

York University Libraries 2021-2026 Strategic Plan

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(Visual publication forthcoming)

MISSION

York University Libraries (YUL) drives the University's mission to pursue, preserve, and disseminate knowledge. As a catalyst for knowledge creation, we foster a culture of critical inquiry. YUL cultivates an inclusive and diverse community and prepares students and researchers for success in a global environment.

VISION

YUL's vision is to provide our community of users with access to rich collections, unique expertise, and inspirational spaces so that they may engage their intellect, use their scholarly voice, and bolster their desire to make positive change wherever they may live/be.

VALUES

- We are reciprocal partners and collaborators in the advancement of York's mission.
- We are leaders in the democratization of knowledge.
- We inspire open-minded inquiry, experimentation, innovation, and creativity.
- We develop and deliver our programs and services with sustainability as a guiding principle.
- We integrate the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging into all our activities.
- We are dynamic, progressive, and engaged in our work.
- We treat each other and our community of users with kindness and respect.

GOALS

UAP Priority 1: 21st Century Learning: Diversifying Whom, What, and How we Teach

THEME: Inspired information and digital literacy programming to diversify whom, what, and how we teach

[Big Goal]

YUL is instrumental in advancing critical information literacy and digital fluencies at York University through inspired and strategic programming that empowers learners to become reflective, responsible readers and creators of academic and creative works in any media.

[Smaller Goals]

- Integrate information and digital literacy programs into existing programs and the new Markham curriculum.
- Foster inclusivity and diversity in YUL's teaching programs and related services through implementing intentional pedagogical approaches, integrating marginalized voices, strengthening accessibility programming and supports for persons with disabilities, and applying universal design principles.
- Reinvent and revitalize our digital and physical resources and learning spaces, including a thriving Digital Scholarship Centre, where learners and researchers have access to the expertise, tools, and technologies that support their work and facilitate independent and collaborative engagement remotely and on campus.

UAP Priority 2: Knowledge for the Future: From Creation to Application

THEME: Leading the way to accessible knowledge

[Big Goal]

YUL increases research impact and knowledge application, builds and curates rich and diverse collections, advocates open research practices, and supports our users in the creation and preservation of scholarly and creative works.

[Smaller Goals]

- Build, preserve, and curate rich and diverse collections in collaboration with partners to support research by students, faculty, and the public.
- Lead in the operationalization of the Senate Policy on Open Access across the institution.
- Foster and champion open scholarship by supporting inclusive and creative scholarly publishing to democratize and preserve knowledge.
- Partner with researchers fully in their research life cycle through the development of an institutional research data management strategy and responsive research data management services.
- Create and implement a plan for assessing and improving the sustainability of technical infrastructure including hardware, software, training, and documentation.

UAP Priority 3: From Access to Success: Next Generation Student Supports

THEME: Propelling next generation student supports with responsive and inclusive programming

[Big Goal]

YUL embraces a holistic and proactive approach to the design of its services and programs and is strongly committed to engage with and meet the needs of our students, of all backgrounds and circumstances, at every point in their academic studies.

[Smaller Goals]

- Strengthen YUL's services and academic programming through intentional inclusive design that draws in diverse student cohorts including Black, Indigenous, racialized, lower-income, and students who are the first in their family to attend university.
- Continue as university leaders in Open Education, including the promotion of open licences and, in partnership with York instructors, the creation, use, and implementation of open pedagogy and open educational resources.
- Adopt user experience and design thinking approaches to reinvent library programs and services that ensure flexible and responsive ways of meeting our diverse community's needs and demonstrate commitment to evidence-based assessment.

UAP Priority 4: Advancing Global Engagement

THEME: Fostering global fluencies with collections, spaces, and services

[Big Goal]

Enable York's diverse and globally engaged community of users to develop global fluencies through the Libraries' collections, spaces, teaching, and services.

[Smaller Goals]

- Ensure our collections, programs, spaces, teaching, services, and people reflect York's diversity and global engagement.
- Support York's global initiatives by connecting international and exchange students and scholars to the library's collections, services, and programs.

UAP Priority 5: Working in Partnership

THEME: Building unique partnerships for the greater good

[Big Goal]

Mobilize YUL's expertise and leadership to foster purposeful partnerships that benefit the institution, broaden outreach, and build community.

[Smaller Goals]

- Partner with the President's Sustainability Office to advance sustainable practices at YUL including planning and actualizing green library spaces.
- Enhance the profile of York University Libraries as a home for nurturing community-building and the UN (United Nations) sustainable development goals (SDG) initiative developments through our spaces and unique expertise.
- Establish reciprocal partnerships with faculty, community organizations, and local industry to develop experiential learning opportunities for students and provide them with access to current technologies and tools.
- Centre sustainability and excellence as core values in planning and delivering library services to faculties, schools, and departments.

UAP Priority 6: Living Well Together

THEME: YUL belong here

[Big Goal]

Embed Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity, and Belonging into YUL culture in order to foster the development and well-being of everyone at York University Libraries.

[Smaller Goals]

- Make significant strides in implementing the Library's EDIB strategy and operationalizing it.
- Develop supports for students and scholars in concert with the University's Indigenous and anti-Black racism strategy.
- Work with York's Division of Equity, People, and Culture to align YUL efforts with its core goal of nurturing connection, inclusion, and wellbeing.

UN Sustainable Development Goals and YUL

THEME: YUL rises to the university-wide challenge to contribute to UN sustainable development goals (SDGs)

[Big Goal]

Identify, prioritize, and collaborate with key partners to develop and engage with York's evolving SDG activities.

[Smaller Goals]

- Develop a framework for creating sustainable interdisciplinary partnerships that support SDG goals and initiatives.
- Collaborate with faculty to enhance the visibility and impact of research emerging from SDG initiatives.
- Drawing upon library expertise, identify and develop library-led curriculum integration opportunities that align with SDGs.