Purposeful Pathway: Strategic Plan 2016-2020

Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School

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Our Mission

We exercise leadership in the development and delivery of information resources and services that are complementary to and inseparable from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, University of Massachusetts Memorial Health Care, and the University of Massachusetts system.

Our Values

Excellence
Health Literacy
Diversity and Inclusion
Freedom of Information
Adaptability and Resilience
Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Contribution to Professional Practice
Communication and Community
Institutional Memory
Education
Service
Trust
The Lamar Soutter Library (LSL) is a Purposeful Library. A purposeful library is one that engages its users and aligns its mission and goals to the larger institution. The LSL will fulfill its missions of service, education, and research by capitalizing on the strengths of its staff and collections. It will demonstrate leadership in its commitment to interdisciplinary activities that serve all its users and provide them the resources they need when they need it. LSL’s commitment to service is a programmatic approach using a purposeful plan of action that is both strategic and nimble enough to adapt to the rapidly changing health sciences, technology, and information environment. Having a purpose that is clear, meaningful, and intentional, while at the same time flexible, helps position LSL as the core knowledge and cultural base of UMMS. Preparing students for a career in the health professions, assisting faculty with their research and classroom activities, and providing evidence based information in support of patient care have always been important dimensions of LSL’s work. But in today’s world, these goals need to be achieved with greater focus and effectiveness. We believe this “Purposeful Pathway” gives meaning and relevance to LSL as we embark on our information pathway of the 21st century.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Aspirational Statement</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Institutional Culture &amp; Partnerships</strong></td>
<td>The library is recognized and pursued as an essential partner within the institution in the realization of common goals, resulting in wider use of library services and recognition of library contributions.</td>
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<td><strong>Service</strong></td>
<td>Resources and staff are responsibly adaptive to changing needs in order to provide an efficient, in-depth, and indispensable suite of services that impact long-term behavior of our constituents to improve long-term health outcomes.</td>
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<td><strong>Collections</strong></td>
<td>Responding to our unique user and institutional needs, the library leverages its resources and expertise to maximize excellence in collection development. The library invests in and provides education and leadership in the creation, discoverability, and preservation of health science information at each stage of the scholarly communications lifecycle.</td>
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<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>The library provides expertise in developing new and innovative services and educational resources that are incorporated into curricula and research initiatives.</td>
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<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>The library cultivates mutually beneficial partnerships, collections, and services in support of health literacy, education, and the diverse information needs of the local, national, and global communities beyond UMMS/UMMHC to support informed decision making and patient-centered health care in a welcoming and inclusive environment.</td>
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<td><strong>Staff</strong></td>
<td>The library strategically invests in the emerging skills and expertise necessary to meet the UMMS/UMMHC mission and goals. Library leadership promotes professional agility, education, mentorship, and professional development opportunities.</td>
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The library is recognized and pursued as an essential partner within the institution in the realization of common goals, resulting in wider use of library services and recognition of library contributions.

- The library is an influential and critical component of institutional culture, instilling the library values of trust, innovation, expertise, and information access.
- The library builds a group of powerful champions.

- Identify and implement a range of emerging and innovative services in alignment with the needs of users and the unique health care environment.
- Solidify the “Library as Place” concept within the institution.

- Selectively develop resources to provide materials for UMMS/UMMHHC and the surrounding community’s health information and educational needs.

- Provide universal access to health science inter-professional educational expertise and curriculum materials.
- Develop and offer multiple modes of instruction to meet diverse learning styles.

- Align community outreach practices and activities with the UMMS/UMMHHC mission and goals.
- Build collaborative partnerships to understand the health information needs of diverse populations and communities.

- Align staff resources to support the identified areas of focus: research, clinical care, education, and community engagement.
- Staff develop an individual plan for professional development based on stage of career and areas of interest and expertise.
Collaboration with the Joy McCann Professor of Women in Medicine

Tiffany A. Moore Simas,
Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology

As the Joy McCann Professor of Women in Medicine, I am focusing on a project related to leadership development for mid-career women faculty. One component is a systematic review of leadership development programs for faculty in academic medicine. Elaine Martin proactively reached out to me and asked how the library team could be of assistance. I was introduced to Martha Meacham and Len Levin as information and library science experts; their collaboration on and commitment to this project has truly been invaluable. They have been integral members of the team at every step. Their participation, expertise, and contributions did not end with the identification of appropriate terms or appropriate databases, with the running of the searches, nor with providing a list of potentially relevant articles and abstracts. They guided (and continue to guide) us every step of the way and have contributed to initial abstract and full article review, full abstraction, and review of results. Their enthusiasm, contributions, expertise, and fidelity to the project and process have not only facilitated continued progress, but have made it both a rich experience and a dataset that will knowledgeably inform next steps.

Collaboration with the Office of Outreach Programs and the Worcester Pipeline Collaborative

Robert E. Layne,
Office of Outreach Programs

The librarians, Library Fellows, and other library staff have worked collaboratively with the Department of School Services, primarily through the Office of Outreach Programs and the Worcester Pipeline Collaborative.

A leader in service and learning
Our Stories

These departments coordinate high school and college tours for student groups interested in Biomedical Research, Biotechnology, and Health Professions (BBHP). They also direct and manage four pre-matriculation programs targeting students who are from educationally and/or economically disadvantaged backgrounds or ethnic groups who are under-represented in BBHP. The collaboration between the library, Vivian Okyere, and the Office of Outreach has been very beneficial in helping prepare deserving students to become college and career ready as they pursue occupations in BBHP.

Collaboration on NIH Biosketch Clinics

Janice Lagace,
Research Funding Services

Being assigned the task of training an entire Campus to comply with the new NIH Bisketch format is daunting. Fortunately, I was saved by the capable hands of the library staff. Rebecca Reznik-Zellen and Lisa Palmer assisted wholeheartedly with resources, the design of the training, and the scheduling and presentation to faculty and supporting administrative staff. We engaged the group within the library and helped them to navigate through SciENcv, the eRA Commons, and MyNCBI. Rebecca and Lisa also recruited other members of the staff to assist with 1:1 training. Their knowledge of how all three systems link together was impressive. In all, we had 25 training sessions, providing the tools needed to 302 faculty members and their respective support staff. In my review process for NIH applications, I have seen the success of our efforts presented in Biosketches! I would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with them again in the future.

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