

Library Priorities 2015-2018 From Tactical Plan (last revised 3-20-2017)

Engaged (E.1) – Create a sustainable comprehensive plan of succession for human resources. Our most important goal this year is to successfully recruit for the recently vacated Associate Dean position. This position serves a critical function in the operation and governance of the Weinberg Library that encompasses several important functions, namely: to supervise the day-to-day management of the Library building, operations and collections; collaborate with university faculty, administration, and staff; cultivate student learning and formation; work with academic departments to achieve and maintain accreditation; assess library services and programs and evolving user needs; encourage integration of technology into the delivery of library services; and advocate in support of library services and programs that promote transformational education that is engaged, integrated, and global. The next 5 years have potential for multiple retirements, so it will be important to make sure we are able to support core student and faculty services while also looking for expertise/experience in new aspects of knowledge creation. The library is continuously reviewing existing job descriptions, revising workflows, and cross training whenever possible. We recently “lost” three library staff members to the voluntary retirement window; one position was relinquished.

Integrated (I.1) – Embrace librarians’ roles as educators. The Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education is a new document adopted by the Association of College and Research Libraries, the national association for academic librarians, which is shaping the profession’s approach to information literacy in response to the dynamic and complex information environment in which researchers now work. The Framework articulates a set of interconnected core concepts about research and information that, when understood and mastered, equip learners to successfully discover, use, and create information and knowledge to achieve their purpose. Integrating the Framework into the Library’s educational mission is one of our priorities.

To this end, the Library faculty will immerse ourselves in the Framework by mapping the activities of the Information Literacy Program as well as other Weinberg Memorial Library initiatives to the core concepts of the Framework. This work will enable us to assess student learning across the Library’s services and initiatives, generate buy-in for this new approach, and prepare us to intentionally incorporate the Framework into our instruction in 2016-2018.

(I.5) – Design and furnish learning spaces to meet (multiple) learning styles and to house collections. & (I.6) – Participate in remote storage and shared resources projects to extend ownership/access to materials. These priorities go hand in hand. We regularly review the Library’s physical space needs to accommodate changes in student learning styles, and continue to add new tools and furnishings in response to student input. As the library book stacks are now at capacity, we need to explore remote storage for less frequently used materials to assure that they are still accessible, while allowing us to continue to acquire newer resources. Participating in consortial projects is a cost effective way to get more for less (ex: PALCI eBook and Streaming Media offerings)

Global (G.2) Enrich the value of Library cataloging and metadata by participating in new linked open data environments. Our newly established membership/participation in the Digital Public Library of America (via the Pennsylvania Digital Collections Project) assures that our most unique resources are discoverable by students, researchers, and the general public and integrates our local holdings with collections held by other cultural heritage institutions around the world. In partnership with other libraries and service providers, we are moving towards the adoption of linked open data, which will bring bibliographic records and other library information into dialog with the semantic web. These types of initiatives have immediate, practical benefits; they allow us to achieve economies of scale by streamlining our workflows and collaborating more effectively and deeply with other libraries. More importantly, however, linked open data has the potential to transform the ways in which communities discover, access, share, analyze, and discuss information, bringing new opportunities for students, scholars, and the global public to engage in the synthesis of knowledge.