Strategic Directions Fall 2013 - Spring 2015

Walk into the University Library today and it's clear we have entered a new, vibrant era – our students are excited by the array of digital formats they use to produce and consume information; and faculty are empowered by peer-led explorations of new teaching technologies. The speed of change is electric and librarians eagerly anticipate the future while staying firmly connected with students and faculty in real time. Librarians fully embrace the nexus where higher education, cutting-edge technology, and the marketplace meet.

Planning in such a dynamic environment requires short-term, flexible goals while establishing a longer-term vision. Our Strategic Directions 2013-2015 lay the foundation for shaping the SSU Library of tomorrow and represent a shared vision of the Library faculty and staff. Each direction is underscored by a commitment to coordinated marketing and ongoing assessment.

1. INFORMATION LITERACY
   The Information Literacy Instruction Program must reach all students and imbue new media skills across the SSU curriculum to ensure our graduates are critical thinkers and careful consumers of information.
   - Promote widespread adoption of “new literacies,” going beyond information retrieval to include media and visual literacy, and data-curation skills.
   - Expand and enhance online content, active learning, and multi-modal assignments.
   - Create a dynamic online curriculum map to align learning outcomes with departments and programs.
   - Work with faculty to co-design learning experiences such as signature assignments and e-portfolios.

2. USER EXPERIENCE
   Whether the Library experience starts at our website or when someone walks in the door, we want to provide excellent service and cultivate lifelong learning.
   - Develop additional mixed-use and collaborative spaces to accommodate group work.
   - Enhance the functionality of online search features to equalize access to all collections.
   - Reduce the number of “clicks” needed to find information on our website.
   - Centralize hiring in our student assistant workforce for better cross-training and evaluation.
   - Ensure prompt assistance by implementing a roving Library Help service throughout the building.
   - Explore feasibility of a learning lab/studio for knowledge production and hands-on problem solving.

3. COLLECTIONS
   In an era of eBooks, Open Access, and Google Scholar, we must create a flexible collection management philosophy to reflect the needs of contemporary scholarship.
   - Update the collection development policy to address tensions such as: access vs. ownership, “just in time” vs. “just in case,” and demand-driven vs. perpetual licensing.
   - Extend our capability to provide resources by strengthening connections between interlibrary loan, electronic reserves, and affordable learning initiatives.
   - Improve strategies for capturing data to analyze collection use.

4. SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATIONS
   As publishing models evolve, we must be at the forefront in providing options and guidance for the creation, accessibility, synthesis, and dissemination of scholarly and creative output.
   - Improve access to SSU’s scholarly and creative work while ensuring stability and preservation of content.
   - Advance discoverability of rare and unique Library materials through digital preservation.
   - Facilitate a sound understanding of Open Access and its world-wide implications.
   - Establish a clearinghouse for understanding the ethical, social, financial, legal, and practical implications of new publishing standards.

5. EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
   With the addition of the Faculty Center leadership to the SSU Library, we are thrilled to play a greater role in curricular enhancements on campus, utilizing our experience and expertise with technology and instructional design to help shape SSU’s future.
   - Emphasize the instructional design role of the Library so we share in bringing SSU to the cutting edge of online learning.
   - Develop and train key personnel to support the academic technology initiatives in the Faculty Center.