OPEN DOORS, OPEN MINDS:
YORK UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES’ STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2011

The Libraries successfully completed an intensive exercise to develop York University Libraries’ Strategic Plan for 2007-2011; Open Doors, Open Minds. This plan will cultivate research collections, create vibrant library spaces for research and discovery, build a responsive and innovative learning organization and advance teaching, learning and research.
THEME I: CULTIVATING EXCELLENT RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

GOAL A: EXCELLENT AND RELEVANT RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

Strategy 1: Capitalize on library liaison relationships and university program development activities.

Strategy 2: Adopt a progressive collection development philosophy with respect to electronic content.

Strategy 3: Build unique, special collections of enduring research value.

Strategy 4: Experiment with innovative collection activities that are responsive to graduate and research needs.

Strategy 5: Respond to student diversity and the internationalization of curriculum through greater acquisition of non-traditional formats and non-English-language content in specific areas.

Strategy 6: Provide optimum and enduring access to York University’s research collections.

GOAL B: TRANSFORMATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY

Strategy 7: Enhance and simplify knowledge discovery in the library online environment.

Strategy 8: Enrich the online catalogue search experience.

Strategy 9: Expand online access to unique materials at York (as articulated in the Library Digitization Plan).
THEME II: ADVANCING RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND LEARNING

GOAL A: CRITICALLY-ENGAGED INFORMATION LITERATE GRADUATES

Strategy 10: In collaboration with faculty and other relevant campus partners, integrate information literacy instruction into program curricula as outlined in the IL Manifesto.

Strategy 11: Explore innovative teaching opportunities.

Strategy 12: Provide library research assistance, instruction, and consultation to graduate students of all programs.

GOAL B: LIBRARY ENGAGEMENT IN THE RESEARCH MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Strategy 13: Encourage research by York librarians.

Strategy 14: Strengthen library support for faculty research activities.

GOAL C: AN OPTIMUM LIBRARY EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Strategy 15: Implement the recommendations of the Library Accessibility Plan to better meet current needs of students with disabilities.

Strategy 16: Develop a more regular liaison relationship with other campus offices, such as those of the Associate Vice-President Student Community Development, and Access York, who also provide services for students with disabilities.

GOAL D: YORK RESEARCH THAT IS EASILY DISCOVERED ANYWHERE AND ANYTIME

Strategy 17: Collect, preserve, and make readily accessible York research.

Strategy 18: Collaborate with journal editors at York to publish and provide enduring online access to their journals.

Strategy 19: Identify, celebrate, and promote publications by York-affiliated authors.

GOAL E: THE LIBRARY AS A NEXUS FOR LEARNING

Strategy 20: Develop a learning commons at York University for a more integrated approach to assisting students with research, writing, computing, and general learning skills.

GOAL F: LIBRARY ENGAGEMENT IN YORK COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Strategy 21: Contribute to York University projects to engage and support the neighboring communities.
THEME III: CREATING VIBRANT LIBRARY SPACES FOR RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY

GOAL A: AN EFFECTIVE AND ENGAGING VIRTUAL GATEWAY

Strategy 22: Design and implement a dynamic virtual library architecture and infrastructure.

Strategy 23: Refresh library Web site content and develop new and innovative library Web services.

GOAL B: GREAT LIBRARY SPACES FOR LEARNING

Strategy 24: Collaborate with students in the design and creation of innovative library learning spaces.

Strategy 25: Enhance the student experience in all of our library spaces.

Strategy 26: Increase and improve library study space, creating an environment more conducive to student success.

GOAL C: THE LIBRARY AS A CENTRE OF INTELLECTUAL INQUIRY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Strategy 27: Increase the use of library spaces as venues for academic and cultural events.
THEME IV: BUILDING A RESPONSIVE AND INNOVATIVE LEARNING ORGANIZATION

GOAL A: A MOTIVATED LIBRARY STAFF EQUIPPED TO ENGAGE IN THE CHANGING WORLD

Strategy 28: Ensure a proactive approach to developing programs and practices to prepare staff for tomorrow's services.

Strategy 29: Create an open and informed organization.

GOAL B: EXTENDED CAPABILITIES THROUGH COLLABORATION

Strategy 30: Develop local collaborations on campus.

Strategy 31: Participate in off-campus collaborative initiatives.

GOAL C: A ROBUST, NimBLE TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESPONSIVE TO EMERGING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

Strategy 32: Establish a framework to allow for experimentation and innovation by library staff developing services and resources.

Strategy 33: Extend the capabilities of the Libraries to respond nimbly to emergent information technology trends.

Strategy 34: Ensure that staff have the necessary tools to be efficient and effective in their work.

GOAL D: AN INFORMED CAMPUS FULLY AWARE OF LIBRARY SERVICES, RESOURCES, AND ISSUES

Strategy 35: Develop a dynamic and coordinated communications plan.

GOAL E: SUCCESSFUL LIBRARY ADVOCACY AND FUNDRAISING

Strategy 36: Develop complementary plans for library advocacy and fundraising.

GOAL F: INFORMED DECISIONS THROUGH SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF LIBRARY SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Strategy 37: Use internal assessment outcomes (from both current and new measures) to improve services and inform the York community of library achievements and needs.

Strategy 38: Promote an increase in library representation in external assessment exercises.

Strategy 39: Ensure that assessment is a component in new library initiatives.

Strategy 40: Integrate any relevant Strategic Plan elements into annual departmental budgeting and planning; review and report yearly on progress toward the realization of the Strategic Plan.
Our Vision

York University Libraries is an innovative and diverse learning organization, one that is central to the York University community and one in which dynamic intellectual exchange is fostered and welcomed.

Steering Committee Members:
Cynthia Archer, Catherine Davidson (Co-Chair), Kalina Grewal, Nancy Hall, Anne McGaughey, Ilo Maimets, Michael Moir, Tom Scott, Lorraine Toth, Brent Roe (Co-Chair)

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