CUNY LIBRARIES
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
2017-2020

STRATEGIC STATEMENT

CUNY Libraries provide a network of resources to support the largest urban public university in the country. CUNY library faculty and staff contribute in essential ways to students’ academic success and lifelong learning skills. CUNY Libraries support faculty in crafting research assignments and classroom-based instruction; curating Open Educational Resources (OER); advising on open scholarship, authors’ rights, and scholarly publishing; as well as making CUNY scholarship public for greater impact around the world. Librarians support students and faculty in developing research practices, discovering resources, and coordinating access to research materials locally and globally. The Libraries’ scholarly communications initiatives expand the discoverability of faculty research and raise the profile of CUNY scholarship.

CUNY Libraries sponsor collaborative, efficient acquisition of journals, books, and archival resources used by the entire CUNY community. Librarians facilitate discovery of CUNY resources through management of discovery tools, application of metadata, and continuance of library networks and consortia.

CUNY Libraries are proactive partners in the University strategic plan, Connected CUNY. CUNY Libraries are committed to assessing impact and value on all campuses, responding to the evolving needs of all CUNY stakeholders.
Open Educational Resources reduce costs to students, easing access to coursework and facilitating degree completion.

**Successes**

- Launched in 2016, the Zero Textbook Cost Degree and state-funded CUNY OER grant initiatives launched scalable efforts to advance pedagogy and enliven the curriculum with course-supporting materials that are cost-free for students.

- Robust, curated learning materials are openly accessible on the CUNY institutional repository (*Academic Works*), significantly increasing affordability and access to education.

**Opportunities**

- CUNY and SUNY will collaboratively develop a statewide OER portal, extending economic advantages and leveling opportunity across institutions.
Information literacy is fundamental to student-based contextual assessment, negotiation, learning, and knowledge creation.

**Successes**

- Face-to-face and virtual information literacy instruction enable students to comprehend context-based information needs and critically evaluate what is necessary to address those needs.

- Embedding information resources and consultation in collaborative learning environments promotes greater student success and satisfaction.

**Opportunities**

- Continuous improvement in instructional assessment will demonstrate greater student success and satisfaction.
Library initiatives aligned with transitional college readiness programs engage high school students and prepare them for entry and retention at CUNY.

**Successes**

- New York Collaborative Curriculum Revision Project provides a scalable model that infuses information literacy into high school curricula to promote post-secondary educational success.

- New York City Department of Education and CUNY Libraries’ services agreement permits NYC high school students access to CUNY college libraries.

- CUNY Libraries’ information literacy and OER programs connect with CUNY ASAP, START, SEEK, and similar programs promoting educational success.

**Opportunities**

- Open Educational Resources and Library Research Guides can be accessed by NYC high school students and teachers for more effective college preparation.
Providing lifelong literacy skills and extending access to CUNY resources translates into post-graduation knowledge, economic mobility, and success.

**Successes**
- Information literacy instruction prepares students > workers > citizens to analyze information needs in context and identify and apply the best resources and critical practices to address these needs.
- Alumni access to library services, resources, and scholarly content provides continuity from higher education into career and other lifelong learning.

**Opportunities**
- Library collaborations with classroom and distance education leaders, career-focused special programs, as well as allied community organizations, agencies, and employers will extend literacy competencies across occupation, location, and time.
CUNY’s library faculty innovate to strengthen information access and discovery, education, and scholarship.

Successes

- OneSearch interface streamlines discovery of and access to shared CUNY library resources and collections.
- Academic Works institutional repository showcases CUNY faculty and student scholarship on a global, public platform, facilitating access by any reader anywhere in the world.

Opportunities

- The proposed CUNY Office of Scholarly Communications will expand support for students and faculty throughout the research lifecycle, showcase more open digital scholarship, and facilitate resolution of intellectual property concerns.
- Research data management services, programming, and curation of current and archival CUNY collections will foster research and public accountability, as well as raise the University’s profile.
CUNY Libraries and its Office of Library Services advance teaching, learning, and research through acquiring and maintaining access to expansive world-class collections, CUNY’s scholarly record, and mission-critical shared services. Promoting equity for the entire University community, the Libraries deliver a shared core collection of scholarly electronic and print materials available to every CUNY student. Our highly collaborative approach achieves efficiencies in digital infrastructure and staffing costs, resource sharing, collection management, scaling capacity, assessment, and innovation.

**Successes**

- Procuring and licensing e-resources centrally generates costs savings exceeding $10M annually and aligns collections to the needs of faculty and students.
- Implementation of a next-generation Library Services Platform (LSP) has commenced and will unify resource management, streamline materials processing and procurement workflows, and enable data-driven collection management both centrally and locally.

**Opportunities**

- CUNY Libraries’ physical spaces and online offerings will successfully accommodate emerging instructional technologies, teaching and learning strategies, as well as storage and study space requisites.