

UW LIBRARIES

Strategic Plan, 2018-2022

June, 2017

Introduction:

UW Libraries began its strategic planning process in September 2016 with a series of “Think Tank” sessions for Department Heads that occurred through the fall and into spring 2017. In November, a Strategic Planning Steering Committee was formed with representation from across the library departments and with student representation. Over 70 pages of data from all major UW Libraries stakeholders were gathered by various means including listening sessions, departmental meetings, questionnaires, online and paper surveys, and focused individual and group discussions. From January through April, input came from internal sources: department heads, departments and administration, and from external constituents: UW faculty, UW students, Library Council, Library Development Board, the State Library.

Vision:

University of Wyoming Libraries supports the University’s vision and mission by fostering the open and unrestricted pursuit of inquiry, discovery and knowledge, and by enhancing teaching, learning and research experiences through collections, services, and study and learning spaces.

Mission:

Honoring the heritage of the Equality State and its commitment to education of the highest quality, UW Libraries serves as the intellectual commons of the University of Wyoming. We provide nationally-recognized information services, collections, and learning environments for a diverse community of University students, staff, and faculty, and for Wyoming residents. Expertise of the UW Libraries team contributes significantly to successful teaching, learning and research.

Values:

Fundamental values of UW Libraries are:

- **Exploration and Discovery:** assuring equitable access to information and library services; upholding individual rights to privacy in seeking and using information; promoting open access to information and learning resources; delivering best practices in space utilization and library services for users borrowing materials, studying and receiving instruction.
- **Innovation and Application:** promoting student success, critical thinking, and lifelong learning; offering spaces and resources for using and creating knowledge.

- **Disciplinary and Interdisciplinarity:** providing space for collaboration and partnerships; developing and preserving collections that support research and learning across the broad spectrum of knowledge; advancing scholarly communication through use of print and digital sources.
- **Integrity and Responsibility:** understanding and practicing stewardship of library resources and sustainability; deepening and broadening the learning, teaching, research and discovery experiences of students and faculty; upholding integrity of scholarship and the principles of copyright and intellectual property.
- **Diversity and Internationalization:** upholding respect for diverse perspectives and representing these in our physical and digital collections; preparing students and faculty to engage in an evolving global information economy.
- **Engagement and Communication:** showing the human face of education through care and attention offered library users; promoting professional development of UW Libraries employees; developing and expanding state, regional, national and international library collaborations, and upholding professional standards that advance library resources and services for the University of Wyoming and beyond.

Goals and Objectives:

Harmonized with the Strategic Plan of the University, UW Libraries Strategic Plan, 2018-2022, embraces exciting future goals and objectives:

1. Support excellence in teaching, scholarship, innovation, and creative endeavor by providing innovative library services in our physical and digital communities.

- Enhance academic and personal journeys of students at the University by opening access to educational materials, scholarly works, and new resources to challenge paradigms and encourage discovery and growth.
- Generate, share, and preserve original digital attributes of materials and events and promote creativity among local and distance participants. Support displays, exhibitions and other innovative academic and creative work.
- Support literacy in all forms, protect the individual rights of all users of our libraries, and offer education in critical thinking and accurate and ethical use of information to promote effective local, regional, and global citizenship.
- Provide students and faculty with skills and resources that will sustain lifelong learning and knowledge creation in an evolving physical and digital environment.

2. Create physical and virtual spaces and services that promote: innovation; collaboration; engagement for students, faculty and others that support student learning; knowledge; innovation; and creative endeavors within UW Libraries and beyond.

- Create a safe environment, physical and digital, for library users.
- Maintain and adapt spaces for individuals, groups, or those with special needs that facilitate study, collaboration, and engagement in student learning.

- Collaborate with colleges, departments, academic units, and organizations to use librarian expertise in campus learning environments.
- Support the teaching mission of the University and create specialized spaces in Coe Library associated with specific colleges and units.
- Maintain a culture of innovation and creativity that fosters student and faculty collaboration, teaching, research and scholarship through dynamic utilization of library space.

3. Build on the collections UW Libraries has developed to support the teaching and research needs of the university community and expand the availability of library resources beyond the Laramie campus.

- Increase access to library materials in a variety of formats through purchasing commercially available resources, generating accessible versions of unique resources residing on the UW campus, and creating expressions of knowledge reflecting the interests of the University and Wyoming.
- Expand collaboration with community college libraries and the Wyoming State Library through joint purchases, license agreements for statewide access; develop library resources that support students transferring to the University from community colleges.
- Increase existing partnerships with regional, national, and international organizations and explore membership in the Association of Research Libraries.
- Support Open Educational Resources and the principles of open access in scholarly communication.
- Continue to build research collections in the University's areas of distinction.

4. Foster an exceptional organizational culture that encourages all library employees to reach their full potential, enables UW Libraries to achieve strategic priorities, and embraces exciting opportunities in our evolving profession.

- Promote continuing education and professional development for individuals and within departments, and ensure library faculty and staff are prepared to meet the evolving needs of those we serve.
- Continue developing an agile organizational culture that fosters mutual respect, life-long learning, and continuous improvement. Encourage all library employees to pursue innovation and embrace change.
- Expand and promote a culture of assessment.
- Engage in clear, open, and honest communication respecting all persons and perspectives that fosters trust and teamwork.

Summary

In the rapidly changing information and higher education environments, UW Libraries connects people with information, leveraging technology to advance lifelong learning for all. We are active partners in the academic community to evolve the research library of the future to achieve the vision and mission of the University of Wyoming.

Over the next five years, and beyond, we will implement this plan through visionary, exciting projects and initiatives that reflect UW Libraries vision, mission, values, goals and objectives. This will develop and evolve as “**UW Libraries Action Plan**” that will include performance metrics and assessment strategies.