021
- University of Colorado Denver, Faculty Excellence Award in Librarianship, 2017
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Scholar's Travel Award, 2014 (\$1,350)

SELECT PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, & POSTERS

McCusker, K. & Rainard, M. (2025). Too Broad and Too Narrow: One library's Experience with Approval Plans. *Library Resources & Technical Services*, 69 (2). <https://doi.org/10.5860/lrts.69n2.8434>

McCusker, K. (2025). Budget Cuts: Deciding on and Communicating Large Collection Budget Reductions. Poster at Core Forum. Denver, CO, November 12-14.

McCusker, K. and G. Johnson (2023). Oh, you reorged? How was it?. Community Chat at Association of College & Research Libraries Conference. Pittsburg, PA, March 15-18.

McCusker, K. & Vandagriff, S. (2022). SCIG: University of Colorado Libraries' Scholarly Communication Interest Group. *College & Research Libraries News*, 83 (11). <https://doi.org/10.5860/crln.83.11.491>

Ostendorf, D., Cantrell, M., Thomson, J., Glazier, R., Vandagriff, S., **McCusker, K.**, Browning, S. and DiVittorio, K. (2020). *CU Faculty Voices: CU system libraries support open access*. CU Connections, April 23, 2020. <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-cu-system-libraries-support-open-access>

O'Brien, N. P., Allen, M. P., Burnette, P., Ingold, C., **McCusker, K.**, & Sheehan, B. (2015). Merging the social and health sciences step by step. In S. Holder and A. Butler Lannon, *Difficult decisions: closing and merging academic libraries* (pp. 49-71). Chicago, IL: Association of College & Research Libraries.

SELECT SERVICE

National

- Member, Research and Scholarly Environment Committee, ACRL, 2021 – 2025
- Member-at-Large, Board of Directors, RUSA, 2020 – 2023 (elected)
- Member, Reference Services Section (RSS) Board, RUSA, 2020 – 2023 (elected)
- Chair, Research Committee, Distance Learning Section, ACRL 2015 – 2016
- Chair, Mentoring Program Committee, Instruction Section, ACRL, 2014 – 2015

University of Colorado System

- Member, University of Colorado Faculty Council Budget & Finance Committee, 2025 – present

University of Colorado Denver

- Member, Committee on Faculty Compensation, 2026
- Member, Budget Allocation Review Committee, 2024 – 2025
- Secretary, Faculty Assembly Budget Priorities Committee, 2022 – present
- Member, Faculty Assembly Budget Priorities Committee, 2020 – present
- Member, Center for Faculty Development & Advancement Advisory Board, 2020 – 2021
- Member, Faculty Assembly, 2016 – 2020
- Member, Outcomes Assessment Committee, 2015 – 2016

Auraria Library

- Chair, Auraria Library Faculty, 2025 – present
- Chair, Faculty Advisory on Budget Committee, 2025 – present
- Chair, Faculty State of Shared Governance Task Force, 2024 – 2025
- Chair, Teaching & Learning Librarian Search Committee (cohort hire), 2024
- Chair, Leadership and Service Evaluation Committee, 2021 – 2023
- Secretary, Leadership and Service Evaluation Committee, 2020 – 2021
- Chair, Faculty Personnel Committee, 2018 – 2019
- Chair, User Experience Committee, 2018 – 2019
- Secretary, Auraria Library Faculty, 2017 – 2018
- Chair, Faculty Research Funds Subcommittee, 2016 – 2018