

University Libraries
Strategic Planning Team

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www.uakron.edu/libraries/

Strategic Plan 2010-2014

On my mind,
a message from
the dean...

Transformational change surrounds us on many fronts. Technology, economics, demographics and other environmental forces no longer follow decades-old patterns. These dynamic forces present new challenges for libraries but also new opportunities for creating a flexible, diverse and "user-empowered" information environment. Today's rapidly changing environment demands that the University Libraries do more than respond to change; we must learn to create, anticipate, and manage change in ways that support our users, our workplace, and the mission, goals and strategic plans of both The University of Akron and the University System of Ohio.



Dr. David Baker, interim senior vice president and provost, and chief operating officer, and Dean Cheryl Kern-Simirenko discuss the University Libraries' strategic directions and their relationship to the University's future.

Strategic planning is often described as a tool that enables an organization to align itself for forward momentum, systematically focusing its efforts on moving toward a preferred future. Lawrence Peter (Yogi) Berra may have provided the most succinct statement on the importance of strategic planning when he observed: "If you don't know where you are going, you will wind up somewhere else."

In 2009, the UL Strategic Planning Team launched a user-centered planning process that included consideration of, and alignment with, the University's and the University System of Ohio's strategic planning. The team developed a participative process for considering how to move University Libraries from its current state to a desired future state. They created congruence in mission, vision and values, and developed a set of six strategic directions designed to guide an annual action-planning cycle that will, in turn, drive resource allocation. University Libraries' action planning will set, implement, assess and re-set priorities as the environment continually changes.

Faculty and staff in University Libraries have already developed the initial action plan, centered on 16 specific goals designed to strategically focus our efforts through June 2011. Watch our Web site for updates on our progress in moving forward and creating outcomes that better support you – the user.





MISSION

The University Libraries provides **state-of-the-art access** to broad and diverse scholarly resources and **innovative technologies** to empower users to evaluate their information needs, identify and access reliable sources, and successfully **transform information into knowledge**.

VISION

We will be **known and valued** by the University community as **essential** to the educational process and student success. Our flexibility, creativity and adaptability will drive innovation in services, instruction, technology and resources to **create the ultimate academic destination** on campus. As fully engaged, fulfilled employees we will continue to **expand our intellectual and individual potential**.

VALUES

The University Libraries **embraces** a set of **shared values** dedicated to our **users' needs** and to the **protection of their rights**:

- Providing exceptional service for all users;
- Inclusive access to services and resources in a secure environment;
- Research, inquiry and discovery without review or censorship;
- A collegial work environment with open communication and transparent processes;
- Innovative ways of continually improving our systems and programs;
- Professional growth, intellectual and individual fulfillment of library employees.

