

Washington University Libraries

Strategic Plan Priorities / 2019 – 2024

April 2019

Mission Statement

The Washington University Libraries facilitate the discovery, creation, utilization, preservation, and dissemination of ideas. We are an interactive hub of information resources, expertise, services, and relationships advancing research and learning outcomes for an evolving and diverse university community.

Organizational Principles

- *Open*
We are a welcoming hub that inspires discovery and collaboration to foster creative success and intellectual freedom. We emphasize inclusiveness and accessibility in all our programs, services, and initiatives.
- *Engaged*
We serve as a trusted partner, providing specialized expertise throughout the scholar's journey. We maintain critical relationships with our stakeholders to develop competencies and services in the Libraries in anticipation of changing and evolving needs.
- *Transformative*
We strive to innovate and adapt to facilitate creative approaches to produce successful academic outcomes. We remove barriers to resources essential to scholarly pursuits.

Strategic Directions & Goals

1. Collections

Cultivate comprehensive and distinctive collections that propel world-class research and scholarship

- a. Expand print, electronic, and other collections to ensure a diversity of materials, formats, and publishing models
- b. Align collections with existing and emerging research and learning needs
- c. Develop and implement a plan for long-term preservation and accessibility of collections

2. Environments

Offer dynamic spaces and services that accommodate diverse academic needs

- a. Enhance the user experience through increased visibility of services, collections, and expertise
- b. Optimize spaces and services for the advancement of learning, teaching, research, and collaboration
- c. Provide a welcoming atmosphere in which the needs of patrons and staff are acknowledged and fulfilled

3. Discovery

Deliver intuitive tools for seamless discovery, access, and connection to information resources

- a. Investigate and assess discovery and search systems to determine where barriers create inconsistent or challenging experiences for users
- b. Identify and reduce barriers to improve access to physical collections and materials
- c. Develop systems across the organization that maximize resources and increase support of user needs

4. Visibility

Increase awareness of library collections, services, and programs that are integral to research, teaching, and learning

- a. Understand our target audiences and their diverse communication preferences
- b. Develop a strategic approach to marketing and communication in order to promote collections, services, and other library resources that are essential to the intellectual life of the university
- c. Create consistent, cohesive messaging and branding across the organization

5. Partnerships

Advance collaborations and alliances that contribute to successful academic outcomes

- a. Pursue strategic partnerships on campus and in the community
- b. Develop criteria for collaborations that are sustainable and beneficial for all stakeholders
- c. Build a diverse portfolio of partnerships that support the academic goals of the university community

6. Innovation

Build sufficient organizational capacity to anticipate and support evolving modes of teaching, research, and scholarly dissemination

- a. Develop practices and behaviors to support an environmentally aware learning organization
- b. Align resources and infrastructure to enable and support strategic directions
- c. Forecast and anticipate evolving user needs

Next Steps...

Over the next few months, the Libraries will develop a set of action-oriented, measurable operational objectives. The Plan will launch on July 1. The entirety of our strategic plans will be posted on the Libraries' website and progress updated throughout the life of the Plan through various outreach methods.

Learn more & connect with us at library.wustl.edu.