Biography for Dr. K. Matthew Dames

Abbreviated Version

K. Matthew Dames, a nationally recognized scholar in copyright law and an experienced innovator in academic libraries, has served as university librarian for Boston University since July 2018. In this role, Dr. Dames serves as the chief executive, academic, administrative, and talent officer for Boston University Libraries, BU’s multibranch Charles River Campus library system. Dr. Dames’ vision of BU Libraries is to be the most effective and most impactful academic library enterprise in the United States.

Currently, Dr. Dames plays an integral role in BU’s strategic planning process as Chair of the Subcommittee on Scholarly Resources & Services – Libraries, which is guiding the University in envisioning how the Libraries can support faculty and students in a digital, interdisciplinary, and collaborative environment. Dr. Dames is a member of several BU decision-making and governance bodies, including the Provost’s Cabinet, University Leadership Group, and University Council.

Dr. Dames also serves as acting director for the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, BU’s distinctive collections division, which joined BU Libraries in July 2019. He is also the principal investigator on the BU Libraries’ first grant award from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which focuses on developing and scaling executive talent.

Dr. Dames serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Research Libraries (2019-2022) and the Board of Directors’ Executive Committee for NERL (2018-2021). He is a past board member of Reveal Digital in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and was a 2018-19 Association of Research Libraries’ Leadership Fellow. He continues to conduct research on copyright law, policy, and history, emphasizing culture and norms of the media industries, and is an attorney and member in good standing of the Bar of Maryland.

Boston University Libraries (@bulibraries) serves more than 1.6 million visitors annually, on nearly 300,000 square feet of space across the Charles River Campus. BU Libraries is a member of several organizations, including the Association of Research Libraries, the Boston Library Consortium, the Coalition for Networked Information, the Eastern Academic Scholars’ Trust, and HathiTrust.

Founded in 1839, Boston University is one of the world’s largest private research universities. BU educates more than 34,000 students from more than 130 countries, offers more than 300 programs of study within 17 schools and colleges, employs 10,000 faculty and staff, and has 377,000 alumni. BU is a member of the Association of American Universities.