University of Wisconsin-Platteville Faculty Senate,

I am writing to request the Faculty Senate’s support for adding an Emerging Technologies position to the library staff. An Emerging Technologies Librarian is urgently needed for many reasons.

Since the early nineties Elton S. Karrmann Library has lost over half of its professional librarians. (Most positions were transferred to the Office of Information Technology.) During the same time Karrmann’s service population of University of Wisconsin-Platteville students, faculty and staff has doubled. The result is inadequate staff supporting learning, teaching and research at the UW-Platteville. More professional degree librarians are required. Adding an Emerging Technologies Librarian position would permit us to begin addressing the following list of unmet needs.

- **Streaming Server** - There are materials we currently cannot purchase unless we can correctly implement a streaming server that complies with library licensing and is interoperable with current and future library systems. Other UW Libraries are already streaming audio, video and eBooks. We are behind on offering this service, especially for a STEM campus and for users with physical disabilities.

- **Bibliographic Data Analysis** – The new unified search and the next integrated library system will deliver data that can guide selection and de-selection of materials but there is no way our current staff can take on the required data analysis. Lack of use may point to an access or awareness problem and a skilled librarian needs to investigate and maximize our investment in resources.

- **Bibliographic Instruction** - We need to support faculty teaching by doing more in-class presentations on the use of the library resources, not just tailored to the specific subject being taught, but focused on a specific assignment. Too many students are getting only a general information session in large mixed groups. Faculty need our support so that their students produce higher level work and feel prepared to engage in undergraduate research, thus better understanding the professions they enter with UW-Platteville degrees.

- **Knowledge Creation Station** - We need a highly skilled librarian to instruct students in the creation of knowledge documents using multimedia technology and software. An Emerging Technologies Librarian can teach students to find the best information (in the right format) from among library resources and aid in locating copyright compliant materials available for free on the internet. This focused instruction piece should result in better use of technology across the campus and free up faculty from this work in support of undergraduate research.

This librarian would also help staff the reference desk where hours have been reduced each semester due to the persistent lack of staff. There are many committees on campus that would like to have library representation but with only six full time librarians we must decline these opportunities. Ideally we could well use three new librarian positions, but for now even one will help us meet campus needs. The Emerging Technology Librarian is a position already added at several other UW libraries.

Thank you for all you do for our students, and for your support of their library.

In Gratitude,

Zora J. Sampson