

# UConn Libraries Purposeful Path Forward

**Vision** –The Knowledge and Inspiration Hub.

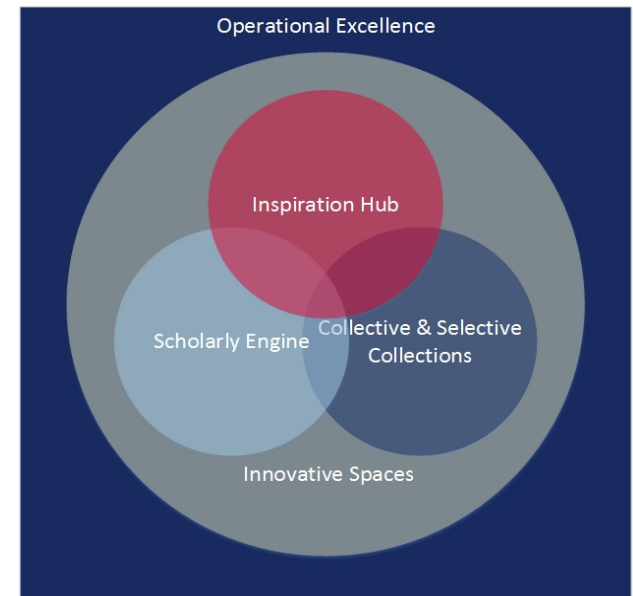
**Mission** – The UConn Libraries is a transformative partner in inspiring groundbreaking research and advancing learning, teaching, and entrepreneurial thinking. Our outstanding resources, expert staff, and collaborative environments empower our communities to explore new fields of inquiry and seek revolutionary solutions.

## Purposeful Path Forward

The UConn Libraries will fulfill its mission by developing purposeful paths that strengthen our commitment to providing leadership in both encouraging and partnering in multidisciplinary discovery and research. By building on the inherent strength and centrality of the UConn Libraries, our unique role is to overcome boundaries and build a platform for the University of Connecticut to achieve its mission of excellence in research, education, service and engagement.

## Purposeful Plan of Action: Programmatic & Empowering Priorities

The roadmap for the Purposeful Path Forward – the Purposeful Plan of Action – encompasses **three Programmatic Priorities**: 1) Inspiration Hub, 2) Scholarly Engine, and 3) Collective & Selective Collections and **two Empowering Priorities**: 4) Operational Excellence and 5) Innovative Spaces.



## Programmatic Priorities

### 1. INSPIRATION HUB

The Inspiration Hub envisions a culture of learning and exploration by creating a multidisciplinary hub of activity that encourages community building, collaboration, innovation, and exploration of new pedagogical and research models. It generates a communications network to collect, share, and showcase new ideas and products.

- 1.1. Seek new collaborations and partnerships while strengthening existing ones with entities including, but not limited to, Digital Media and Design, Humanities Institute, and the Entrepreneurial & Innovation Consortium.
- 1.2. Develop physical and virtual environments that encourage and cultivate creative thinking such as micro-climates, simulation labs, MakerSpaces, video walls, interactive exhibits, and experimental classrooms.
- 1.3. Stimulate innovation by hosting workshops/salons on emerging areas of interest.
- 1.4. Showcase research being done by students and faculty where our knowledgeable staff, services, and extensive collections are integral.

### 2. SCHOLARLY ENGINE

The Scholarly Engine is the driving force of academic endeavor. It encompasses the processes of research and knowledge creation that result in the production of, dissemination of, preservation of, and access to an institution's scholarly output.

The Library and its staff play an integral role in the Scholarly Engine by:

- providing products and tools that enable independent learning, research, and scholarship
- educating the community in the understanding and use of practices, methods, and tools of current and developing scholarly activity
- consulting in the processes of research and knowledge creation, reviewing and analyzing projects and recommending a course of action
- collaborating on select projects that result in knowledge creation and dissemination

- creating new models for practices, methods, and tools to transform the scholarly engine
  - 2.1. Review, reimagine, and reconfigure research support services to focus on the scholarly engine.
  - 2.2. Review, reimagine, and reconfigure the tools and products that we provide in order to optimize user access to and understanding of the essential resources and tools for independent and group learning, research, and scholarship.
  - 2.3. Build the organizational capacity to foster the creation of new models for practices, methods, and tools to transform the scholarly engine as well as information creation and dissemination.

### 3. COLLECTIVE AND SELECTIVE COLLECTIONS

The UConn Libraries will continue to develop, maintain, and make discoverable robust and unique collections that support the research and learning needs of the UConn community and beyond. The Libraries will embrace innovative strategies, models, and analysis methods to ensure that collection expenditures align with community needs in ways that maximize the value-on-investment of these expenditures. Concurrently, the Libraries will participate in and help lead inter-organizational initiatives through which resources, expertise, and capacity are collectively managed to ensure for the long-term retention and access of knowledge resources.

- 3.1. Create, implement, and maintain policies and practices for the effective development, management, ongoing evaluation of, and access to our collective and selective collections.
- 3.2. Lead and participate in initiatives through which libraries and related organizations collectively analyze, store, preserve, and manage access to knowledge resources.
- 3.3. Review, rethink, and reconfigure metadata management practices and collection searching capabilities on user interfaces to ensure for the effective discovery of and access to collections (whether accessible locally or through resource sharing partnerships).

## Empowering Priorities

In order to play a leading role in multidisciplinary discovery and research, the UConn Libraries' must continue its efforts to build a solid foundation that not only supports but also energizes our initiatives. We will do this through defining and realizing operational excellence and by creating innovative spaces that align our physical environments with the Library, UConn, and user priorities.

### 4. OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The UConn Libraries will achieve operational excellence through the implementation of transparent strategies, policies, and procedures designed to build a structure that is both constant and flexible. Services and procedures will be clearly defined, with ongoing assessment of user experience and fiscal sustainability. Communication mechanisms will be efficient and respectful and staff will engage in continuous mentoring and professional development thereby being experts and trusted partners.

- 4.1. Implement systematic, transparent and reliable knowledge, service, and project management structures to ensure operational efficiency and expediency.
- 4.2. Develop robust internal and external communication mechanisms and branding standards in order to consistently share and promote services and activities.
- 4.3. Evaluate and reaffirm governance and process structures in order to ensure optimal organizational and operational efficiency, decision-making, and shared direction.
- 4.4. Conduct a comprehensive job responsibility, service, and process review in order to align all efforts in support of Library-wide priorities and operations.
- 4.5. Evaluate staff work areas in the context of the Babbidge Master Plan for security, ergonomic standards, space requirements, and optimal adjacency to relevant functional and physical areas.
- 4.6. Create a culture of continuous assessment and improvement of core activities and services through the review of existing data gathering methods, development of new tools and evaluations, and iterative application of results.
- 4.7. Identify and offer regularly scheduled inservice and professional development opportunities that support areas of service, technology, organizational development, and promotion of internal expertise.

## 5. INNOVATIVE SPACES

The UConn Libraries will provide a variety of diverse environments that enable learning, research and innovative pursuits for the University community. Spaces will be developed that advance pedagogical flexibility, encourage research and academic collaboration within and across academic disciplines, create a robust variety of individual and group learning environments, and provide support for physical and virtual collections.

- 5.1. Create adaptable and innovative spaces that promote active learning while providing opportunities for emerging scholarship, experiential learning, and innovation.
  - 5.1.1. Assess current services and space in order to project library and user needs within the current building footprint that reflect new models for library roles and responsibilities and meet national standards.
  - 5.1.2. Design and provide flexible spaces that optimize innovative technologies and foster impactful experimentation and research collaborations across disciplines.
  - 5.1.3. Develop comprehensive facilities plans that reimagine and transform library space for innovative labs, library collections, and scholarly engine initiatives.
- 5.2. Develop system-wide plans that ensure that library spaces are secure, environmentally compliant, and ergonomically sound.
  - 5.2.1. Work collaboratively with field experts and University Public Safety to identify and maximize technology to ensure user and staff safety.
  - 5.2.2. Utilize university resources to analyze and address gaps in ADA, environmental and ergonomic standards.