

2025-2028

>>>

OHIO UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

STRATEGIC PLAN



I am pleased to share the Ohio University Libraries' new strategic plan. This plan is the culmination of nine months of work led by the Libraries' staff and supported by consultants Cordelia Anderson and Dr. Anne Cooper Moore.

Inspired by the framework of the University's Dynamic Strategy, the Libraries' strategic plan focuses on supporting student success, facilitating research and creative activity, and elevating our national reputation. The Libraries recognize our unique place at the intersection of teaching, research, innovation and community, and embrace the opportunity to serve as the academic hub of campus.



In receiving data from thousands of stakeholders, it was heartening to hear how many individuals value the current Libraries' staff, services, resources and spaces. This positive reputation enables us to pursue our ambitious goals from a position of strength. We have identified over 40 initiatives to improve the Libraries over the next four years, ranging from launching a Zero-Cost Textbook program, to expanding Open Access publishing support, to physically renovating the Alden Library.

The Ohio University Libraries are grateful for the support of faculty, students, staff and community members, and we are eager to partner with you all to build on our past successes to meet the emerging needs of the OHIO community.



ROBERT ROSS
Dean of University Libraries
Ohio University

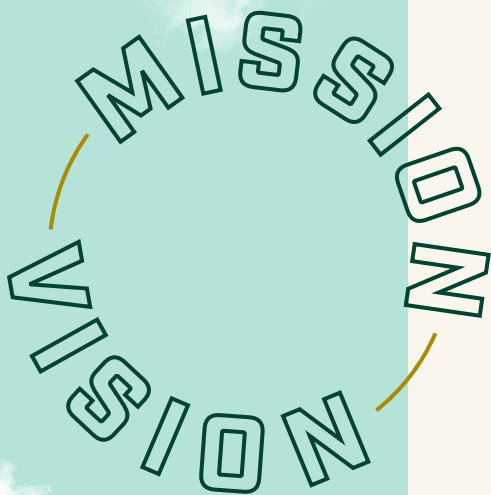


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[ohio.edu/president/
dynamic-strategy](https://ohio.edu/president/dynamic-strategy)

**VIEW THE
UNIVERSITY'S
DYNAMIC
STRATEGY**



MISSION VISION

MISSION

Ohio University Libraries advances the University's strategy by providing equitable access to credible resources, evolving services, and welcoming environments. Our expertise empowers users by building information literacy and supporting research, creative, and publication activities.

VISION

Ohio University Libraries will serve as a dynamic hub of transformative learning, research, discovery, preservation, and engagement.

VALUES

CURIOSITY & INNOVATION

We value curiosity and innovation by offering inspiring resources and experiences that drive inquiry and discovery.

COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT

We value collaboration by engaging with our community, developing and sustaining meaningful partnerships, and promoting a culture of communication and teamwork.

INTEGRITY & RESPECT

We value integrity by modeling empathy, honesty, respect, and safety.

BELONGING


We value belonging by welcoming all members of our community, practicing empathy, and appreciating diverse perspectives and cultures.

SERVICE & RESPONSIVENESS

We value service by responding to the changing needs in our community, creating positive user experiences, and applying emerging technologies.

INFORMATION LITERACY & LIFELONG LEARNING

We value information literacy by empowering users to think critically, successfully navigate the shifting information landscape, and use resources ethically and effectively.

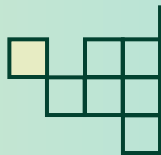


Two students ►
evaluate a
manuscript
in University
Archives

The image shows two students, a young woman on the left and an older woman on the right, both with their hair tied back, leaning over a table to examine a large, aged manuscript. The manuscript is open to a page with cursive handwriting. A dashed line with star-like end caps connects the two students. A small square icon with a crosshair is visible on the left side of the manuscript page. The background is a solid teal color.



STRATEGIC PLAN



ENRICH

EMPOWER

ELEVATE



GOAL 1

ENRICH STUDENT CURIOSITY, GROWTH, AND SUCCESS AT OHIO AND BEYOND.

With a focus on experiential learning and affordability, the Libraries supports students on their path to graduation by building critical thinking and information literacy skills, and by providing relevant collections, accessible support services, and environments conducive to learning.

◀ Student taking a study break with therapy dog, Fluffy, at the annual Paws Party at Alden Library.



1.1 Support and enable student learning through access to information in all formats; instruction across and beyond the formal curriculum; and research guidance and consultation, both in person and online.

+ LEARN

+ DISCOVER

1.2 Provide technology-rich spaces, programs, and hands-on access and support for students to develop the intellectual, entrepreneurial, and technical skills to excel after graduating.

+ LEARN

+ DISCOVER

1.3 Increase affordability of, and access to, educational resources (including textbooks and media) and technology for students.

+ LEARN

1.4 Collaborate with campus partners to enhance support services that demonstrably increase student success outcomes.

+ LEARN

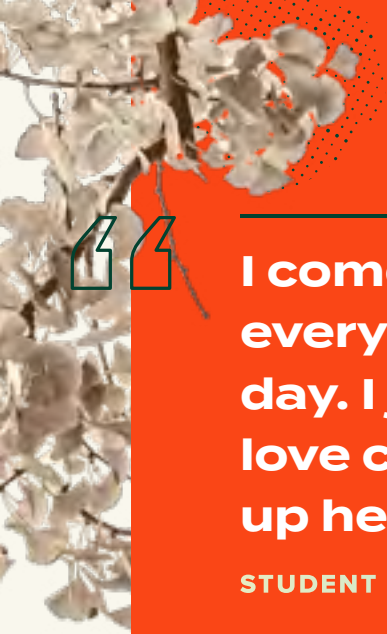
+ DISCOVER

1.5 Support students' well-being and sense of belonging by offering welcoming environments, practicing empathy, and appreciating their diverse perspectives and cultures.



I normally come here for events. The last time I was here, it was for a PAWS Puppy Party, which was really fun. It was honestly such a great break from all the studying.

— STUDENT



I come in every single day. I just love coming up here.

STUDENT

The willingness of librarians to have a personal relationship and show up for students is impactful.

FACULTY MEMBER

OhioLINK and inter-library loan have been invaluable. I appreciate how much stuff is open access. The library seems to have subscriptions to everything.

FACULTY MEMBER

The library is already playing a huge role. This includes structured meetings with students, providing access to resources and one-on-one support. Students get connected with librarians who can help them.

FACULTY MEMBER

It is a nice constant. It's always here if something changes.

STUDENT

I cannot say enough good things about the Archives staff!

FACULTY MEMBER



2.1

Enable productive research, creative work, and learning experiences through robust, distinctive, and easily navigable collections and services.

[+ LEARN](#)[+ DISCOVER](#)

2.2

Provide a comprehensive suite of scholarly services and collaborative networks to support faculty at every stage of the research and creative activity lifecycle.

[+ LEARN](#)[+ DISCOVER](#)

2.3

Continuously improve the user experience across our online resources, digital collections, research support services, consulting services, and educational offerings.

[+ LEARN](#)[+ DISCOVER](#)

2.4

Position the Libraries as a leader in developing shared research infrastructure and support, providing services and resources that promote open, reproducible research.

[+ DISCOVER](#)

2.5

Develop responsive collections that support existing and emerging areas of research, championing open access to further publication impact.

[+ LEARN](#)[+ DISCOVER](#)

Students discuss
business ideas
during a workshop
in Alden Library.



GOAL 2

EMPOWER THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY TO SOLVE HUMANITY'S MOST URGENT CHALLENGES.

The Libraries empowers Ohio's knowledge creators to navigate and overcome emerging challenges to research and creative activity by providing a connected set of services that help them innovate, plan projects, publish and archive their work, manage and visualize complex data, and navigate research guidelines.



HOW WE GOT HERE

753
SURVEY
RESPONSES

We received 753 responses from a series of surveys conducted from March 18-April 30, 2025 targeting undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, multiple campuses, and community/friends.

We created a report by examining strategic plans of 18 peer and aspirational academic libraries. The data-informed analysis and comparison with peer libraries highlights areas of alignment, growth, and opportunity, offering valuable insights to guide the Libraries' future planning and investment.

18
PEER
LIBRARIES
EXAMINED

145
WHITEBOARD
PROMPT
RESPONSES

We received 145 whiteboard suggestions from Alden Library visitors in spring 2025 based on the following prompts:

76 Where is your favorite place in Alden and why?

64 If you could design your dream library, what would it include?



15,155
TOTAL
TRANSACTIONS
(Jan - Dec 2024)

60
ALL-STAFF
RETREAT
ATTENDEES

60+
KICK-OFF
MEETING
ATTENDEES



GOAL 3

ELEVATE THE NATIONAL REPUTATION AND VISIBILITY OF OHIO.

The Libraries plays a vital role in the university community, contributing to the success of students, staff, and faculty from all colleges. A unique space on campus—at once academic and social—the Libraries serves as a hub where community members exchange ideas and collaborate on interdisciplinary projects. As such, achieving excellence in the Libraries will elevate the reputation and visibility of the entire university.

3.1

Renew Alden Library's stature as OHIO's central academic destination for faculty, students, and visitors through a building renovation.

+ DISCOVER

+ ENGAGE

3.2

Articulate the value proposition of the Libraries by regularly reporting its impact on student and faculty success outcomes.

+ ENGAGE

3.3

Showcase, share, and celebrate faculty and student work via the Libraries' various exhibition platforms, events, virtual exhibitions, and the Student Expo.

+ LEARN

+ DISCOVER

+ ENGAGE

3.4

Enhance the learning experience by hosting world-renowned thinkers and artists.

+ LEARN

+ DISCOVER

+ ENGAGE

3.5

Establish Ohio University Libraries as a destination employer for top talent by recruiting, developing, retaining, and supporting staff, recognizing the role they play in providing innovative and impactful services to students and faculty.

+ WORK

3.6

Increase the number of staff presentations at national and international conferences, publications in renowned journals, grants received, and industry awards won.

+ WORK

◀ Speakers present on various topics and projects on Geographic Information System (GIS) day in Alden Library.



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OHIO UNIVERSITY

Libraries