
PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Robert J. Lackie, MLIS, MA

Professor-Librarian

Rider University Library, Rider University

2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-3099 ☎ 609-895-5626 ✉ rlackie@rider.edu

Robert J. Lackie grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs. An accomplished student, he graduated near the top of his class from Penn Wood Senior High School in 1984, before enlisting in the United States Air Force (USAF). After completing basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) in Texas, Airman Lackie began technical training as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist at Sheppard AFB in Texas. He was chosen as a class leader and graduated with honors in March 1985. After a temporary duty assignment to Cannon AFB, New Mexico, for his field training, Airman Lackie was assigned to Royal Air Force Upper Heyford, England, serving as an Assistant Crew Chief on his F-111 'Aardvark,' a General Dynamics multipurpose 'swing-wing' tactical fighter-bomber aircraft capable of supersonic speeds.

While stationed in England, Robert earned the 1987 Airman of the Year Award and the 1988 Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year Award for the 20th Aircraft Generation Squadron. Additionally, Robert completed NCO Preparatory School in October 1987 and earned the NCO Preparatory Course Distinguished Graduate Award. His overseas experiences with the USAF and field study courses via the University of Maryland (European Division) inspired his pursuit of a career in higher education; they also contributed to his acceptance into the University of Oxford's *British Universities International Summer Schools 1989 Programme (Oxford: Britain: Literature, History, & Society from 1970)* as one of 120 students and professors from 30 countries—a highlight of his early academic career. In 1989, E-4 Sergeant Lackie transferred to Shaw AFB in Sumter, South Carolina, USA, as a Crew Chief on his F-16 'Fighting Falcon,' a General Dynamics single-engine supersonic tactical fighter aircraft.

While stationed at Shaw AFB, Sergeant Lackie continued his longstanding pursuit of education, earning an *Associate in Applied Science in Aircraft Maintenance Technology* from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) at Air University in 1989. In December 1989, he received the General Leo Marquez Maintenance Technician of the Year Award, and he graduated from the Tactical Air Command NCO Leadership School, earning the Distinguished Graduate, Academic Achievement, Communicative Skills, and Esprit de Corps awards. In 1990, he was promoted to E-5 Staff Sergeant and asked to complete his tour at Shaw as an instructor at the NCO Professional Military Education (PME) Center, teaching communication skills, leadership & military history, and safety. His military service medals include the *Air Force Commendation Medal*, *Air Force Achievement Medal*, *Good Conduct Medal*, and *National Defense Service Medal* for his work as a Tactical Aircraft Maintenance Specialist (Crew Chief). He also received the *Humanitarian Service Medal* for service to Carolina residents during Hurricane Hugo recovery efforts.

In 1991, while serving as an NCO PME Instructor, Staff Sergeant Lackie completed an *Associate in Applied Science in Instructor of Technology and Military Science* from CCAF, Air University, as well as an *Associate in Arts* from the University of Maryland (University College, European Division). In 1991-1992, he was selected as the Non-commissioned Officer of the Quarter for the 363rd Mission Support Squadron and inducted into *Who's Who among Students in American Universities & Colleges*.

While completing his enlistment with the USAF in 1992, Staff Sergeant Lackie also earned his Bachelor of Science (English & Business Management) with honors from Regents College, The University of the State of New York. Soon after, Robert was offered his first post-military contract for the Governor's Initiative Program at the DuPont Plant and Central Carolina Technical College in Camden, South Carolina, where he taught pneumatics, basic math, and public speaking. During this time, Robert also taught English/Business Writing part-time at Trident Technical College (TTC) while attending Charleston Southern University (CSU) in the evenings, earning 18 graduate hours in English in preparation to become a more effective instructor.

While attending CSU and teaching as an adjunct instructor at TTC and CSU, Robert tutored math and English. He was also awarded a *Library & Information Science Graduate Assistantship* at the CSU L. Mendel Rivers Library to help cover his course costs. He found that his teaching and computer skills aligned well with the field of library & information science, prompting him to pursue it professionally. Therefore, Robert accepted an entry-level Library Technical Assistant position at CSU to gain more pre-professional experience in library science. He also applied to and was accepted into the *Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS)* program at the University of South Carolina (UofSC). In 1994-1995, Robert was awarded the *UofSC College of Library & Information Science Kenneth E. Toombs Fellowship* and inducted into *Beta Phi Mu, The International Library & Information Studies Honor Society*. In 1996, he earned his *MLIS* degree from UofSC, which led to a new career as a CSU library faculty member (Instructor of Library Science). In 1998, Prof. Lackie accepted a position at Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, as a Reference and Instruction Librarian (Instructor-Librarian rank).

In 2000, Prof. Lackie completed his second master's degree, a *Master of Arts in Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision*, with distinction, from Rider University, while also earning the *Curriculum, Instruction & Supervision Annual Graduate Award*, the *Phi Delta Kappa (PDK) Graduate Student Award*, and induction into *PDK, The International Honor Society in Education*. He was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor-Librarian, with tenure, in 2004, and then to the prominent rank of full Professor-Librarian in 2009.

These formative experiences—spanning military service, technical instruction, and academic achievement—laid the foundation for Robert's transition into higher education and librarianship, where he has continued to lead, teach, and innovate. His journey reflects a commitment to lifelong learning, leadership, and service, culminating in a distinguished career as a professor-librarian and academic leader.

Presently, Prof. Robert J. Lackie is a Professor-Librarian at Rider University in New Jersey, where he coordinates the University Library's Research Instruction Program and serves as the Education and Business Librarian. He provides leadership for library instruction initiatives, faculty collaboration, and student research support while serving undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs. He also teaches course-integrated, assignment-specific research instruction sessions in both traditional in-person and online formats across a variety of academic disciplines. He serves as library liaison to the Dr. Eugene Marsh Center for Veterans & Military Affairs, the Veterans Entrepreneurial Training (VET) Program, and the TRIO Department's Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement and Student Support Services (SSS) programs (two federally funded student support programs designed to assist first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students, sponsored jointly by Rider University and the U.S. Department of Education). In addition, he also teaches within the Rider University McNair Summer Research Institute (MSRI).

Previously, Prof. Lackie served as Acting Department Chairperson for the Katharine Houk Talbott Music Library at Westminster Choir College of Rider University during the spring of 2022. He was elected as Department Chairperson for the Franklin F. Moore Library in 2013 and re-elected in 2016 for a second term. Before his time as Chairperson, Lackie co-led the Moore Library's Research Instruction Program for 15 years and served as the Communication, Journalism, and Sciences Librarian. In these leadership roles, he supervised personnel, coordinated departmental operations, participated in hiring and evaluation processes, contributed to strategic planning initiatives, and represented library interests within institutional governance structures.

In 2023, Prof. Lackie was accepted into Rider University's Doctor of Educational Leadership (Ed.D.) program in the Higher Education Leadership track. His doctoral studies focus on organizational leadership, student success, educational policy, and institutional effectiveness in higher education. His leadership philosophy emphasizes collaboration, transparency, student success, equitable access, and evidence-based decision-making.

Robert has taught various college courses in business communications, leadership, identity theft prevention, English composition, public speaking, and library and information science. He also volunteered to serve as Rider University's first Faculty-in-Residence from 1998 to 2002. He continues to teach in Rider's VET Program for military veteran entrepreneurs and in the MSRI Scholars program each year.

Active in various Library and educational organizations, Prof. Lackie has helped many librarians within his numerous academic and leadership roles: as trainer and evaluator for eight years with the New Jersey Train-the-Trainer Group; as an executive board officer for seven years each with the Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative and the Phi Delta Kappa International Trenton-Area Chapter; as an officer for several years each with the New Jersey Library Association's User Education Committee and the Tri-state College Library Cooperative; and as an adjunct professor and guest lecturer in Rutgers University's MLIS Program.

Throughout his career, Prof. Lackie has delivered more than 700 presentations, keynote addresses, workshops, webinars, and invited programs throughout the United States. His scholarly interests include instructional theory and pedagogy, student development and retention, library-faculty collaboration, information literacy, emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, library outreach, and research methodologies.

Prof. Lackie has also co-authored one ebooklet: *Identity Theft: What You Need to Know* ([Kindle Edition: ASIN: B00IK678C4] Amazon Digital Services, Inc., 2014 / Rider University Center for Business Forensics [Print Edition, 2014: ISBN: 9780989343923]; and he has co-edited three books: 1) *Creative Library Marketing and Publicity: Best Practices* (ISBN: 9781442254213, Rowman & Littlefield, 2015: awarded "ATG [Against the Grain] Book of the Week" [ISSN: 1043-2094 - Feb. 2017] and "This Year's Top Ten Books on Librarianship" from *Information Today* [ISSN: 8755-6286 - Dec. 2016]); 2) *Teaching Generation M: A Handbook for Librarians and Educators* (ISBN: 9781555706678, Neal-Schuman, 2009, selected as one of *Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)* [ISSN: 0160-4201 - Oct. 2010] "Top Ten Essential Books for Professionals Who Serve Teens"); and 3) *New Jersey Train-the-Trainer: Training Techniques for Library Staff: Instructor's Guide and Course Book: Revised and Expanded Editions, 2001, 2002, 2004, & 2006* (ISBN: 978087425406X / 9780874254075, NJ State Library).

Prof. Lackie has authored or co-authored nationally recognized Websites and blogs and has published within various professional and scholarly works, including ... chapters within his co-edited books above, as well as within the following academic books: *Stop Plagiarism: A Guide to Understanding and Prevention*; *Googlization of Libraries*; *Google Scholar and More: New Google Applications & Tools for Libraries & Library Users*; *Libraries and Google*; and *The Plagiarism Plague: A Resource Guide and CD-ROM Tutorial for Educators and Librarians*; ... articles within the following peer-reviewed journals: *Journal of Library & Information Services in Distance Learning*; *Journal of Library Administration*; *The Reference Librarian*; *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*; and *College & Undergraduate Libraries*; and ... articles within the following professional magazines: *MultiMedia & Internet@Schools: The Media and Technology Specialists' Guide to Electronic Tools and Resources for K-12 Education*; *Online: Exploring Technology & Resources for Information Professionals*; and *College & Research Libraries News*.

Prof. Lackie has received several accolades for his teaching, writing, leadership, and service. These include the Office of the Governor [2019] “State of New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal,” the Who’s Who [2018 inductee] “Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award,” a New Jersey Library Association “2014 Public Relations Award,” the Association of College & Research Libraries New Jersey Chapter “2011 Distinguished Service Award,” the American Library Association “2006 Ken Haycock Award for Promoting Librarianship,” the “2004 Rider University Award for Distinguished Teaching,” and the New Jersey Library Association “2004 Librarian of the Year” award, among others.

Prof. Lackie’s current professional interests include higher education leadership, organizational effectiveness, student success, veteran and military-affiliated student support, and the strategic role of academic libraries in advancing institutional mission and student achievement. As of October 2026, he has completed 12 of 14 doctoral courses and earned a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Leadership while maintaining full-time faculty, leadership, teaching, and service responsibilities at Rider University.

Last updated: RJL/20261007
