

Furman University Libraries Strategic Plan 2013-2016

The Furman University Libraries strive to engage, enlighten and empower our users by providing outstanding resources, services, personnel, and facilities that are essential to teaching, research and scholarship. For the next two years, this vision will be our inspiration and will guide us as we pursue the five strategic directions described below.

Strategic Direction 1: Improve the discovery of library resources, tools and services

The Furman University Library offers a myriad of resources, tools and services to support and enhance learning, research, and teaching. We will ensure that they are promoted, discoverable, accessible and easy to use.

Strategic Direction 2: Pursue new partnerships and strengthen existing collaborations

The Furman University Library has established collaborations, on and off-campus, and partnerships with numerous individuals, institutions, and organizations. We will strengthen existing partnerships and pursue new partnerships and collaborations.

Strategic Direction 3: Establish a culture of data-driven decision making

Furman is committed to continuous assessment of broader educational goals. The Furman University Library will incorporate ongoing assessment and improvement of all library operations, resources and services into practice.

Strategic Direction 4: Redesign Library Space

The Library's public spaces serve as a research, learning and discovery commons designed to connect students with knowledge and with each other. We will create innovative, dynamic spaces to accommodate a variety of learning modes, encourage scholarly pursuits, and build community.

Strategic Direction 5: Cultivate a community of passionate learners and scholars

Curiosity and the quest for knowledge are hallmarks of a Furman education. The Furman University Library will foster an environment that nurtures curiosity and provides opportunities for intellectual growth.

Furman University Libraries Strategic Plan 2013-2015

Strategic Directions, Goals, and Actions

Strategic Direction 1: Improve the discovery of library resources, tools and services.

The Furman University Library offers a myriad of resources, tools and services to support and enhance learning, research, and teaching. We will ensure that they are promoted, discoverable, accessible and easy to use.

Goals

1.1 Increase findability of library resources

- A. Implement changes to web presence based on evolving user needs.
- B. Increase to-the-shelf availability for physical materials.
- C. Improve access to materials in Special Collections and Archives through the enhancement of digital collections and cataloging.
- D. Provide access to selected unique materials through digitization and description.
- E. Streamline the deselection process

1.2 Increase the usability of library resources and services

- A. Standardize content, design, and functionality across the library's web presence.
- B. Establish a system to user-test the library's web presence.
- C. Provide learning opportunities about library-related tools to address emerging needs.
- D. Enable patron-initiated holds for circulating library materials.

1.3 Increase awareness of the library's resources and services

- A. Systematically communicate changes in resources and services both internally and externally.
- B. Create opportunities for users to interact with library resources and services.
- C. Promote digital collections to the Furman community and beyond

Strategic Direction 2: Pursue new partnerships and strengthen existing collaborations

The Furman University Library has established collaborations, on and off-campus, and partnerships with numerous individuals, institutions, and organizations. We will strengthen existing partnerships and pursue new partnerships and collaborations.

Goals

2.1 Enhance collaborations with extra-curricular programs, groups and departments

- A. Working with Development, build an efficient system for requesting, receiving and recognizing material and monetary gifts.
- B. Build relationships with student groups.
- C. Collaborate with groups planning campus and community events.

2.2 Integrate library services and collections into academic programs

- A. Reach out to Continuing Education, Undergraduate Evening Studies (UES) and Graduate Studies
- B. Collaborate with faculty in blended learning initiatives and support students in these environments.
- C. Work closely with Center for Teaching and Learning and faculty to integrate library resources and services in course design.

2.3 Be an active partner in local, state-wide, regional and national library initiatives

- A. Investigate shared collections initiatives with logical library partners.
- B. Explore potential collaborations with Greenville County Library System and the Upcountry History Museum-Furman University.
- D. Celebrate national or international library-related events with the university community.
- E. Leverage organizational memberships to learn about and apply best practices.

Strategic Direction 3: Establish a culture of data-driven decision making.

Furman is committed to continuous assessment of broader educational goals. The Furman University Library will incorporate ongoing assessment and improvement of all library operations, resources and services into practice.

Goals

3.1 Develop a systematic process for collecting, analyzing and sharing data

- A. Research best practices and standards for collecting statistics and determine which statistics are important to track regularly.
- B. Streamline numerous disparate systems which are responsible for tracking usage of the Library's web presence.
- C. Utilize a post-implementation review process to conduct reviews of software and/or platforms to determine if they are meeting needs.
- D. Standardize First Year Writing Seminar information fluency assessment.
- E. Partner with the Office of Institutional Assessment and Research and other appropriate campus groups regarding assessment.

3.2 Establish priorities and make positive change based on ongoing assessment of user and institutional needs

- A. Employ available data to inform collection management decision-making.
- B. Collaborate with other campus departments to assess cooperative events and projects.

3.3 Communicate the Library's response to assessment outcomes and analysis to the user community

- A. Systemize the dissemination of annual reports and strategic plans.
- B. Publicize actions taken in response to user input.

Strategic Direction 4: Redesign Library Space

The Library's public spaces serve as a research, learning and discovery commons designed to connect students with knowledge and with each other. We will create innovative, dynamic spaces to accommodate a variety of learning modes, encourage scholarly pursuits, and build community.

Goals

4.1 Optimize the use of public space in the library in response to changing user needs

- A. Determine how Library space is being used.
- B. Make strategic collection decisions to capitalize on space.
- C. Create flexible, technologically enhanced research, teaching and collaborative spaces.
- D. Encourage optimal use of student study space.

4.2 Optimize non-public space and create solutions to enhance workflow and increase effectiveness

- A. Explore reorganizing non-public spaces to better match the Library's new organization structure
- B. Examine the use of space in Special Collections & Archives and determine possible solutions to accommodate new acquisitions.
- C. Work with "library neighbors" on space opportunities.

Strategic Direction 5: Cultivate a community of passionate learners and scholars.

Curiosity and the quest for knowledge are hallmarks of a Furman education. The Furman University Library will foster an environment that nurtures curiosity and provides opportunities for intellectual growth.

Goals

5.1 Engage users through stimulating, thought-provoking programs

- A. Utilize library expertise to develop programs that address topics beyond library resources and services.
- B. Leverage the Library, as the intellectual center of campus, to promote scholarly conversations.

5.2 Enlighten users through virtual initiatives

- A. Use emerging technologies to promote library programs, resources and services.
- B. Host and participate in webinars and other online opportunities.
- C. Develop and/or utilize interactive online tools that will allow researchers to use, manipulate, share, and leverage existing collections content in their research.

5.3 Empower underserved learners and scholars

- A. Address the unique needs of commuter students.
- B. Expand programs and services for Furman University affiliates.
- C. Reach out to international, undergraduate evening and graduate students.