University Libraries Strategic Plan 2015

Our Mission:

The University Libraries are a dynamic partner with our users in the research, discovery, and creation of knowledge, where state-of-the-art technology and unique collections combine in an environment that welcomes and encourages free exploration. Whatever your quest, we are dedicated to your success.

Introduction:

Established in 1899, the University Libraries continue the long-standing tradition of providing the highest quality collections, instruction, and research support which are essential components of student and faculty success. As the meeting place of research and teaching, an academic library is the heart of a university. The University Libraries fulfill this role through thoughtful planning, assessment, and review. In pursuit of our mission, we follow the standards for academic libraries established by the Association for College & Research Libraries (ACRL). To meet these standards and ensure student success, the University Libraries have developed this strategic plan.

Goal 1: Build Robust, Responsive, and Sustainable Collections.

Acquire, preserve, and enhance access to the Libraries physical and electronic collections in keeping with the NIU Statement of Vision and Mission to be a “premier student-centered, research-focused public university, contributing to the advancement of knowledge for the benefit of the people of the region, the state, the nation, and the world.” Explore sustainable methods of developing our collections to help us establish resiliency in the face of uncertain economic times.

The University Libraries maintain collections in a variety of formats to support the learning and research activities of faculty and students in academic programs at Northern Illinois University. These collections directly contribute to student success by providing students with the resources they need to succeed both in and out of the classroom, from access to course reserves to books, journals, and reference sources. Efforts such as patron-driven acquisitions and collection gap analyses are intended to ensure that the collections meet the needs of our students and faculty, while also aligning our collections with curricular foci and institutional strengths. However, the depth and breadth of our collections also provides students with opportunities to engage with the world outside of their major. In addition to contributing to student success, such collections are key to growing as a leading public research university. Access to the latest journals and monographs assists our faculty in their research and scholarship and our special collections and archives, both virtual and physical, attract visiting scholars from across the country to access unique materials not available anywhere else. Finally, by advocating for sustainable models of budgeting and scholarly communication, such as regularly reviewing journal expenditures or the open access journal fund, the University Libraries recognize NIU’s financial sustainability as a shared responsibility.

Goal 2: Develop and Strengthen Campus and Community Relations.

Develop comprehensive communication mechanisms that connect the Libraries to stakeholder groups across campus, the community, and the globe. Foster internal communication strategies that will enable the Libraries to flourish and become a thriving community at NIU.

Outreach efforts help the University Libraries to connect directly with NIU students and faculty in order to better understand their needs and experiences. This ensures that the Libraries are providing students and faculty with the resources and support they need to meet their goals, while also making them more aware of the resources currently available. Library engagement with the campus and broader community is also key to building collaborative relationships among University partners, the University Libraries, and the world, while targeted outreach programs, such as providing social spaces and programs for our students, maximizes the value of the residential campus experience.
Goal 3: Transparently and Ethically Administrate the University Libraries’ Financial, Human, and Physical Resources.

The Dean and management team will proudly champion the NIU Core Value of ethically inspired leadership by effectively and transparently overseeing all aspects of the University Libraries.

To achieve the goals, objectives, and strategies of the University Libraries, the management team is tasked with overseeing the expenditures, staffing, and maintenance of the resources assigned to it by the University. Led by the Dean, this team will provide leadership concerning the vision and direction of the University Libraries as they work to align the organization with the University’s goals and objectives. Decisions concerning budget, staff allocation, and changes to the physical and virtual space of the University Libraries will be transparently and timely communicated to all key stakeholders, both within the Libraries and in the wider community. All of these efforts promote NIU’s core values of ethically inspired leadership and financial sustainability.


As an intellectual commons for the University community, the University Libraries provide study and learning spaces for individuals and groups involved in projects and continuous learning, bringing students, academics, and the world together.

The University Libraries’ location on central campus (Founders Memorial Library) and its two branch libraries (Faraday and Music) provide space for collaboration and study, where students, faculty, and the community can come together as they seek to achieve their goals. As students’ preferences change, the Libraries also continue to evolve to meet their needs, adapting to better serve student expectations and more diverse communities. This includes creating informal and formal study spaces, accommodating the full range of student schedules with longer building hours, and providing flexible services, such as virtual reference assistance. The University Libraries also aim to create online environments where students, faculty, and staff can readily access and discover information. These spaces include the Libraries central website, LibGuides developed by subject specialists, the Huskie Commons, and our digital collections repository. By regularly interacting with our user communities and gathering their feedback, we can more clearly assess how we are meeting their needs and how we can best improve these spaces over time.

Goal 5: Support Student and Faculty Success through Instructional Programs and Research Support.

Increase the reach of the Libraries’ support of teaching and research in support of career and life-long learning goals, with the aim of helping students and faculty to achieve fulfilling careers and make meaningful contributions to our changing world.

The University Libraries maintain an instruction program for all academic disciplines and offer a one-credit information literacy course. This continued commitment to high quality bibliographic instruction by subject specialist librarians prepares students for the research requirements of their academic majors, while also providing them with the concepts and tools needed to continue learning and growing in their chosen careers and throughout their lives.

In response to evolving scholarly practices in academia, issues surrounding journal price inflation, and a shared commitment to financial sustainability, the University Libraries have also led the campus in championing the cause of Open Access. Huskie Commons, the institutional repository for NIU, provides access to the publications and research output of the University community, and provides simple mechanisms for faculty to self-deposit such materials. Since this service is indexed by entities such as Google Scholar, NIU’s research output is poised and able to receive global exposure. The Libraries have also led the campus in supporting Open Access publishing initiatives by establishing an Open Access publication fund and offering to
host peer-reviewed, scholarly Open Access journals. Such efforts support research by making academic research more affordable and sustainable. The Libraries' Interlibrary Loan office helps faculty and staff locate and borrow research materials from all over the world at no cost, which results in financial savings for the university. Additionally, the Libraries' maintain and provide access to our unique, high-value collections from Rare Books & Special Collections, the Southeast Asia Collection, the Regional History Center, and our University Archives.

**Goal 6: Employ responsive, sustainable, and innovative uses of technology.**

The University Libraries create and maintain access to a variety of digital services and resources in support of teaching and research that depend on a reliable, secure, and forward-looking technological infrastructure.

Given the ongoing evolution of digital teaching and research, it is critical that the University Libraries develop a technological infrastructure that is flexible and responsive to the changing needs of staff, students, faculty and the world. Because of budgetary constraints, our use of technology will also be as strategic as it is innovative, with all decisions made transparently among key stakeholders, seeking out collaborations with other University partners to share resources and costs as often as possible. This is in the interest of better serving students and faculty, while recognizing financial sustainability as fundamental to our continued success and existence. The University Libraries provide support for mission-critical systems, such as the library website, the digital repository, and the e-resource management system, among several others. These systems enable students and faculty to effectively discover information, while providing seamless, immediate, and dependable access to library resources. Library staff also depend on the availability of these systems to describe, organize, deliver, and create such resources, making technological infrastructure a key component in many of the goals outlined elsewhere in this plan.

**Task Force Members:**
Sarah McHone-Chase, Faculty Representative, Co-Chair  
Brian Prall, LOSAC Representative, Co-Chair  
Nancy Adams, LOSAC Representative  
Rosanne Cordell, Administrative Representative  
Stacey Erdman, SPS Staff Representative  
TJ Lusher, Administrative Representative  
Matthew Short, Faculty Representative  
Katie Sutrina-Haney, Libraries Graduate Student Workers Representative  
Taylor Swank, Libraries Undergraduate Student Workers Representative
2015 Strategic Plan Objectives

Objective A: Improve marketing capabilities and efforts for University Libraries.

Objective B: Broaden outreach strategies across the NIU campus with specific emphasis on first and second year retention and the local community.

Objective C: Strengthen collaborations with teaching faculty to integrate library instruction into regular class time and facilitate high-quality information literacy and bibliographic instruction sessions to NIU students.

Objective D: Continue to support research and scholarship by expanding access to collections and services.

Objective E: Strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of the University Libraries.

Objective F: Acquire and curate research materials that continue to align with curricular foci and institutional strengths.

Objective G: Standardize and simplify the access and organization of online resources.

Objective H: Increase efforts to collect, preserve, and provide access to the University’s digital and intellectual assets (e.g. theses, dissertations, published pre-prints and post-prints, and data sets) and ensure long-term access to unique collections.

Objective I: Maintain and enhance a sustainable technological infrastructure responsive to the Libraries’ user communities.

Objective J: Update and maintain the physical environment of the Libraries in order to promote learning through effective usage of library materials and space.

Objective K: Promote an organizational environment that encourages leadership, participation in formal and informal learning opportunities, and professional development.

Objective L: Govern the Libraries efficiently and transparently to maximize the effective use of financial, physical, and human resources.
2015 Strategic Plan Goals with Corresponding Objectives

Goal 1: Build Robust, Responsive, and Sustainable Collections.
Acquire, preserve, and enhance access to the Libraries physical and electronic collections in keeping with the NIU Statement of Vision and Mission to be a “premier student-centered, research-focused public university, contributing to the advancement of knowledge for the benefit of the people of the region, the state, the nation, and the world.” Explore sustainable methods of developing our collections to help us establish resiliency in the face of uncertain economic times.
Objective D: Support research and scholarship.
Objective E: Strengthen the Libraries' support of research and training by improving budget sustainability.
Objective F: Acquire and curate research materials to support teaching and learning.
Objective H: Collect, preserve, and provide access to the University's digital and intellectual assets (e.g. theses, dissertations, published pre-prints and post-prints, and data sets) and ensure long-term access to unique collections.

Goal 2: Develop and Strengthen Campus and Community Relations.
Develop comprehensive communication mechanisms that connect the Libraries to stakeholder groups across campus, the community, and the globe. Foster internal communication strategies that will enable the Libraries to flourish and become a thriving community at NIU.
Objective A: Improve marketing capabilities and efforts for University Libraries.
Objective B: Broaden outreach strategies across the NIU campus with specific emphasis on first and second year retention and the local community. Objective #2: Broaden outreach strategies across the NIU campus with specific emphasis on first and second year retention and the local community.
Objective H: Collect, preserve, and provide access to the University's digital and intellectual assets (e.g. theses, dissertations, published pre-prints and post-prints, and data sets) and ensure long-term access to unique collections.
Objective L: Govern all aspects of the Libraries efficiently and transparently to maximize the effective use of financial, physical and human resources.

Goal 3: Transparently and Ethically Administrate the University Libraries’ Financial, Human, and Physical Resources.
The Dean and management team will proudly champion the NIU Core Value of ethically inspired leadership by effectively and transparently overseeing all aspects of the University Libraries.
Objective E: Strengthen the Libraries' support of research and training by improving budget sustainability.
Objective K: Promote an organizational environment that encourages leadership, participation in formal and informal learning opportunities and professional development.
Objective L: Govern all aspects of the Libraries efficiently and transparently to maximize the effective use of financial, physical and human resources.
As an intellectual commons for the University community, the University Libraries provide study and learning spaces for individuals and groups involved in projects and continuous learning, bringing students, academics, and the world together.

Objective G: Standardize and simplify webpage access and the organization of online resources.
Objective H: Collect, preserve, and provide access to the University's digital and intellectual assets (e.g. theses, dissertations, published pre-prints and post-prints, and data sets) and ensure long-term access to unique collections.
Objective J: Update and maintain the physical environment of the Libraries in order to promote learning through effective usage of library materials and space.
Objective L: Govern all aspects of the Libraries efficiently and transparently to maximize the effective use of financial, physical and human resources.

Goal 5: Support Student and Faculty Success through Instructional Programs and Research Support.
Increase the reach of the Libraries' support of teaching and research in support of career and life-long learning goals, with the aim of helping students and faculty to achieve fulfilling careers and make meaningful contributions to our changing world.

Objective C: Work with teaching faculty to integrate library instruction into regular class time and facilitate high-quality information literacy and bibliographic instruction session to NIU students.
Objective D: Support research and scholarship.
Objective E: Strengthen the Libraries' support of research and training by improving budget sustainability.
Objective F: Acquire and curate research materials to support teaching and learning.
Objective G: Standardize and simplify webpage access and the organization of online resources.
Objective H: Collect, preserve, and provide access to the University's digital and intellectual assets (e.g. theses, dissertations, published pre-prints and post-prints, and data sets) and ensure long-term access to unique collections.
Objective J: Update and maintain the physical environment of the Libraries in order to promote learning through effective usage of library materials and space.
Objective L: Govern all aspects of the Libraries efficiently and transparently to maximize the effective use of financial, physical and human resources.
Goal 6: Employ responsive, sustainable, and innovative uses of technology. The University Libraries create and maintain access to a variety of digital services and resources in support of teaching and research that depend on a reliable, secure, and forward-looking technological infrastructure.

Objective I: Maintain and enhance a sustainable technological infrastructure responsive to the Libraries' user communities.

Objective J: Update and maintain the physical environment of the Libraries in order to promote learning through effective usage of library materials and space.

Objective L: Govern all aspects of the Libraries efficiently and transparently to maximize the effective use of financial, physical and human resources.
2015 Strategic Plan Objectives with Corresponding Goals

Objective A: Improve marketing capabilities and efforts for University Libraries.
Goal 2: Develop and Strengthen Campus and Community Relations.

Objective B: Broaden outreach strategies across the NIU campus with specific emphasis on first and second year retention and the local community.
Goal 2: Develop and Strengthen Campus and Community Relations.

Objective C: Continue to collaborate with teaching faculty to better integrate library instruction into regular class time and facilitate high-quality information literacy and bibliographic instruction sessions to NIU students.
Goal 5: Support Student and Faculty Success through Instructional Programs and Research Support.

Objective D: Support research and scholarship.
Goal 1: Build Robust, Responsive, and Sustainable Collections.
Goal 5: Support Student and Faculty Success through Instructional Programs and Research Support.

Objective E: Strengthen the Libraries' support of research and training by improving budget sustainability.
Goal 1: Build Robust, Responsive, and Sustainable Collections.
Goal 3: Transparently and Ethically Administrate the University Libraries’ Financial, Human, and Physical Resources.
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Objective F: Acquire and curate research materials to support teaching and learning.
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Goal 1: Build Robust, Responsive, and Sustainable Collections.
Goal 2: Develop and Strengthen Campus and Community Relations.
Goal 5: Support Student and Faculty Success through Instructional Programs and Research Support.
Objective I: Maintain and enhance a sustainable technological infrastructure responsive to the Libraries' user communities.
Goal 6: Technological Infrastructure.

Objective J: Update and maintain the physical environment of the Libraries in order to promote learning through effective usage of library materials and space.
Goal 5: Support Student and Faculty Success through Instructional Programs and Research Support.
Goal 6: Employ responsive, sustainable, and innovative uses of technology.

Objective K: Promote an organizational environment that encourages leadership, participation in formal and informal learning opportunities and professional development.
Goal 3: Transparently and Ethically Administer the University Libraries' Financial, Human, and Physical Resources.

Objective L: Govern all aspects of the Libraries efficiently and transparently to maximize the effective use of financial, physical and human resources.
Goal 2: Develop and Strengthen Campus and Community Relations.
Goal 3: Transparently and Ethically Administer the University Libraries' Financial, Human, and Physical Resources.
Goal 5: Support Student and Faculty Success through Instructional Programs and Research Support.
Goal 6: Employ responsive, sustainable, and innovative uses of technology.