As the premier research library in the commonwealth and the university’s intellectual hub, UK Libraries fosters intellectual inquiry and social engagement, engages with the research and creative communities, and advances knowledge and discovery.
FROM THE DEAN

This plan builds on a commitment that UK Libraries faculty and staff will be a strategic partner in promoting student success, supporting a robust research environment, preserving and making accessible collections, and improving the lives of Kentuckians. We will achieve these goals while promoting a diverse and inclusive environment that promotes collegiality and values our faculty, staff, students and all we serve.

—Dr. Terry Birdwhistell
Dean of Libraries and William T. Young Endowed Chair

our values

■ COLLEGIALITY
  • We value cooperation and collaboration.
  • We commit to creating an environment that encourages collegiality.

■ CREATIVITY
  • We value innovative ideas and flexible solutions.
  • We commit to providing resources for life-long learning.

■ INTEGRITY
  • We value open and honest communication.
  • We commit to the highest standards of personal and professional integrity.
  • We value the trust placed in us by our colleagues and users.

■ SERVICE
  • We value those we serve.
  • We commit to quality services that meet or exceed our users’ expectations.
  • We serve UK Libraries’ employees as well as our users.

■ RESPECT
  • We value the importance of every individual.
  • We commit to an open, accepting, and diverse environment.
  • We treat users and employees with kindness, consideration, and compassion.
our goals

1. Create a Vibrant Environment that Advances Student Success
   - UK Libraries will foster an atmosphere of intellectual inquiry and social engagement to integrate students into the academic and cultural life of the university.
   - UK Libraries will provide students with information resources and librarian expertise that continuously strengthen and develop academic research skills and lifelong learning.
   - UK Libraries will enhance and promote its physical and virtual spaces as vibrant intellectual hubs of campus.

2. Engage in the Research and Creative Environment
   - UK Libraries will develop and reinforce programs and services that anticipate and engage creative endeavors and all phases of this research cycle.
   - UK Libraries will actively communicate its commitment and capability to enhance the success of creative endeavors and all phases of the research cycle.
   - UK Libraries will strengthen its technical infrastructure and the curation of its digital collections to ensure long-term access and use.

3. Achieve Organizational Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Sustainability
   - UK Libraries will enhance its financial, technological, and personnel infrastructure.
   - UK Libraries will develop and manage its collections within the context of an evolving academic environment.

4. Make a Positive Impact on the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Community
   - UK Libraries will develop strategic partnerships to inform, educate, and improve the health and well-being of the citizens of the commonwealth.
   - UK Libraries will strengthen access to unique UK Libraries’ resources in general and specifically to research on and about the commonwealth.
There is no vaccination against ignorance, but there is us. There is this university. And we still have heavy doors to open, unmet obligations to the land and its people. There are still leadership opportunities to advance the Commonwealth, this nation, and our world towards fulfilling its potential, towards meeting its lofty promises...

Let men and women come here as seeds, let us invest in them until they form sufficient roots and leaves to obtain their own food. Let them grow from here not just trees, but a fruit-bearing, deeply-rooted forest.

— F R A N K X W A L K E R
English Professor and past Kentucky Poet Laureate
“Seedtime in the Commonwealth”
written for UK’s 150th Anniversary