

## **OPTIONAL COVID STATEMENT FOR 2021 ANNUAL REPORTS**

We acknowledge that the extraordinary circumstances caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the state of emergency the University has been under since April 2020 may have caused disruptions to Library faculty in their librarianship, research/scholarship/creative activity, and service goals during 2020 and 2021. We also acknowledge that these challenging circumstances have resulted in many of our faculty making unique contributions to address the pandemic. Moreover, many faculty are facing additional challenges related to COVID-19 such as health concerns, extra caregiving duties, and financial troubles, which are personal matters and thus not typically included in annual file narratives. Nonetheless, we recognize that such issues are important and have had a significant impact on many of you.

Faculty are invited to add an optional, brief statement to their annual report materials regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their librarianship, research, and service. For some faculty, the pandemic has created new research and librarianship opportunities; for others, the pandemic has closed off active lines of research, shifted the balance of work toward librarianship, and/or increased caregiving responsibilities. The COVID-19 statement offers Library faculty an opportunity to reflect on both positive and negative impacts, as relevant, and to highlight achievements that may not be otherwise visible (e.g., redirecting research to accommodate travel restrictions). The goal of the statement is to contextualize professional accomplishments and challenges related to the pandemic for internal audiences. Whether in this statement or in some other way, faculty are encouraged to create a record of the impacts now, while they are fresh. The inclusion of this statement provides faculty with an opportunity to detail disruptions to their activity experienced through no fault of their own, to explain the ways in which they adapted to overcome these, and to note how these adaptations represent a form of productivity during this period. (Language adapted from the Ohio State University)

Should you choose to submit the “Optional COVID Statement” with your annual reporting documents, please attach as a separate Word/PDF file to the University Librarian’s office [Lucretia Williams ([lawillia@illinois.edu](mailto:lawillia@illinois.edu))] by Monday, January 24, 2022.