The Ames Library Mission, Vision, Statement of Values, and Strategic Plan

Our Mission
The Ames Library provides a setting conducive to interaction, consultation, study and reflection and is dedicated to serving the scholarly needs of the Illinois Wesleyan University community. Library faculty and staff develop and maintain collections that enhance the university curriculum and provide access to global information networks that assist research. They provide expertise in the management of the creation, organization, and distribution of knowledge in a changing environment. Library faculty promote information literacy by teaching the use of the tools of scholarship. In keeping with the mission of Illinois Wesleyan University, The Ames Library fosters inquiry and the pursuit of knowledge, intellectual and ethical integrity, excellence in teaching and learning, and respect for diverse points of view.

March 2004

Our Vision
As the intellectual heart of the campus, The Ames Library transforms individuals in their quest for wisdom and knowledge and the Illinois Wesleyan University community in its pursuit of excellence.

- Students trust that their needs are the library’s top priority.
- Faculty eagerly seek the library as an ally in their teaching and research.
- Individuals and groups investigating new ideas and researching new fields turn to the library first for support, consultation and collaboration.
- Members of the IWU community rely on the library and its staff as a key resource for encouragement, innovation, and service in fulfilling the goals and ideals of the highest quality liberal education.
- Graduates leave the university with the realization that the library was indispensable to their academic accomplishments.

With our people, services, collections, and facilities, The Ames Library makes it easy for our users to navigate the research process and access the highest quality information resources. Motivated by our desire to understand, anticipate, and fulfill the research and information needs of our community, we continually evolve in our efforts to meet those needs. Our passion and commitment for our work inspire a zeal for inquiry in others and is central to our drive to excel. We enthusiastically reach out beyond the walls of the library, initiating and joining cooperative endeavors with others and delivering our services to individuals where they work and live.

April 2004
Our Statement of Values

Informing and guiding our everyday work are the following enduring values:

- We value intellectual freedom as described in the American Library Association’s *Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights*: “Educating the American public, including library staff, on the value of intellectual freedom is fundamental to the mission of libraries of all types. Intellectual freedom is a universal human right that involves both physical and intellectual access to information and ideas. Libraries provide physical access through facilities, resources, and services and foster awareness of intellectual freedom rights within the context of educational programs and instruction in essential information skills.”

- We value the library as a place and space for our campus community. We are stewards and caretakers of our space, and value the efforts of our Physical Plant colleagues to make our library a welcoming and safe environment for students, faculty, and staff to work, rest, socialize, and collaborate.

- We value access to information. Through our collections and technology, we strive to streamline access to the content needed to create scholarship and creative works, either through our own collections, or through partnerships with other institutions.

- We value user privacy. We will never sell, give away, or share your library records. This includes what you share with us during research consultations or instruction sessions, your search history on the web or in databases, the books and other materials you have checked out.

- We value diversity and inclusion with respect to our users, spaces, collections, policies, and practices.

- We value our users’ perspectives. We are cognizant of the many roles we play in our campus community, and we seek out opportunities to listen and gather feedback from our students, staff, and faculty.

*October 2018*
EMPOWER STAFF TO SUCCEED IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

OBJECTIVE: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Cross-train staff and reorganize as needed so that no one is working in a silo, everyone has a backup
- Ensure that all staff are properly informed and trained about existing and emerging trends in higher education, libraries and technologies to assist campus and each other

OBTAIN & DELIVER HIGH-QUALITY COLLECTIONS

OBJECTIVE: BUILD AN EFFECTIVE AND STRONG COLLECTION THROUGH INFORMED ACQUISITIONS, MANAGEMENT OF CONTENT AND STRATEGIC DESIGNS FOR ACCESS.

- Ensure a dynamic approach to the acquisition of collection resources that reflects the changing nature of publishing and scholarly production in a fiscally challenging environment.
- Increase our capacity to create, acquire, and manage digital scholarly content
- Describe and expose our unique collections
- Create a system of linkages between all collections, physical and virtual, to ensure content is easily discoverable and interconnected.

SUPPORT & ADVANCE OPEN ACCESS POLICIES & PRACTICES ON CAMPUS

OBJECTIVE: DEVELOP A SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OPEN ACCESS TO SCHOLARSHIP AND THE WIDE SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE ACROSS THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY.

- Increase knowledge of Open Access
- Develop a campus policy to make faculty and student scholarly work freely accessible worldwide.

DELIVER HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH SUPPORT TO STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF

OBJECTIVE: ESTABLISH THE LIBRARY AS THE LEADER FOR CAMPUS SCHOLARLY RESEARCH SUPPORT.

- Explore models for research support centers through collaborative efforts between library staff, ITS, CETAL, the Office of the Provost, and the Writing Center.
- Build on the Signature Work discussion on campus.
- Look for new ways to engage directly with students both within and outside of the classroom to support their academic work.

ENHANCE THE USER EXPERIENCE

OBJECTIVE: UNDERSTAND OUR USERS’ LIBRARY EXPERIENCES AND NEEDS, AND USE THAT INFORMATION TO SHAPE OUR COLLECTIONS, SPACES, AND SERVICES.

- Identify and analyze assessment activities based on factors such as; user needs, budget indicators, and changing campus academic initiatives.
- Provide a centralized virtual environment for the sharing and analysis of assessment data.

COMMUNICATE THE ACTIVE ROLE WE PLAY IN ADVANCING THE CAMPUS MISSION

OBJECTIVE: PROMOTE “THE AMES ADVANTAGE” EFFECTIVELY.

- Work with new leadership in University Communications.
- Create ongoing campaign to highlight our services, programs and resources
- Connect our resources and spaces to campus values and initiatives.

The Ames Library, Illinois Wesleyan University
http://www.iwu.edu/library