

**University of Rhode Island  
University Libraries 2011-2016  
Strategic Goals and Initiatives**

**Vision Statement**

The University of Rhode Island Libraries, utilizing the newest technologies, will insure optimum access to, and delivery of, information for the University and State of Rhode Island. As partners in the teaching, research, and service missions of the University, the libraries will continue to acquire, organize, and preserve materials in all formats and provide instruction in their use.

**Mission Statement**

The library is an academic division within the University which has a mandate to serve the knowledge and information needs of the University Community and the general public. The library is the principal campus resource for human creativity and memory in traditional and electronic formats providing a truly global information environment.

The library is responsive to students and their instructional needs, to faculty and their teaching and research needs, and to administrators and their information needs. Librarians are committed to safeguarding intellectual freedom, to preserving and organizing the institution's records, to providing sophisticated reference services, and to engaging in bibliographic exchange on both regional and national scales.

The library provides an environment conducive to scholarly research and study. It is a vital and interdisciplinary resource whose support by the University exemplifies its commitment to educational excellence.

May 1994, rev. Aug. 2006

**Strategic Goals and Initiatives  
Derived from  
Charting our Path to the Future: toward a Renewed Culture of Achievement  
Academic Plan 2010 – 2015**

**I. Enhance academic quality and value**

**A. Strategic Investments in Teaching and Research**

- Acquire information resources in all formats, continuing and/or establishing consortial and collaborative partnerships locally, regionally, nationally and internationally for maximum cost effectiveness.
- Enhance the information discovery process through the use of next generation library systems and emerging technology.
- Educate the University community about the Digital Repository and its uses.
- Establish the Libraries as a publisher of open access digital materials.

- Assist the University in the digitization and production, storage and preservation of intellectual materials.
- Reinforce and promote the Libraries' identity as the largest classroom on campus.
- Continue to collaborate with other departments to support teaching.
- Expand and enhance the librarian liaison role in collaboration with academic faculty through providing subject expertise, teaching excellence, and collection development.
- Continue to assess library instruction and services.
- Expand reference services to accommodate the changing needs of our users.
- Continue to provide efficient and cost effective access to all information resources and services to meet the needs of all users.

#### **B. Educational Delivery**

- Continue to play a leadership role on campus in the planning and use of instructional technology.
- Continue to provide quality library instruction at all levels and to all populations in the University community.
- Continue to teach credit-bearing Information Literacy courses.
- Implement current and future goals of the Information Literacy Plan.
- Coordinate public spaces and services to meet user needs.
- Continue to solicit input from users to improve "Library as Place".
- Maintain and expand opportunities for internships.
- Expand mentoring of campus colleagues in information literacy skills and assessment.
- Endeavor to provide expertise and support in the delivery of multimedia content.
- Strive to use the most appropriate technology to deliver information quickly and effectively to face-to-face and online learners.
- Continue and expand our partnerships with the K-12 community.

#### **II. Implement a contemporary model of active and collaborative learning and achievement that prepares students for the rapidly changing world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

- Facilitate the discovery of electronic information by URI affiliated users on and off site.
- Provide flexible workspaces and availability of those spaces to accommodate the varied study and production needs of students and faculty.
- Cultivate partnerships to create innovative, collaborative digital services (alternative publishing ventures, promote open access to information, Data Management Services)
- Continue to advocate for inclusion of information literacy principles in the General Education program.

- Continue efforts to restore and expand multidisciplinary information literacy courses at the graduate level.
- Continue our leadership role in the HELIN Consortium.

**III. Work to promote existing and new interdisciplinary endeavors in faculty and student research, scholarship and creative work.**

- Investigate and obtain next-generation systems for the management of bibliographic and acquisitions work flow.
- Support initiatives that enhance the sustainability of the scholarly communication system and facilitate the broad availability of scholarly output.
- Collaborate with faculty and academic support units to develop a robust institutional repository that collects, preserves, and showcases URI's intellectual output.
- Provide state-of-the-art technology for the production of intellectual products.
- Advocate for Libraries inclusion in University funding programs.
- Advocate and promote library resources and services to the research community.
- Take an active role in the University partnerships with the business and non-profit community.

**IV. Ensure that students and faculty are equipped with knowledge and experiences to function as responsible and inquisitive global citizens.**

- Provide access to library resources for all University users, whether on or off site.
- Provide access to library resources using mobile technology and other new technology as it emerges.
- Provide open access to locally generated publications through the Digital Repository.
- Provide sufficient information literacy instruction for students and faculty in order to fully participate in the global community.

**V. Ensure an equitable campus climate that celebrates difference and creates a rich learning community.**

- Select materials with the University's goals of diversity and multi-culturalism in mind.
- Promote, preserve and protect materials that document diversity and multi-culturalism at the University.
- Acquire both core materials and those that build unique collections in order to support the University's mission as a land-grant, sea-grant, urban-grant institution, a

leader in global affairs and a repository of cultural artifacts with an increasing focus on interdisciplinary study.

- Continue to provide flexibility in our services to accommodate the diverse needs of users.
- Hire staff with sufficient diversity, expertise and experience to implement changing information acquisition and delivery options.

## **VI. Improve institutional effectiveness, academic quality, accountability and performance.**

### **A. Library Departments**

- Acquire materials and license content in the most cost-effective ways possible.
- Ensure continuing, seamless access to all leased and purchased e-resource content.
- Engage in continual data-driven assessment and analysis of collections and services to meet the changing needs of the University.
- Regularly assess the quality of library services, using LibQUAL+ or other reliable tools.
- Develop models of resource allocation to ensure cost-effective quality service.
- Continue to study, review and implement new technologies to support and enhance library services.

### **B. Administration**

- Ensure transparency and efficiency in the budget processes and allocation of resources.
- Provide the University Administration with the funding priorities of the Libraries in the fulfillment of the Libraries' mission.
- Develop strategies to effectively communicate library-wide strategic initiatives.
- Expand and enhance the librarian liaison role in collaboration with academic faculty through providing subject expertise, teaching excellence, and collection development.
- Restructure staff to maximize efficiency of work flow and service to users.
- Hire staff with sufficient diversity, expertise and experience to implement changing information acquisition and delivery options.
- Expand learning opportunities for library personnel to sustain a highly skilled, motivated and flexible workforce.
- Continue to expand consortial relationships.
- Expand opportunities to increase external funding to the Libraries.
- Expand library facilities to accommodate changing environmental and learning styles.
- Continue to gather input from internal and external stakeholders.

## APPENDIX

### **1) Faculty Mission Statements**

Technical Services

Public Services

### **2) Bibliography\***

\*Research materials compiled and used in the process of establishing the Strategic Goals and Initiatives for the University Libraries.

## **APPENDIX**

### **FACULTY MISSION STATEMENTS**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL SERVICES**

The overall mission of the faculty in the Department of Technical Services, University Library is to provide the intellectual resources to enhance the university's instructional, research, and service activities.

Within the University Library, the faculty's mission is to acquire, process, organize and control the scholarly and general monographs, serials, microforms, media and electronic resources for the use of the university community.

In order to fulfill its mission, the faculty of the department are expected to contribute their expertise in cataloging, collection development, administration, acquisitions and serials control so that the work of the department is done as expertly and efficiently as possible, and in accord with the AAUP Agreement... and the University Manual.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES**

The Public Services Department supports the Missions of the Library and the University by assisting users in finding information, facilitating access to information, and teaching concepts and skills necessary for current research and lifelong learning. Final 1/07

Faculty members provide reference services and library instruction, as well as coordinate Government Publications, Access Services (Circulation, Reserves, and Interlibrary Loan), and the Media Resources Center. Along with the faculty in the Technical Services Department, Public Services faculty select materials for the Libraries' collections, including online databases and other online resources. Faculty members of both departments also serve as liaisons to other departments, schools, and colleges at URI.

Faculty members in Public Services are responsible for all library functions that involve direct contact with library users at the Robert L. Carothers Library and Learning Commons in Kingston and at the two branch locations: the College of Continuing Education Library in Providence, and the Pell Marine Science Library, at the Narragansett Bay Campus.

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