"Where Scholarship Meets Service:"

The Strategic Plan of the Drew University Libraries

Fall, 2015

The Drew University Libraries—two buildings separated by a pathway but bound by a shared mission and vision--serve as portals to the world of scholarship for the Drew community. The digital technology revolution, the greatest single influence on academic libraries over the past decades, continues to reshape scholarly communication; collections; and services and also to change the behaviors and expectations of our users. In just a few years, the Libraries—both the University Library and the Methodist and Special Collections Library—have become virtual destinations with unlimited hours as well as geographical destinations with limited hours. Technology now suffuses every aspect of how the Libraries do business and its effects continue to accelerate.

Fiscal constraints continue to affect all University units and present them with budgetary challenges. And, contrary to popular belief, digital products are not cheaper than paper alternatives. As Drew strives to do more with less, the Libraries will continue to critique current practices and commitments; rethink traditional library budget models; and be practical and efficient as well as imaginative, experimental, and bold.

The 2015 Strategic Plan of the Drew University Libraries is ambitious and optimistic as it re-affirms and supports the vital role of the Libraries in the educational mission of the University.

MISSION

To support and advance the educational mission of Drew University by facilitating access to scholarly collections and information resources.

VISION

The Libraries serve as the scholarly information research centers for the University, continually strengthening collections and services by providing access to a useful and expanding complement of print, digitized, and Web-based resources.

The Libraries help students build the skills needed to find, access, evaluate, and use reliable resources in all formats, and to produce scholarship.

The Libraries stand as the premier campus learning hubs, providing appealing environments for individual and collaborative study and research, academic support, informal conversation, and programs that enrich Drew's cultural and intellectual life.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We are **user-focused**, reaching out to students and faculty, listening to them, and finding ways to meet their changing needs.

We view creative **collaborations** as critical to our success, helping us to improve and expand services, ensuring access to comprehensive collections, enlarging outreach to our users, generating campus support, and attracting funding.

We embrace **technology,** integrating it intelligently across the scope of our work.

We strive to make the Libraries **welcoming and supportive environments** for study and research.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

I.   **Intensify the Libraries' support of student engagement**

   A. Collaborate with the faculty of all three schools to develop strategies that more fully integrate information literacy into academic programs

   B. Continue to work with other University units and, most importantly, our partners in the Academic Commons—Instructional Technology/User Services, University Technology, INTO New York at Drew, and the Center for Academic Excellence—to integrate and expand academic support services offered within the University Library's walls and to increase services to Drew students, faculty, and staff

   C. Explore ways to bolster Drew's reach beyond the Forest, exemplified in Drew's "University and the City" theme, by maintaining a global perspective and by supporting student outreach programs, the Center for Civic Engagement, and the INTO New York at Drew partnership

   D. Ensure that the Libraries' collection development practices, outreach programs, and policies are aligned with the University's strategic priorities

   E. Link our resources and librarians to off-campus programs, online courses, international seminars, and internships

II. **Continue to evolve as 21ˢᵗ century academic libraries**

   A. Refine collection development practices as technology changes

      i.   Broaden access to e-book collections

      ii. Investigate patron-driven acquisitions

   B. Exercise a leadership role in the VALID project, an open source plan that is a priority of VALE, the consortium of the New Jersey academic libraries

   C. Improve the user experience of the University Library website by creating plans for the evolution of the site and a process for its continued growth and maintenance

D. Seek opportunities and partnerships to promote digital scholarship and support plans that enhance it

III. Secure sustainable funding to keep the Libraries' collections current

    A. Collaborate with faculty who are developing new programs to ensure adequate University Library resources

    B. Demonstrate the value of the Libraries' collections to student learning and faculty research

    C. In partnership with University Advancement, enlarge the role of the Libraries in fundraising that supports collection development

IV. Make the Libraries even greater places to be

    A. Improve the welcoming experience and first impression of the University Library

        i. Continue to work with Advancement to complete the lobby upgrade

    B. Better integrate technology into the University Library

    C. Pursue projects that would expand, upgrade, and mediate student study spaces so the spaces are more attractive, desirable, and functional

    D. Complete remaining phases of the Academic Commons on the main floor of the University Library

    E. Upgrade the electrical, plumbing, and HVAC infrastructure of both buildings

    F. Establish comprehensive, regular assessment of resources and services

    G. Develop a plan to upgrade and improve both the patios and also the walkway between the two Libraries so that the connections between the two buildings are better showcased

    H. Build an addition to the University Library that would create a café, exhibit space, and an all-night study area as proposed in the University's *Land Use Master Plan* (October, 2008)

V. Advance the use of Special Collections and University Archives

    A. Improve access and preservation

        i. Establish endowments for the preservation and development of individual collections*

        ii. Expand digitization of Special Collections and of fragile and archival materials

    B. Promote the use of the Libraries' most distinctive resources throughout the curriculum and in scholarship and to both Drew and the wider community

C. Establish endowments for full-time librarians in Special Collections and University Archives*

VI. **Enhance communication with all segments of the Drew Community**

   A. Initiate new ways to solicit user input

      i. Conduct focus groups as appropriate

      ii. Survey students and faculty/staff on a regular basis

      iii. Embrace interactive communication tools such as text, chat, and other social networking tools

   B. Tell our story more effectively

      i. Create a wider variety of content including videos, photos, and stories

      ii. Enlist students to help develop and implement new communication strategies

   C. Increase Circulation services to alumni

   D. Explore ways to allow alumni access to specific databases and electronic resources

   E. Expand Library outreach and programs that showcase the Libraries' varied and valuable collections and also the talents, strengths, and academic pursuits of Library staff and faculty members

      i. Programs should include those of interest to Drew students, faculty, and staff members and to the greater community, including area high school students and residents

VII. **Empower Library faculty and staff**

   A. Support strategic goals by rethinking staff skills and responsibilities and by reorganizing structures and workflows

      i. Provide for flexibility in staff responsibilities and/or skills

      ii. Provide for retraining and cross-training options

   B. Strengthen financial support for professional development

*Campaign for Drew item

"Where Scholarship Meets Service" is quoted from: Hoffman, Starr. "The Preparation of Academic Library Administrators." Diss. U of North Texas, 2012. *Digital.library.unt.edu.* Web. 27 Oct. 2015. Page 1.

As of: October 28, 2015