

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND LIBRARIES STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2022-2027

To effectively position itself for the future and ensure student, faculty and research success, the University Libraries have created a forward thinking and flexible five-year strategic direction for the fiscal years 2022 through 2027

The *University of Rhode Island Transformations Goals for the 21st Century* continue to be supported by the work of the University Libraries.

- ***Create a 21st Century 24/7 Learning Environment***
 - Offer reference and research instruction in person and online
 - Offer 24-hour digital access to e-books and e-journals, streaming media and additional online resources
 - Extend hours during exams and maintain a 24-hour room
- ***Increase the Magnitude, Prominence, and Impact of URI's Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work***
 - Offer access to the latest research materials in a variety of formats
 - Preserve unique and rare materials that are vital to modern scholarship
 - Collaborate with other research institutions, including membership in the Boston Library Consortium and the Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust
 - Provide open access to much of the University's intellectual output, including faculty publications, theses and dissertations and student projects through our institutional repository
 - Offer unique opportunities to student and researchers across disciplines
 - Participate in consortia such as the Dryad Community, and the Inter-university Consortia for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) to both provide access to faculty research data and support secondary analysis of data in research and teaching
 - Access to the Makerspace Lab for all University community members
 - Access to the Artificial Intelligence Lab, the first housed in an academic library
- ***Internationalize and Globalize the University of Rhode Island***
 - Provide access to a plethora of research and data necessary for success
 - Provide the research community around the world access to the unique work being published by our University faculty
 - Promote unfettered access to scholarly information for people worldwide who would not otherwise be able to access this content
- ***Build a Community at the University of Rhode Island that Values Equity and Diversity***
 - Sponsor Diversity, Equity and Inclusion events and gatherings
 - Maintain and increase a diverse collection of materials in all disciplines and in multiple formats
 - Support collaborative open access initiatives for the worldwide scholarly community

MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The University Libraries serve the scholarship and research needs of the University community and the general public. The University Libraries are the principal campus resource for information research, scholarship, and creative work providing a truly diverse and inclusive, global information environment.

The University Libraries support the success of students, faculty and researchers through instruction, access, preservation, and innovation. Librarians are committed to safeguarding intellectual freedom, to preserving and organizing the Institution's records, to providing sophisticated reference services and instruction, to engaging in shared metadata on both regional and national scales and to provide access to innovative technologies that support student success.

The University Libraries provide a safe, inclusive 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.

STRATEGIES

The University Libraries strategic direction comprises seven strategies:

1. *COLLECTIONS*

- Provide the most accurate, and diverse collections based on the mission of the University to ensure student success while supporting the cutting-edge research of our faculty.

2. *ACCESS*

- Give our community the information it needs in all formats for student, researcher, and faculty success.

3. *PRESERVATION*

- Ensure information relevant to our community is preserved and utilized through our archives, government publications and digital initiatives.

4. *INSTRUCTION*

- Lead the University's efforts to increase understanding and practice of the various information literacies and to support the teaching and research mission of our community.

5. *INNOVATION*

- Create new and strategic initiatives which support community programs and projects.

6. *SPACE*

- Provide a safe and nurturing environment that supports our community in its academic and research needs.

7. *DIVERSITY*

- Ensure that all the University Libraries goals encompass diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Strategy 1: COLLECTIONS

Provide the most accurate, and diverse collections based on the mission of the University to ensure student success while supporting the cutting-edge research of our faculty.

GOAL: To ensure that all of the informational materials that are required for students, faculty, and researchers success are readily available in the most user-friendly means possible.

ACTIONS

- Ensure funding for the purchase of all types of materials, while adapting to the changing priorities of the University and its programs.
- Acquire scholarly information resources (journals, books, databases, media, and other resources) in support of research, teaching, and learning at the University.
- Ensure that the University Libraries collection is easily accessible in all formats through the University Library's catalog.
- Continue to enhance our rare books, archival and manuscript collections which include the Commercial Pattern Archive (the largest collection of paper patterns in the world), Rhode Island political papers (including seven gubernatorial collections), and the URI archives.
- Collaborate with other institutions (Boston Library Consortium) and stakeholders (Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust and HathiTrust) to ensure access to materials not housed on-site are accessible online or through interlibrary loan.

Strategy 2: ACCESS

Give our community the information it needs in all formats for student, researcher and faculty success.

GOAL: To increase the ability of students, faculty and staff to retrieve the information they need, when they need it.

ACTIONS

- Provide seamless access to electronic information resources through the expert management of electronic resource management systems, link resolvers, knowledge bases, and authentication systems and to troubleshoot end-user access problems.
- Implement automated processes that allow staff to focus on higher-level work and increase accuracy in information discovery and delivery. This includes API connections between systems that simplify ordering and invoicing procedures and automate holdings updates.
- Develop our capacity to support open access to scholarly outputs produced at the University of Rhode Island, by providing open access to faculty articles, datasets, archival and other unique materials through our repositories; provide technological support for the production and publication of open access journals; and manage

resources such as the URI Open Access Fund to promote open access publication and best practices by our faculty, staff, and students.

- Acquire and maintain the most accurate library management system and ensure that all required staff are trained and kept up-to-date on the most innovative practices and procedures in the field, including: Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC) standards, Research Description and Access (RDA), Bibliographic Framework Initiative (BIBFRAME), Linked Data, Government Publications standards, and the newest XML and vendor produced formats.
- Teach students, staff, and faculty, in advance and at point of need, via Reference and Instruction, to use the tools to help patrons find information efficiently and effectively.
- Ensure, as a Federal and Rhode Island depository, that government information and resources are fully cataloged and easily accessible to our users.
- Provide access to the University archives, which includes rare book, archival, and manuscript collections in a separate, secure reading room.
- Ensure discoverability of archival and manuscript collections by writing and publishing finding aids or guides for each collection.

GOAL: To offer students the ability to learn in new and innovative ways.

ACTIONS

- Provide a cutting-edge Makerspace for students to explore the newest technologies and innovations.
- Offer new programs in the Artificial Intelligence Lab for students at all learning stages and major programs including credit bearing courses in the newest technologies related to data, artificial intelligence and other programs.

Strategy 3: PRESERVATION

Ensure information relevant to our community is preserved and utilized through our archives, government publications and digital initiatives.

GOAL: To protect materials that might otherwise be lost for future generations of researchers.

ACTIONS

- Ensure the long-term preservation of the University Libraries archives and the other rare and unique materials it houses.
- Uphold and enhance our obligations as the National Preservation Steward for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the government records of the State of Rhode Island as well as our retention commitments to the Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust.
- Work to preserve balance in historic and new information sources in all subject areas.

- Acquire a digital preservation system to ensure the safeguarding of new “born-digital materials.”
- Acquire and maintain environmental modification systems designed to mitigate the deterioration of at-risk materials.
- Collaborate with other stakeholders in the state and region.

Strategy 4 : INSTRUCTION

Lead the University's efforts to increase understanding and practice of the various information literacies and to support the teaching and research mission of our community.

GOAL: To give our students, faculty and researchers at all levels, the tools to find accurate information to meet their needs.

ACTIONS

- Provide advance and at point of need assistance to search, find, evaluate, and use information ethically, within the URI Libraries and beyond.
- Provide just-in-time instruction via face-to-face, phone, chat, and email, as well as customized subject specific instruction for non-LIB credit bearing courses, and workshops on a wide variety of topics using active learning pedagogy via face-to-face and online teaching.
- Provide Library (LIB) and Library Technology Innovation (LTI) credit bearing courses.
- Provide course-integrated instruction related to archival research and/or its collections as well as one-on-one instruction to patrons (such as the appropriate handling of material and how to use search tools, explaining higher concepts like bias and how it impacts what does and does not appear in the documentary record).
- Host external groups and stakeholders in the University Libraries archives for tours and specialized displays.

GOAL: To give our students, faculty and researchers new experiences and unique educational opportunities.

ACTIONS

- Provide instruction and seminars in the Makerspace Lab on utilizing the tools, software and machinery provided there.
- Offer programs in the Artificial Intelligence Lab and outreach through summer camps for elementary students.
- Provide instruction and advice in data management for faculty and researchers.
- Provide credit bearing courses on data and artificial intelligence as well as collaborating with other departments and programs across campus.
- Continually develop and improve reference and instruction methods and techniques to suit the University's needs in changing times.

Strategy 5: INNOVATION

Create new and strategic initiatives which support community programs and projects.

GOAL: Offer unique innovative projects and programs to students who would not otherwise be exposed.

ACTIONS

- Provide instruction and seminars in the Makerspace Lab on utilizing the newest tools, software, and machinery.
- Offer programs in the Artificial Intelligence Lab and outreach to other departments across disciplines.
- Collaborate with faculty across campus in creating and utilizing tools and software in our Labs to enhance student learning and success.
- Collaborate with other organizations, such as the Boston Library Consortium, Eastern Academic Scholars' Trust, Hathi Trust, and the U.S. Government Publication Office, to ensure unfettered access to materials that are at risk of being inaccessible to the research community.
- Work with and collaborate with national and international organizations to create, develop, and promote universally accepted standards and policies.

Strategy 6: Space

Provide a safe and nurturing environment that supports our community in its academic and research needs.

GOAL: To be the place that students, faculty and researchers gather to collaborate, learn, and study.

ACTIONS

- Provide increased access to study space 24/7.
- Continue to refurbish furnishings to provide a clean and modern space for collaboration and study.
- Provide access to computers/laptops, additional charging outlets, printing and other basic technology related services for patrons.
- Provide a quiet study space for personal study and research.
- Acquire compact shelving to better utilize limited space.
- Increase our electronic holdings of materials to provide access to our patrons in any location, at any time.
- Provide learning zones with cutting-edge technologies for all user across campus.

Strategy 7: DIVERSITY

Ensure that all the University Libraries goals encompass diversity, equity, and inclusion.

GOAL: To provide materials for students, faculty and staff which includes diverse perspectives, histories, and experiences.

ACTIONS:

- Prioritize collections that support an anti-racist agenda and support for diversity, equity, and inclusion in general. This includes content representing the history and perspectives of historically oppressed groups as well as materials which meet the needs of the University as it embraces an anti-racist curriculum and research agenda.
- Utilize our archival and historical materials to better educate individuals in different cultural perspectives.
- Revise and revisit the elements of our collection's finding aids, acquisition and access policies to encourage the creation of diverse collections, particularly collections created by People of Color.
- Ensure key terminology and metadata in the catalog accurately reflects the anti-racist, non-prejudicial values of the University.
- Promote the transition to a system of scholarly communication that provides open access to scholarly outputs, such as unfettered access to scholarly information for people worldwide who would not otherwise be able to access this content.

GOAL: To provide direct outreach to the entire campus community on diversity, equity and inclusion events, classes, collections, and displays being cultivated by the University Libraries.

ACTIONS:

- Recruit a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Librarian who's focus will be to increase awareness of diversity issues in the University Library through outreach, teaching and creating campus-wide events.
- Offer educational and workshop opportunities in diversity, equity, and inclusion for University Libraries faculty and staff.
- Increase outreach programs of acquiring diverse materials at the direct request of the community.
- Work with the Graduate School of Library and Informational Science to develop a Library Fellowship Program encouraging diverse populations to enter the profession.