

Library Strategic Plan

I. Division/School Core Purpose

The Library's mission is to make available a comprehensive collection of scholarly materials and services consistent with the institution's present and anticipated instructional and research requirements and congruent with the College of Charleston's mission to provide students and faculty the opportunity to realize their intellectual and personal potential.

II. Envisioned Future

The College of Charleston Library, the Avery Research Center, and the Marine Resources Library have forged formal partnerships with key regional libraries, archives, and related information depositories to create the Lowcountry Academic Research Center (LARC). With its comprehensive collections, its robust, state-of-the-art technical infrastructure, and its highly trained and experienced professional staff working at multiple locations, the LARC supports post secondary education at every level.

In every sense, students, faculty and the community have the library experience found at one of the nation's premier research libraries. The LARC provides the information resources (print books, journals, and especially digital collections) that range from the introductory to the in depth and nationally significant. The LARC provides state-of-the-art information technology for library operations and resource-sharing, access to online resources, and the production and dissemination of digital collections. The LARC documents the history and culture of the region while it supports current research initiatives and cultivates creative content and digital information in appropriate formats across disciplines in support of scholarly inquiry. The LARC staff teach the community of students and scholars to think critically and ethically about information. The LARC advances intellectual and cultural excellence throughout the region by making its resources and services freely available to the community. The LARC enhances, but does not replace libraries and research centers in the region.

III. Division/School Goals and Strategies

Goal 1 Statement:

Create the Lowcountry Academic Research Center (LARC)

Goal 1 Description:

The LARC provides information support for post secondary education through its partnerships and structured relationships with institutions such as MUSC, The Citadel, Charleston School of Law, CSU, the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston County Library, Beaufort County Library, etc. The LARC, virtual and real, is the first stop for students and researchers looking for scholarly information and research assistance. The combination of limitless information needs and limited institutional resources continues to be an incentive for collaboration with information technology as its principal vehicle. The

LARC engages in projects and programs judged to be of value to its members and to the broader academic community.

- Strategy 1 The College of Charleston Library takes the lead in identifying regional partners and soliciting cooperative agreements to support the LARC 's vision and overall direction.
- Strategy 2 The LARC publicizes unique materials housed in the region and highlights current research conducted by scholars in or about the Lowcountry of South Carolina.
- Strategy 3 The LARC coordinates consistent methodologies in the cataloguing and presentation of materials, research guides, and other resources that enhance research.
- Strategy 4 The LARC develops a regional library leadership program that fosters professional development and growth among information professionals through mentoring, workshops, continuing education cross-training and promotes the ongoing scholarship of the library faculties at all institutions.
- Strategy 5 The LARC is a member of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) joining other research institutions such as Duke University, UNC– Chapel Hill, UNC- Charlotte, Clemson University and Georgia State University.

Goal 2 Statement:

Develop a comprehensive educational program that contributes to our students' highly personalized education, supports faculty development, embraces the value of information literacy, and promotes life-long learning to all members of the community.

Goal 2 Description:

Through partnerships and collaboration, the library further enhances the learning environment through promotion of library content in curriculum design, through a greater commitment to teaching across all disciplines and to all audiences, and through integration of instructional technology into the classroom.

- Strategy 1 Library professionals and instructional faculty work together to design assignments and syllabi with library content and to integrate technology into the classroom.
- Strategy 2 Library professionals offer instruction on plagiarism, copyright, and intellectual property, as well as workshops on new technologies for teaching and research, including bibliographic software, digitization, publishing, and qualitative research software.
- Strategy 3 The library attracts, hires and retains an innovative team of faculty and staff with diverse skills who are deeply committed to learning and scholarship.
- Strategy 4 The library develops and implements informative and interactive marketing and communications strategies to promote the library and the LARC's content, services, and instructional offerings.

Strategy 5 The library designs and manages a comprehensive array of instructional and informational services. This cohesive array of services combines physical service points and services, traditional and virtual consultations, tutorials, library guides, library instruction, and other virtual services through latest and emerging technologies. The library professionals will be engaged in ongoing assessment and evaluation to continually refine and enhance these services while creating new ones.

Goal 3 Statement

Through the LARC, the library continues to evaluate and acquire collections, especially digital content, in formats that make mobile access possible and convenient.

Goal 3 Description

As a part of the LARC, the library accelerates the integration of electronic resources into library collections, supports digital initiatives for online resources, digitizes and makes accessible unique local resources and responds effectively to external developments.

- Strategy 1 Develop a core collection which supports undergraduate and post-graduate research. It will be acquired, cataloged and accessed by efficient methods.
- Strategy 2 Continue building and maintaining print and electronic resources for student and faculty research, while partnering with other libraries to avoid unnecessary duplication and maximize the use of these purchases.
- Strategy 3 Implement a flexible technology-based assessment model to evaluate learning outcomes, services, collection usage, programs and resources, both financial and human to determine benefit, cost, and efficacy.
- Strategy 4 Continue to enhance virtual environments, including digital collections, virtual reference, eBooks, electronic databases etc. and to provide unmediated services like self checkout and interlibrary loan.
- Strategy 5 Recognizing that information exists globally, the LARC devises the most efficient means of creating, aggregating, accessing, retrieving, displaying and using digital collections ethically, responsibly and productively.

Goal 4 Statement:

Develop physical environments that improve student learning, foster collaboration, and facilitate research.

Goal 4 Description:

To facilitate learning and serve library users from across the region, the LARC and the library provide adequate collaborative spaces, protection of quiet study, and an overall attractive and welcoming environment. Along these lines, we avoid encroachment on public spaces unnecessarily. In addition, we provide the necessary technology to teach and learn. We evaluate and meet patrons' comfort and technology needs and continue to modify and enhance these facilities so they remain a pleasant place to study and research.

- Strategy 1 Provide a public forum for faculty and scholars to present and discuss their work in both formal and informal settings.
- Strategy 2 Improve access to media resources by renovating the media room and ensuring that the library has the proper technology to present its media resources to students and patrons.
- Strategy 3 Add more seating and group study areas in the library by increasing the number of books in compact shelving and off-site storage.
- Strategy 4 Through curating displays, creating online exhibits and sponsoring events for the Friends of the Library and the academic community, the library and the LARC become intellectual hubs for the region. Both the library and the LARC sponsor outreach events such as speaker series and special events.
- Strategy 5 Create a new center for the campus and the community that includes an expanded historical research division (formerly Special Collections) to accommodate additional collections from organizations such as the Charleston Library Society, the South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston Museum, etc.

Goal 5 Statement:

Make investments in infrastructure and technology to support the learning, teaching and research contributions from the region.

Goal 5 Description

Cutting edge technology is a necessity in support of knowledge seeking and collaboration at the highest levels. The library and the LARC have a plan in place that provides funding for robust networks, scalable servers, flexible computers and other current and future technologies.

- Strategy 1 Take advantage of high speed data initiatives.
- Strategy 2 Purchase and replace computer technology on a cyclical basis that ensures an effective continuum of intellectual creativity and education.
- Strategy 3 Upgrade fiber between institutional locations as new gateways and switches are installed.
- Strategy 4 Add and enhance cable, satellite, video and audio streaming, and other services that deliver content to the classroom and to the user, regardless of location.
- Strategy 5 Develop and/or purchase application software that is both beneficial and useful for instruction.

April 2009