

Ohio University Libraries Strategic Plan

SUMMARY

The primary directions of the Libraries' strategic plan are as follows:

- Find and/or create more opportunities to educate OU students about information and libraries, including a substantive introduction for first-year students.
- Improve two-way communication with students and faculty about library resources and services and create a comprehensive marketing plan.
- Increase innovative services to faculty and researchers, particularly those services that will enhance grant-seeking and research.
- Revise the acquisitions funding formula to achieve more equitable distribution of funds.
- Seek grants for library initiatives, especially digital projects, and create a robust digital projects program that showcases Ohio University Libraries' resources to world-wide audiences.
- Design and implement a multi-faceted library diversity plan.
- Support and promote outreach, particularly in the areas of health science information; work with local schools; services to distance learners; and increased cooperation with RHE libraries.
- Create a career ladder for librarians that encourages and rewards national and international professional achievement, and widely publicize the achievement of individuals and the organization as a whole.
- Deal with high priority facilities issues, including the Alden Library master plan; HVAC problems (before summer '07); renovation of the Music-Dance Library.

HIGHLIGHTS

Undergraduate Student Support

- Lobby for inclusion of information literacy / competency / fluency in university-wide learning outcomes and general education initiatives.
- Ensure that every first-year student receives standard, librarian-led instruction in information competency (through English 151 or another consistent channel).
- Include discipline-specific information competency instruction in "introduction to the field" courses.
- Add to and/or improve online tools and tutorials that increase information competency.
- Do a better job of publicizing the libraries' resources and services to undergraduates.
- Establish an ongoing Student Advisory Council.
- Actively support undergraduate research.

Faculty/Graduate Student Support

- Partner with the Provost's office and faculty development offices to construct the Faculty Commons.
- Support strategic priorities of academic departments and academic support units by adding or adapting library services.
- Implement on-campus courier service for delivery of hard-copy materials to faculty and researchers.
- Promote awareness among administration and faculty of scholarly publishing issues; encourage effective responses.

Research Support

- Revise the acquisitions funding formula for a more equitable and practical distribution of funds focusing on the University's research and curricular priorities.
- Support grant-writing and research by acquiring and publicizing library resources that assist in the grant-seeking and research processes.
- Provide more (and more proactive) bibliographer support for grant-writing and research activities, including a program of "embedded librarians" in strategic departments and buildings.
- Develop closer relationships with the Research Office, Graduate Studies, and appropriate research staff in the Colleges.
- Increase efforts to obtain grants for library initiatives.
- Create access to "hidden collections" (Southeast Asian, Special Collections, digital, microform, and other under-processed collections) by finding new resources or reallocating existing resources to create 2-3 new cataloging/metadata positions.

Diversity

- Develop and implement a library diversity plan.
- Support disabled patrons by providing the best in adaptive technologies and services.
- Develop programs to improve services to students from diverse backgrounds.
- Assess staff awareness of and sensitivity to diversity issues; create programs to address deficiencies and enhance strengths.
- Actively participate in university-wide diversity programs, committees, and task forces.
- Acquire information resources focused on diversity and multiculturalism, in keeping with University priorities.
- Develop and implement strategies to identify and recruit job candidates from underrepresented populations.
- Develop an internship program for new or prospective librarians from underrepresented groups.

Partnerships

- Provide more support for and participation in campus/community/regional initiatives like Kids on Campus, K-12 programming, Pre-Engineering Program (PEP), local public libraries, etc.
- Work with RHE libraries to create greater efficiencies in current operations and to identify opportunities for additional collaboration and service.
- Improve information access for distance learners; enrollees in certificate, professional development, and contract training programs; and possibly alumni.

National Prominence

- Develop an active and productive digitization program which makes our unique collections, as well as the University's "born digital" assets, prominently accessible through the Internet.
- Improve Ohio University's Association of Research Libraries rank.
- Publicize the Libraries' achievements to library professional and higher education audiences beyond the University.
- Seek national awards for library excellence.
- Increase Library staff involvement in professional activities at the regional, national and international levels and establish an internal reward structure that recognizes significant contributions to the profession and to higher education.

Library Organization and Facilities

- Restructure the library organization for better customer service and operational efficiency.
- Create a Special Collections Division.
- Identify funds to support additional staffing for diversity, external relations, information competency instruction, research support, and technology initiatives through new funding or reallocation,
- Complete the Alden Library master plan. Consider external fund-raising.
- Renovate Music-Dance Library.
- Upgrade/replace HVAC in Alden Library.
- Allocate resources for processing/cataloging “hidden collections,” including backlogs and hard-to-process collections.

Technology

- Give high priority to the ongoing creation of user-friendly, intuitive, seamless interfaces to electronic information resources.
- Train student workers (both library and CS students) to provide more effective technology support to patrons.
- Investigate merging IT facilities and support for the AAC, Faculty Commons, and Libraries.
- Eliminate the use of SSNs in library systems.

Marketing and Public Relations

- Create a robust external relations program that unites the Libraries’ marketing, public relations, Friends of the Libraries, public event planning, and community relations efforts.
- Develop a library marketing plan, with sub-plans targeted to specific constituencies within the University and beyond.