This plan outlines a strategic direction and vision for the Alfred University Libraries from fall 2015 through spring 2018.

Developed collaboratively by the Alfred University library directors and librarians, the plan identifies five strategic initiatives and related sub-goals that support the missions of Herrick Memorial Library, the Samuel R. Scholes Library of Ceramics, and Alfred University. The plan addresses what we see the most significant opportunities and challenges for the Libraries in the coming years, with a focus on the following key initiatives:

- Promoting information literacy
- Enhancing the user experience
- Creating campus connections
- Managing purposeful collections
- Supporting dynamic library spaces
- Creating a vibrant work culture

Through this plan, we aim strengthen and expand the role of the Libraries on campus and to respond to ongoing changes at Alfred University and in the wider information and library services environments.

We welcome feedback on the plan from the Alfred University community.
Promote Information Literacy

We believe that information literacy is a vital element to creating a well-prepared and well-educated student population.

Teaching information literacy proficiency gives students and patrons important skills they will use throughout their lives, and also allows them to make better, more efficient use of the library’s resources.

The Alfred University Libraries are committed to effective and engaging teaching, to using new instructional technologies, and to seeking out new methods of instruction.

We aim to be forward-thinking in our approaches to instruction and assessment, and to incorporate information literacy into the wider campus discussion.

Goals

- Ensure that every first year student receives information literacy instruction.
- Provide engaging instruction that relies on current approaches to teaching information literacy skills.
- Facilitate faculty-librarian collaboration and integration of information literacy into classroom instruction.
- Lead campus-wide conversations about the integration of information literacy instruction into the curriculum.
- Create, select, and administer appropriate mechanisms to assess student learning in information literacy.
Enhance the User Experience

Continually looking for ways to make each user’s experience productive and enjoyable is essential in a rapidly changing information environment. To this end, the Alfred University Libraries offer services that support meaningful library experiences.

The Libraries continually look for ways to understand our users’ needs and to develop services that respond to those needs, both on campus and from a distance. Staff and librarians are available to assist students in the Libraries and online. Through our websites, we provide efficient access to high-quality and relevant resources.

In all that we do, we strive to provide customer service that responds to user needs and meets or exceeds their expectations.

We look for opportunities to ensure student success through collaboration with other Alfred University academic support services providers.

Goals

- Welcome library users to excellent facilities and top-notch information sources.
- Design and provide user-centered services that deliver seamless access to library resources, facilities and expertise.
- Provide customer service that meets or exceeds users' expectations.
- Develop integrated academic services that support student success.
- Support the continued development of the field of library science through active research and scholarship, professional involvement, and services.
Create Campus Connections

Creating, sustaining, and facilitating connections across campus is central to the work of the Alfred University Libraries.

As the symbolic heart of the university, we serve as a hub for students, faculty, staff, and administrators to come together and create meaning from a vast and sometimes chaotic world of information.

To this end, we seek to expand our campus-wide presence, visibility, and involvement, pursuing opportunities to build relationships, spark conversations, and foster collaboration.

Goals

- Develop and implement a practical marketing/PR plan
- Identify new opportunities to connect to the campus community
- Foster collaboration between Alfred University Libraries
- Provide leadership and ensure participation in campus governance and administration
- Reinvigorate liaison roles to connect with faculty
Manage Purposeful Collections

We strive to meet the needs of the Alfred University community through the thoughtful management of library collections, with a focus on providing access to materials that support the University’s curriculum. Local collections are supplemented through strong regional and national resource sharing arrangements.

We also recognize the significance of unique collections held by the Alfred University Libraries. Through the responsible management of these collections, we showcase and preserve institutional history and the scholarly work of Alfred University’s faculty and students.

The management of library collections requires the ongoing evaluation of user needs, both present and future. In determining how to allocate resources to collections, the Libraries will consider factors such as usage, cost, format, faculty input, and programmatic needs.

Goals

- Identify short- and long-term collection development goals and develop policies and procedures for achieving those goals.
- Expand the unique and valuable collections available at Alfred University and promote their use to the wider world.
- Capture and preserve Alfred University’s institutional memory (materials of historical and intellectual value).
- Encourage the use of unique collections for research and classroom instruction.
Support Dynamic Library Spaces

Ensuring that library spaces are well suited to student needs is an important and continually shifting goal. Knowing that the Libraries serve both as a place for collaboration and as a space for quiet contemplation, the Libraries offer facilities that support a variety of needs.

Library space is continually evaluated and re-purposed as needed. In planning for and developing library space, we look for opportunities to create synergies with other student support services.

Clean, comfortable, well-furnished, and welcoming facilities encourage use of the libraries and set the stage for users to positively interact with librarians, staff, and student workers.

In developing library programming, we partner with members of the Alfred community and strive to make the Libraries a center for intellectual discussion.

Goals

- Create and maintain comfortable, clean, well-furnished, flexible spaces suited to user needs.
- Develop library programming that makes the libraries a center for intellectual discussion.
The staff of the Alfred University Libraries are its most important asset. As each new staff member is hired they must have the skills to respond to the constantly changing information needs of Alfred University’s students, faculty, and staff. Increasing the diversity of library staff members enhances the libraries’ ability to consider multiple perspectives in planning its future operations.

As academic libraries’ environment and technology evolve the libraries must plan for change; both in the positions required, and in the skill sets required for those positions. This may require new hires, or more often, supporting appropriate training opportunities for current employees.

AU Libraries’ student workers are the face of the libraries to most users. Their training in office skills, people skills and technological skills benefits not only users, but also regular staff as the student workers enable regular staff to redirect their time to higher skill level activities.

Goals

- Recruit and retain a diverse and talented staff.
- Plan for current and future staffing needs
- Enhance AU Libraries’ student worker program
- Create and maintain an attractive work environment
- Promote ongoing professional development
Mission Statements

Alfred University Libraries
The Alfred University libraries will be dynamic partners in advancing the University's teaching and research mission, providing the University community with the services, resources and facilities needed to support intellectual exploration and expansion of knowledge. The libraries will develop students' ability to use information critically, ethically and effectively in order to apply those skills for independent investigation and learning throughout their lives.

Herrick Memorial Library
Herrick Memorial Library provides comprehensive yet straightforward access to outstanding scholarly resources for Alfred University's programs in the liberal arts and sciences, education, and business. Student learning, whether collaborative or individual, is supported through well-designed facilities and new technologies. Emphasizing responsiveness collaboration, flexibility, and innovation, the Library promotes the spirit of free inquiry that is at the heart of intellectual experience, teaching research and critical skills of lifelong value to the University's graduates.

Samuel R. Scholes Library of Ceramics
Scholes Library provides information services which support the mission of the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University to advance knowledge in art, science, and engineering. The library also serves the broader research community as a specialized center for information on ceramics and glass. We are dedicated to the library as both place and virtual space, offering an environment conducive to study and collaborative work, and resources for effective information retrieval and scholarly communication.

Values

- Free and open pursuit of knowledge
- Support for intellectual and cultural diversity
- Innovation, collaboration and creativity
- Excellent service
- Effective communication

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