

KU LIBRARIES STRATEGIC PLAN

2024-28



KU LIBRARIES
The University of Kansas



MISSION

We advance research, teaching, and learning at the intersection of people and ideas.

VISION

We seek to empower all learners through transformative partnerships – opening doors, fueling knowledge creation, and cultivating our communities.





GOAL 1: STUDENT SUCCESS

Forge partnerships and experiences that equip students as engaged, critical thinkers who thrive in the classroom and beyond.

Strategy I:
Continue to refine innovative physical library spaces that advance student success.

Objective 1: Continuously adapt existing space and shape direction for future transformations that meet evolving, emerging curricular and cocurricular needs.

Strategy II:
Transform and expand library instruction in support of student success.

Objective 2: Formally integrate and intentionally scaffold library instruction across the undergraduate and graduate curricula. Expand library instruction to include new and emerging literacies to support students as critical thinkers.

Objective 3: Establish and assess a coordinated instruction program with particular emphasis on scaling to expand support across other physical campuses and virtual learning environments.

Strategy III:
Enrich and elevate student research and learning experiences.

Objective 4: Formally integrate and embed the libraries into more KU courses and experiences.

Objective 5: Propel, energize, and celebrate undergraduate research.

Strategy IV:
Contribute significantly to the financial accessibility of a KU education.

Objective 6: Expand Open Educational Resources (OER) offerings and utilization, both at KU and globally.

Objective 7: Reduce other expenses to strengthen affordability for all library users.

GOAL 2: HEALTHY & VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Elevate our communities by fostering individual wellbeing, sparking interpersonal connections, and advancing society.

Strategy I:
Nurture a library team and communities of belonging that center wellbeing – welcoming and benefiting from a plurality of perspectives.

Objective 8: Develop a broader diversity of perspectives for our organization, our communities, and the discipline of academic librarianship.

Objective 9: Support community wellbeing through our spaces, resources, and platforms.

Objective 10: Cultivate a culture of belonging through intentional strategies that support recruitment, retention, and the health and wellbeing of the library team.

Strategy II:
Strengthen connection and growth through increased community engagement.

Objective 11: More fully connect the libraries team to the campus and community by raising profiles and accessibility of individuals, units, and cross-unit functions/workflows.

Objective 12: Increase engagement, cultivating broad community platforms and the recognition of KU Libraries as premier partners for research and teaching collaborations.

Objective 13: Lead and engage in partnerships that serve to expand connectivity across the university and advance broader community engagement goals.





Strategy III:
Foster community wellbeing via creative expression, low-barrier innovative exploration, and leisure reading.

Objective 14: Expand and promote awareness and use of the libraries' creative makerspaces.

Objective 15: Build leisure collections and develop targeted creative collections to meet community interests and needs.

Strategy IV:
Model, promote, and build sustainable communities.

Objective 16: Collaboratively develop and balance the fiscal, environmental, historical, functional, and aesthetic sustainability of KU Libraries' facilities.

Strategy V:
Develop innovative, inspirational, aspirational physical spaces that bring the community together in a spirit of learning.

Objective 17: Build momentum around a shared vision of a holistic, library-wide program plan that guides the transformation of new and innovative library spaces to propel university goals.

Objective 18: Partner with campus leadership to propel a complete renovation of Watson Library, transforming the environment to elevate accessibility, belonging and wellness; advance research and discovery; and promote academic success.

Strategy VI:
Increase library team opportunities for talent development and the advancement of library initiatives.

Objective 19: Diversify funding sources to support innovative library initiatives and talent development.

Objective 20: Create intentional strategies for the library team to dedicate more time to the exploration and pursuit of new and emerging trends.



GOAL 3: RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

Amplify researcher impact through expertise, community, and diverse resources that propel knowledge creation and sharing.

Strategy I:
Expand the open discoverability, preservation, and impact of KU's information resources, distinctive holdings, and scholarship.

Objective 21: Develop resources to increase capacity for digitization and open delivery of resources.

Objective 22: Strategically expand capacity for and adoption of open access (OA) publishing of KU scholarly output.

Objective 23: Lead the development of an institutional strategy for public access to research data.

Strategy II:
Enhance and upgrade the libraries' internal and external information architecture.

Objective 24: Upgrade and maximize the value of our core technology platforms.

Objective 25: Integrate and enhance the user experience of our public-facing technology platforms.

Objective 26: Clarify the libraries' role in ongoing campus efforts to establish records management practices for electronic records.

Strategy III:
Expand capabilities in strategic new areas to enrich, advance, and showcase researcher impact.

Objective 27: Contribute to the access of diverse perspectives to strengthen and enrich research at KU.

Objective 28: Expand initiatives contributing to economic development and technology commercialization.

Objective 29: Prepare for and cultivate expertise in new and emerging specializations for librarianship.

Objective 30: Develop new and expanded capabilities to advance, showcase, and celebrate research at KU.

Strategy IV:
Broaden KU Libraries' global connections and impact. Increase our efficacy, leadership, and academic library reputation through shared approaches to information resources and disciplinary challenges.

Objective 31: Lead new consortial and cooperative strategies in the university, state, region, and beyond.

Objective 32: Develop initiatives, services, and resources to advance campus internationalization goals.

Strategy V:
Apply new methods to assess, strengthen, and streamline library decision-making, workflows, and processes.

Objective 33: Broaden the culture of impact-informed librarianship, encompassing effective library assessment and impactful storytelling.

Objective 34: Implement workflows and processes to manage and streamline significant library initiatives. Evaluate internal library operations and systems for enhanced performance.



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The University of Kansas

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