

Building for the Centuries: A Plan for the University Libraries 2017-2022

**University Libraries
University of Richmond**

Plan Preamble

“Amid such surroundings we plan to build for the centuries.” – Frederic W. Boatwright, Richmond College, June 11, 1910.

The University Libraries of the University of Richmond are integral in the realization of the University of Richmond’s plan to be a leader in higher education, preparing students to contribute to, and succeed in, a complex world; producing knowledge to address the world’s problems; and modeling the way that colleges and universities can effectively meet the challenges of our time.

Students visit Boatwright Memorial library, Parsons Music library, and the Curriculum Materials Center to study, collaborate, access resources, view media materials, and avail themselves of the expertise of university librarians and library staff.

The library staff engages with students and faculty by introducing students to information-retrieval strategies and research methods, particularly through first-year seminar research sessions. Always listening to the university’s faculty and students, our staff ensures that the library’s varied collections — digital, print, media, and archival — make it the interdisciplinary crossroads of the university.

The University Libraries, along with the University community, are committed to:

Goal A. Ensuring a culture where all feel valued, welcome, and respected while shaping an agile, creative, and responsive organization that supports experimentation, risk-taking, diversity, and bold thinking. (URSP – Thriving and Inclusive Community)

Strategic Initiatives

1. Consider inclusivity, accessibility and cultural awareness in discussions about hiring, collections, services, spaces, and teaching.
2. Strive to provide equitable and inclusive access by understanding assumptions and norms regarding the library, teaching, learning, and research.

Goal B. Increase the scholarly impact of the University and support student, faculty, and staff success by building robust services and infrastructures to support emerging modes of teaching, research, innovation, and scholarship. (URSP – Academic Excellence)

Strategic Initiatives

1. Be a hub for digital scholarship by providing faculty and students with tools and services that strengthen the impact and visibility of their research and creative endeavors.
2. Support and foster engagement by providing skilled technical services, useful resources, and collaborative working space, and by developing relationships to facilitate research and learning.
3. Bridge divides in information, pedagogy and technology by coordinating and facilitating access to research, writing, and academic skills support.
4. Design and promote services to support faculty and students throughout the research lifecycle.

Goal C. Practice responsible stewardship by building collections that enhance research and teaching, by carefully examining and assessing the use of available resources, and by being mindful not just of the needs of the moment but to ensure that unique and important materials survive for future generations. (URSP – Stewardship in a Changing World, Access & Affordability)

Strategic Initiatives

1. Enhance physical and digital access to special collections, rare books, and archives and anchor them as a vibrant and visible centerpiece of scholarship for the library as well as the campus and community.

2. Develop an open access collections plan and promote use and development of open educational resources.
3. Offer educational programs and consultation services that ensure creators and consumers are aware of fair use, author's rights, copyright and intellectual property issues.
4. Align our collecting policies and practices to ensure we provide access to new forms of scholarly output, and preserve them for the future, while continuing to expand our print and digital collections.

Goal D. Create spaces to foster innovation in areas of strategic importance to the University (*URSP – Academic Excellence*)

Strategic Initiatives

1. Engage the campus in discussions of the future role of virtual library spaces in an evolving research and teaching environment.
2. Conduct a large-scale space analysis to determine how the physical spaces we inhabit can be better utilized and/or better aligned with other campus spaces in the long term to best support the success of students and faculty.
3. Position the libraries to be a sustainability leader on campus.

Goal E. Build, foster, and enhance understanding and respect between students, staff, scholars, alumni, and community partners. (*URSP – enhanced Alumni Engagement*)

Strategic Initiatives

1. Strengthen partnerships between the University Libraries and K-12 education and public library communities.
2. Partner with galleries, libraries, archives, and museum partners in the Richmond community and beyond to promote and enhance access to our cultural resources to inform and educate.
3. Investigate and develop potential opportunities for shared approaches to work with other institutions and consortia in problem solving and resource sharing development.
4. Support or drive initiatives to examine and acknowledge the history of the University of Richmond.

We affirm, as stated in the University of Richmond's Strategic Plan, that our work will be enhanced by a commitment to measuring our success rigorously, sharing that

information transparently, reckoning honestly with opportunities and challenges that these assessments reveal, and using that information to improve.

Through this plan, and achievement of the goals that we have outlined, the University of Richmond Libraries will build for the centuries and assume a place of leadership among the nation's preeminent liberal arts university libraries.