Mission

SMU Libraries’ multidisciplinary expertise, personalized services, and distinctive collections advance discovery, catalyze innovation, expand connections with campus and community partners, and directly impact the success of SMU’s academic, research, and creative aspirations.

Values & Commitments

We are the heart of the university.

We thrive at the center of SMU’s innovative ecosystem. We create a collaborative community through intentional activities, experimentation and innovation.

We are a team.

We are professionals who partner with the campus and research community to identify and address needs proactively and positively.

We find strength in unity.

We create and sustain a climate of inclusion individually, through our language and behavior, and institutionally, through our services, spaces, collections, and practices.

We preserve the past for the future.

We steward our cultural heritage to facilitate innovative scholarship for the campus and global research community.

We provide equitable and ethical access to information.

We support open access initiatives and curate trustworthy resources to ensure the spread of knowledge to all communities.

We are here for you.

We align the expertise of our diverse staff, services, and collections to the research and learning needs of our communities.
goal one

Cultural Heritage in Action

SMU Libraries embraces inventive strategies to align, integrate, and activate use of our distinctive cultural heritage collections in pursuit of the University’s research, teaching, and leadership mission.

1. Introduce new audiences to special collections and archival materials within the curriculum and through expanded internships, fellowships, visiting scholar programs, exhibitions, and creative initiatives that encourage appreciation of cultural heritage and lead to new scholarship from diverse perspectives.

2. Grow SMU Libraries digital preservation services and extend expertise to campus partners to assure sustainable access to SMU’s cultural heritage materials in digital form.

3. Document special collections development and stewardship practices across libraries to highlight collection strengths and recommend cooperative strategies to improve preservation, storage, culturally appropriate description, discoverability, and use of SMU Libraries’ distinctive collections.

4. Promote external partnerships with regional and global cultural heritage organizations and educational institutions, creating physical and virtual spaces for the public to engage and reflect on issues and ideas about the past, present, and future.
goal two
Research with Expertise

*SMU Libraries organizes and facilitates a seamless, interdisciplinary, and university-wide collaborative network to support the scholarly and creative research lifecycle to accelerate student and faculty success.*

1. Convene key partners to build a multidisciplinary campus research network that connects faculty and students to current and emerging scholarly and research lifecycle tools, methods, training, and services.

2. Contract with expert space and program planners to develop strategies and service offerings for a vibrant and technologically rich full-service research lifecycle support center located in Fondren Library.

3. Monitor the changing scholarly communication landscape and respond with pathways to advance open access principles and practices through campus policies, educational events, and shared repository initiatives.

4. Leverage discipline-based faculty and multidisciplinary stakeholder relationships to test innovative methodologies and tools for integrating library and information practices into face-to-face and online teaching environments.

5. Enhance SMU Libraries’ resource sharing model in order to provide faculty and students with needed primary, secondary, and data resources as efficiently as possible.
SMU Libraries maximizes student academic success through strategic partnerships, impactful services, and promotion of information and data literacy fluency in teaching, learning, research, and creative pursuits.

1. Align library expertise and collection resources at critical junctures in the student experience to increase effectiveness of the academic support ecosystem in student retention and success.

2. Implement a comprehensive plan to integrate information and data literacy into undergraduate and graduate learning and research.

3. Unify library and campus partner efforts to teach students to proficiently and ethically communicate their work, in writing, speaking, and other creative outlets.

4. Develop library-wide efforts to enrich the student learning experience in co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

5. Design methods to extend library services, instruction, and access to resources for distance, online, and non-traditional students based on their unique experiences and needs.

6. Encourage continuous learning across the lifespan by creating community opportunities for serendipitous exploration of ideas through browsing, events, exhibitions, and classes.

7. Launch a Dean’s Student Advisory Council for SMU Libraries to inform decisions, policies, and activities that directly affect the student’s campus experience and relationship to the library.
goal four

Inclusive Community & Social Wellbeing

*SMU Libraries cultivates inclusive, equitable, and accessible spaces, services, programs, and resources so that our libraries exemplify the SMU welcoming and supportive community.*

1. Implement a plan for advancing diversity, equity, and inclusiveness in staffing, programs, services, and resources.

2. Create welcoming environments that are reflective of campus diversity, SMU’s research and creative aspirations, and are tailored to responsively match user needs and expectations.

3. Apply universal design concepts to create accessible and inviting spaces and services.

4. Design an intellectually stimulating campus environment and enhance the social and psychological well-being of students through programming and partnerships that build community and expand discourse.

5. Manage with care, concern, and empathy, the wellbeing of students by partnering to build thoughtful support services.
goal five

Discovery & Virtual Presence

*SMU Libraries provides an intuitive virtual library experience that empowers all users to easily discover library expertise, services, and collection resources.*

1. Develop a cohesive virtual library based on sound information architecture principles and thoughtful integrations across library tools, services, and content pathways for a seamless, easily navigated, and proactive user experience.

2. Employ cross library system architecture practices to maximize efficacy of search results leading to fast and accurate access to knowledge and data through the library search and discovery platform.

3. Apply universal design concepts to site interface and meet or exceed the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) to create and maintain equitable access to SMU Libraries virtual presence.

4. Charge and empower a virtual library management team to develop and maintain content and design standards, scaffold decision-making, conduct user experience testing, evaluate analytics for continuous improvement, ensure accessibility standards are maintained or improved, test and implement new and emerging site functions, and provide training to internal content managers.
goal six
Organization Coherence & Professional Excellence

SMU Libraries is transforming our organization to align with and support the research, creative, and impactful aspirations of our SMU community, Dallas, and curious minds worldwide.

1. Articulate, affirm, and promote a commitment to the well-being of library staff and to a shared sense of mission and purpose for SMU Libraries.

2. Update professional development access and funding practices and clarify pathways to promotion for all library employees.

3. Revise libraries-wide assessment and data collection activities so that data is consistent, patron-focused, and provides evidence to support informed decision making and funding requests.

4. Engage library staff and our community to prioritize, allocate resources, and plan impactful strategies to achieve our mission and objectives.

5. Restructure SMU Libraries organizational decision-making framework, committee structure, and knowledge management system so that user-centered design of resources and services is the overarching priority.

6. Develop a comprehensive fundraising plan with a menu of compelling opportunities, target financial goals, and roadmaps for accomplishment.

7. Create and define a strong and recognizable SMU Libraries brand aligned with SMU’s brand promise and develop a marketing plan and strategies to support ongoing and new goals and objectives.