Overview

Libraries are no longer the quiet, solitary and reflective places they once were. The way our community accesses and synthesizes information for teaching, learning and professional practice is changing dramatically and continually. Library user expectations are high; they demand proactive, client-focussed service and expert assistance when and where they need it.

The University Library Strategic Plan recognizes these characteristics and lays out an ambitious set of strategies and priority actions to aggressively develop a leading-edge research library of the 21st century – one that is fully engaged in the transformation of its collections, facilities, services, and organizational culture and workforce.

The University Library is well positioned to participate and meaningfully shape the second century of development at the University of Saskatchewan.
Vision:
As leaders and innovators in a dynamic information environment, we collaborate with our community to create a positive experience that leads to success in learning, scholarship and practice.

Mission:
In fulfilling the university’s mission and strategic directions, we:
• create, select, acquire, organize and preserve information resources to meet current and emerging teaching, learning and research needs
• teach and empower our community to find, evaluate and use information
• remove barriers to access and ensure user-centred library services, resources and facilities
• build relationships and partnerships internally and externally

Planning Context
The University Library’s Strategic Plan is closely aligned with the university’s integrated planning process and the Third Integrated Plan: Promise and Potential, which recognizes the complex and rapidly changing context of university life and post-secondary education. The library’s strategic plan also takes its lead from the themes outlined in the University of Saskatchewan’s Strategic Directions (2002), the various Foundational Documents, and the Areas of Focus for the third integrated plan (Knowledge Creation: Innovation and Impact; Innovation in Academic Programs and Services; Aboriginal Engagement: Relationships, Scholarship, Programs; and, Culture and Community: Our Local and Global Sense of Place). Like the institution as a whole, the University Library must consider changing circumstances within the external environment that influences its activities and choices. This plan takes account of the many challenges and opportunities facing libraries and universities in the 21st century and it recognizes that the community we serve is diverse and has high expectations for its library.

Values:
As members of the University Library, in working with each other and our community, we:
• are honest, supportive and sensitive in our communications
• respect and value individual and cultural differences
• support innovation, creativity and risk-taking
• learn from our failures
• celebrate our successes
• are fair and forthright in our dealings
• confront problems and issues openly and directly
• cultivate an environment of collegiality and trust
• ensure the protection of privacy and the right to confidentiality
• “uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources”*

Core Strategies

Our plan has four major strategies which focus on impacts and outcomes, rather than on traditional library activities or functions.

1 | Learner and Teacher

We will transform our services, collections and facilities to contribute to the success of our learners and teachers and the library as a learning organization.

Guided by the Plan, we will:
- Establish a “learning organization culture” throughout the library
- Be more learner/teacher-centered
- Radically transform the library function and its services to actively engage in the teaching and learning process
- Eliminate barriers to accessing our facilities, collections, programs and services
- Have a more consolidated and holistic approach to service delivery throughout our library system
- Be more outcome-focused about what we do and what we provide
- Have an integrated approach (when appropriate) to services, collections and facilities that remove barriers to learning and teaching

2 | Researcher, Scholar, Practitioner

We will transform our services, collections and facilities to contribute to the success of researchers, scholars and practitioners. As librarians we will intensify our research activity.

Guided by the Plan, we will:
- Enhance services for researchers
- Better understand what researchers need
- Actively collaborate with researchers in all phases of research initiatives
- Be recognized as the repository of choice for University of Saskatchewan researchers and scholars
- Collaborate with our researchers and scholars in the collection and preservation of their research materials
- Significantly increase the research outputs of our librarians
- Work closely with the Office of the Vice-President Research
- Improve discovery of and access to information resources

3 | Relationships and Engagement

We will build and strengthen relationships and connections within the library, within the university and beyond.

Guided by the Plan, we will:
- Have relationship building as an integral part of the culture of the library
- Strengthen relationships on campus in order to raise the library’s profile to the degree that we are a sought-after participant in university-wide initiatives
- Increase our donor base
- Demonstrate our organizational values in our external relationships
- Be leaders and initiators of new relationships and partnerships that will further advance our mission
- Be recognized and valued as major contributors to the university’s success
- Be open, transparent and forthright in our communication
- Engage with and support the Aboriginal community

4 | Employee Engagement and Operational Effectiveness

We will continuously improve by developing and implementing innovative solutions to advance:
- our learner and teacher strategy,
- our researcher, scholar and practitioner strategy, and
- our relationships and engagement strategy.

Guided by the Plan, we will:
- Have a culture of accountability within the library
- Strengthen relationships within the library evidenced by increased engagement and active modeling of our values
- Build a culture that fosters a holistic view of the library and a sense of mutual support in aid of our common mission
- Have employees that possess the requisite skills and competencies to deliver our library’s mission
- Be open, transparent and forthright in our communication and our decision making
- Transform our library into an innovative and flexible learning organization that embraces change, risk taking and open dialogue across all levels, functions and activities
- Be recognized as innovative leaders by our peers
- Disinvest in certain activities and be responsive to emerging needs
- Ensure our resources are aligned with library and university priorities
- Employ evidence-based decision making in our operations
- Establish processes for the gathering of evidence on the effectiveness of our operations
About the University Library

The University Library is one of Canada’s leading research libraries. In addition to its electronic services and seven campus locations, the library’s 150 full-time (equivalent) faculty and staff serve over 27,000 University of Saskatchewan faculty, staff and students. The library provides year-round and around-the-clock access to an extensive electronic collection. Our collections, services and facilities provide support to learners, teachers, researchers, scholars and practitioners.

The university community uses the library to engage, enlighten and explore in an evolving range of collaborative interdisciplinary ways. The University Library is committed to furthering the university’s commitment to innovation, collaboration and engagement.

For More Information

To view the summary versions of both the University Library Strategic Plan and People Plan online, please visit library.usask.ca/info

To learn more about the University of Saskatchewan’s Third Integrated Plan: Promise and Potential and related activities, please visit usask.ca/ip

Contact

Dean’s Office
University Library
University of Saskatchewan
Room 156 Murray Building
3 Campus Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A4 Canada
Telephone: 1 (306) 966-5927  Fax: 1 (306) 966-5932

library.usask.ca