

REPORT ON STRATEGIC PLAN

2017 - 2021

The Library's 2017-2021 Strategic Plan outlined a vision for the SFU Library:

Open for research.

Open for learning.

Open for collaboration.

Goals and objectives were identified under three major theme areas in successive rounds of planning. This report outlines some of the library's progress toward these goals and objectives. Additional details on library activities are available in [annual reports](#) from this period.

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We Build Capacity

We will:

- Equip students to be adept users of information, preparing them as graduates, citizens, and lifelong learners
- Integrate research and academic skills instruction at the course, program, and departmental level at the most meaningful points in student learning
- Facilitate development of the digital research skills of faculty members
- Build responsive and enduring collections, including distinctive and accessible Special Collections
- Create interdisciplinary, community-building spaces

Progress toward these objectives:

- Produced and promoted a [library instruction strategy](#)
- Substantially increased support for undergraduate writing with course integrated instruction
- Initiated Undergraduate Writing Contest, now an established annual event, including a contest journal
- Developed new faculty programming in Research Commons featuring workshops on advanced technical skills for researchers in response to current research trends and analytic tools in use at SFU
- Created new continuing Indigenous Initiatives & Instruction Librarian position, providing increased capacity and leadership for information literacy instruction and decolonizing/Indigenizing instruction
- Made progress toward collections policy updates; now consulting with community before finalizing
- Established Evidence Based Acquisition agreements with three major academic publishers, Taylor & Francis, Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press, providing SFU users with more than 210,000 academic ebooks
- Added significant new digital collections: archives of the Vancouver Sun, The Province, Times Colonist; Macleans, International Herald Tribune, New Yorker; new collections of primary sources such as Women's Magazine Archives, Migration to New Worlds; expansion of existing archives including the Archives of Sexuality & Gender, Mass Observation Online; new purchases or expansions of academic publisher collections such as JSTOR, Sage Research Methods Online, Oxford Very Short Introductions
- Continued to build distinctive Special Collections: accessioned IMAGENation funds; Hartmut Lutz Collection of Indigenous Literature; Perry the Poster Man Collection; David Yorke Labour History Collection; CUPE BC fonds; the Vancouver Folk Music Festival fonds; and accruals to Robert Coupe William Morris collection and Wosk-McDonald Aldine collection
- Completed construction of 1st floor vault and moved valuable special collections into new environmentally controlled storage
- Improved discovery of purchased and Open Access collections through new features in library search platform
- Began judicious weeding of print collections to create shelf space and improve management of print collections

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We Enhance the Student Experience

We will:

- Expand spaces for student learning, interaction, and experimentation
- Prioritize student needs by more actively seeking feedback
- Deepen our commitment to student research
- Offer employment, mentorship, and training opportunities to students to enhance student engagement and employability

Progress toward these objectives:

- Completed Bennett Library Master Space Plan; began planning phase 1 of Bennett renewal
- Completed and launched Media & Maker Commons in Bennett Library
- Created and launched new Research Commons on Vancouver campus; renovated Belzberg service area
- Renovated Fraser Library: created a research help consultation room to better support researchers and learners; added 42 seats for group and individual study space; enhanced technology in study rooms
- Established talk:library sessions on all three campuses to hear feedback directly from students
- Initiated Undergraduate Research Symposium in collaboration with Centre for Education Excellence and Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies, now an established annual event
- Successfully operated OER Grants program for 4 years; began development of SFU open education plan
- Piloted mentorship program for co-op students, with plans to expand to include new librarians and archivists
- Strengthened Graduate peer model in Research Commons to increase opportunities for student worker professional and personal development and engagement
- Supported Graduate Fellows in Digital Humanities Innovation Lab
- Hosted undergraduate fellow through the Association of Research Libraries program for Digital and Inclusive Excellence

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We Collaborate

We will:

- Lead in ensuring that SFU research is shared widely within and beyond the academy
- Support new ways to articulate and measure the impact of research and scholarship
- Integrate Library expertise with related campus partners in the research process
- Participate in and develop shared collections with trusted partners
- Engage our community by creating and hosting vibrant events and programs
- Partner in knowledge mobilization beyond the academy, particularly with community groups

Progress toward these objectives:

- Developed university-wide Open Access policy, endorsed by Senate, promoted by VPRI & library, reviewed after 3 years
- Led university planning for Research Data Management institutional strategy
- Developed local research data support, including pathways to national platforms for SFU researchers
- Successfully established new Knowledge Mobilization Hub in collaboration with VPRI: joined Research Impact Canada; established SFU Research Impact Group; held Research Meets Policy Summer Institute
- Digital Humanities Innovation Lab collaborated with faculty, grad students, and research assistants to enable new modes of research; provided expertise in software development, database design, and other research operations (eg. GitHub, workshops, etc).
- Continued active participation in Shared Print Archive Network in western Canada; participated in national overlap study for federal government documents; actively involved in new National Shared Print Network
- Joined HathiTrust, a not-for-profit collaborative of academic and research libraries preserving 17+ million digitized items
- Established and launched Non-Fiction Writer in Residence program
- Mounted literary art installation un/settled in the windows of Belzberg Library, co-curated by Head, Belzberg Library and featuring collaboration between poet/artist/educator Chantal Gibson and 2020 Shadbolt Fellow Otoniya J. Okot Bitek; the installation and related panel events on Black art, creativity, and community and were profiled in several media venues and student publications
- Continued program of annual events including Celebration of SFU Authors, One Book One SFU, Deans' Annual Lecture
- Partnered with School of Engineering on delivery of new TEKX101 class through Media & Maker Commons
- Expanded Community Scholars Program to include 500 participants, additional publishers, 5 post-secondary partners; moved into new SFU facility at 312 Main St. with CERi office; invested in permanent Community Scholars Librarian position
- Supported many grants to SFU researchers, including SSHRC Partnership, Partnership Development, and Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research; services include knowledge mobilization, digital collection and metadata support, database development



In addition to these three major areas of activity, two foundational areas were identified priorities in the Strategic Plan to strengthen our work and our organization

User-Centered Priorities

We will:

- Cultivate a culture focused on user experience
- Respond to increased demand for digital information
- Use evidence-based assessment to guide decisions

Progress toward these objectives:

- Removed overdue fines on most items from general collection
- Revised many policies to remove barriers for users: auto-renewal feature for general and media collections; increased media lending periods; increased threshold for borrower suspension limits
- Added online payment option to library accounts for any library fees
- Implemented new integrated library system with many new features for users, including state-of-the-art reserves system
- Began offering university-wide licenses and support for software tools integral to research progress, such as NVivo and ESRI suite
- Established regular survey of graduate students to shape Research Commons programming
- Created Indigenous Curriculum Resource Centre online; work underway to establish physical collection
- Enhanced Student Learning Commons programming to improve access and remove barriers, including creation of virtual consultation and workshop offerings; programming outside the library in student spaces
- Conducted regular user testing on library website, tools, and services
- Procured document camera to enhance accessibility of special collections materials for off-site researchers
- Began process of updating metadata in library catalogue to address legacy colonial descriptive practices
- Streamlined workflows for processing new materials, reducing cataloguing queues and time-to-shelf
- Increased focus on metadata creation for unique local collections to improve discovery for users
- Moved to e-preferred policy for reserves and course textbooks; e-preferred policy for all monograph purchases under discussion
- Created Library Assessment fund to seed small projects initiated by employees in any library division
- Worked with provincial and regional consortia to remove all InterLibrary Loan fees between institutions and connected ILL patron services with the new integrated library system
- Added new all-gender washrooms in Bennett Library



Positive Work Culture

We will:

- Create and support sustained learning and development agendas, with deliberate development of leadership
- Respect and value the diversity of Library staff and actively work to expand it across multiple dimensions
- Contribute to our collective success by actively supporting the wellness of Library staff
- Emphasize clear, timely internal communication

Progress toward these objectives:

- Created Training Plan Advisory Group to create annual education plan for library; at least 6 training/education sessions offered annually, often many more
- Collaborated with UBC and UVic libraries to offer Library Management Skills Institute locally three times
- Established Library Diversity Development Award, funding graduate education in library science for employees from underrepresented groups, and providing a year of employment post-graduation
- Library Wellness Committee established, offering an array of events throughout the year
- Bi-weekly all staff town halls held by dean, with notes posted on staff blog
- Established Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group, Decolonizing Working Group, Equity and Inclusion in Instruction Task Group
- Provided foundational anti-racism education module for all library employees