The University of Akron
University Libraries

Strategic Plan
FY2018-2020

Our Mission

University Libraries provides resources, services, and expertise to support and enhance teaching, learning, and research.

Our Vision

To be known and valued as a collaborative partner essential to the educational and research processes, and fundamental to the success of the university community. As an intellectual asset for the campus, our creativity and adaptability will foster innovation in services, teaching and learning, technology, and resources.

Our Values

Student empowerment
Inclusiveness
Service

Accessibility Statement

University Libraries strives to provide multiple means of engagement, multiple means of action and expression, and multiple means of representation for all patrons. University Libraries is committed to producing, evaluating, selecting and acquiring, whenever possible, resources, content, services, programs, facilities, and technologies that are accessible to all and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 and Section 508, as amended, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Our Future: Strategic Directions

1. Academic Engagement

Partner with the University of Akron community to foster student success, inspire intellectual inquiry, promote scholarship, and disseminate knowledge.

1) Create virtual and physical spaces that support the continuum of learning from initial knowledge exploration through final scholarly communication.

2) Capitalize on the strengths of University Libraries by creating an infrastructure which increases internal knowledge and external outreach.

3) Partner with faculty and students to support not only discovery of and access to our collections, but also aid in the management of scholarship by helping them to preserve and disseminate new knowledge.

2. Outreach & Collaboration

Cultivate relationships with the campus and the community to increase engagement with University Libraries.

1) Align with university colleges, departments, centers, and offices to promote services and resources that support teaching, learning, and research.

2) Foster local and regional community partnerships.

3) Develop internal and external communication and marketing strategies.

3. Facilities & Spaces

Provide inclusive, barrier-free physical and online environments for teaching, learning, and research that are responsive to the needs of the university community.

1) Study current space use and activities to inform a plan for the most effective use.

2) Develop long-term plans to renovate outdated spaces and align with University and professional expectations.

3) Develop a philosophy and strategy for designing, managing, and continuously improving an integrated online presence.

4) Respond to user demands for new technologies and tools through assessment and refinement of existing portals, platforms, and virtual services.

4. Discovery & Access

Optimize and increase the discovery of and access to services, resources, technologies, and scholarship.

1) Assess and combine our collective skills and resources in innovative ways in order to integrate and maximize our services.

2) Enhance the user experience by reducing barriers and improving access to all University Libraries services, collections, resources, and technologies through a coordinated approach.

5. Professional Development

Invest in ongoing workforce development of all University Libraries employees to enhance expertise, effectiveness, and engagement.

1) Create clear pathways for communication and sharing of job-specific knowledge and expertise.

2) Foster a culture of continuous professional development across the entire University Libraries workforce.