

# Contributing to Academic Excellence for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

LANGARA COLLEGE LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2020



**Langara.**

THE COLLEGE OF HIGHER LEARNING.



# Introduction

In September 2012, the Langara College Library initiated a process involving students, faculty, administration and Library employees to define the future of the Library and its role at the College. We collaboratively crafted our vision of a progressive academic library, fully integrated with the teaching, learning, and research at the College and a vital contributor to the success of students and faculty.



The implementation of this strategic plan will transform the Library from a separate support service to an integral part of the College – its academic, social, and community life.

The plan addresses five main themes:

1. Shared expertise with faculty and students as academic partners;
2. Dynamic curation and access to rich content;
3. Interactive and innovative learning environments;
4. Meaningful relationships with all our communities;
5. Continued development of the people who make up our Library.



## VISION

Langara Library is at the heart of a vibrant, engaging and exciting educational experience, and an essential contributor to academic excellence – a progressive academic library, fully integrated with the teaching, learning and research at Langara College.

We collaborate with faculty to integrate information content and competencies into courses and coach students to effectively navigate an information-intense environment. We provide seamless and ubiquitous access to relevant information resources in all formats online and in-person. Our collection is enhanced by our innovative virtual and physical spaces, and through partnerships with other libraries and organizations.

The Library is committed to customer service, continuous learning, effective communication and collaboration. Strong leadership within the Library and with the College complements highly skilled and motivated employees working as teams. We anticipate change, ensuring the continued relevance of our services and contribution to the Langara community.

## MISSION

To be a vital partner in academic excellence and student success – a hub for the intellectual, cultural, and social life of the Langara community.

“The Library is a key piece for acquiring knowledge and critical to supporting Langara’s environment”.

“It’s the heart and lungs of the college.”

“The Library ... is an essential part of the campus, a centerpiece and key focal area for faculty and students to connect.”

*Langara Executive & Faculty*

## LEARNING & LIFE COMPETENCIES: SHARING UNIQUE EXPERTISE

We help Langara students master the life skills and competencies necessary to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by strengthening the role of the Library as an academic partner with faculty, students, and employees.

### To accomplish this we will:

#### **Collaborate with faculty to integrate information content and competencies in courses.**

- Strengthen and formalize the Library's relationship with academic departments.
- Build upon our excellent Library instruction program in order to further integrate information competencies into the curriculum.
- Integrate the Library into teaching and curriculum development and scholarly and applied research at Langara.

#### **Coach students to effectively navigate an information-intense environment.**

- Target student needs with respect to their information, technology, and digital fluencies.
- Explore and pursue student development in the Library through employment opportunities that will enrich their information fluency.





## **CONTENT & RESOURCES: CURATED, SEAMLESS, DYNAMIC**

The Library expands its role as the College's primary agent for acquiring and curating content in a cost effective and efficient manner, taking advantage of external sources, consortia and shared services.

### **To accomplish this we will:**

#### **Expand the integration of Library content into the curriculum.**

- Strengthen and formalize the Library's role as strategic resource and advisor for digital and course content.
- Develop and implement copyright policies, services and educational opportunities to maximize legally permitted use .
- Enable students and faculty to discover the best content for their information needs.

#### **Ensure that students and faculty can seamlessly access the content they require.**

- Integrate library services platforms with the College infrastructure.
- Work with IT, vendors, and the library community to provide homogeneous, direct access to shared metadata and content stores.
- Curate and share complex collections and promote open resources, both within Langara and the broader community.

#### **Contribute our expertise internally by helping curate the College's proprietary content, including publications, course material, and research.**

- Establish and implement a procedure for the curation and management of the College's research output and learning objects.

## INTERACTIVE SPACES: INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR LEARNERS

With students and faculty our primary consideration, we continue to improve our physical and virtual spaces. The Library is the heart of the vibrant, engaging, and exciting educational experience at Langara.

### To accomplish this we will:

**Encourage interaction and exchange among students and with faculty offering accessible, welcoming physical and virtual environments.**

- Enhance student experiences with technology by partnering with IT and establishing their presence in the Library.
- Conduct a space needs analysis within the College's overall space planning, with careful consideration of the Library's evolving services.
- Support an intuitive learning environment with dynamic virtual spaces that integrate services, content, and interaction.
- Integrate our website, social media, and other electronic venues for easy access to relevant content and services.
- Develop innovative physical and virtual spaces contributing to the Learning Commons.







## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Our success depends on an active, close, collaborative working relationship and ongoing communication with all our communities of interest – the College, other post-secondary institutions, our profession, and Vancouver residents.

### To accomplish this we will:

**Explore creative and innovative approaches to improve our services, advance the profession, and engage our users.**

- Actively participate on College committees.
- Work collaboratively with non-instructional areas such as IT, Student Services, and Educational Technology.
- Initiate strong partnerships within the Learning Commons to provide a dynamic and supportive environment where students can work peer to peer and with faculty to create and discover knowledge outside the classroom.
- Work purposefully and progressively with vendors to improve our processes and develop services or products.

**Encourage active participation in professional organizations and service to our communities.**

- Develop a recognizable identity that integrates the College brand.
- Promote engagement with external professional organizations and associations.

**Support the College's effort in engaging our external community.**

- Collaborate with the College in bringing community events to Langara.
- Participate in Langara-sponsored community activities.



## THE TEAM: ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

We are committed to customer service, continuous learning, effective communication, collaboration, and ongoing service evaluation. Strong leadership complements highly skilled and motivated employees working as teams.

### To accomplish this we will:

#### Demonstrate collegial leadership and team effectiveness.

- Recommend the Library's optimal reporting position within the College in view of the organization's strategies.
- Initiate opportunities for sharing information among Library employees.

#### Anticipate and respond to change, ensuring the continued relevance of our services and contribution to the Langara community.

- Review our service portfolio and staffing model to reflect the Library's and the College's strategic directions, identifying services to be significantly changed or divested.
- Develop and implement a professional development plan for employees and a strategy for transitioning the Library to highly collaborative cross-functional teams.
- Develop and convey metrics of meaningful value to College administration.





"You cannot have a functioning economy if you do not have innovation. You cannot have a functioning democracy if you cannot have the citizenry able to inform itself. We should emphasize that libraries are not frills. They are not luxuries, but a sacred component of education and democracy."

*Anthony Marx, President, New York Public Library and Dr. David Nasaw, City University of New York (Dias 2012)*

### PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

The planning was based on these key assumptions identified by the Library Strategic Visioning Steering Committee :

- The Library is key to the academic integrity of the organization and integrated with the academic core.
- Langara is in a flat period, with growth expected in two areas: International students and continuing education.
- Students will increasingly be drawn to Langara from farther away.
- Langara is planning on developing more 4-year degree programs to retain students and deepen their engagement both as students and as future alumni.
- Langara will continue to expand its online delivery offerings.
- Langara will continue to grow its partnerships with universities.
- Langara will strengthen its infrastructure to facilitate more scholarly activity; applied research is a new mandate for the College.
- Pending the completion of the strategic planning, which will identify the Library's future directions, the Library Director position will be filled.

# Thank You

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Patricia Cia (Chair), Roy Daykin, Ian Humphreys, Clayton Munro, Brad O'Hara, and Pierre-André Santin

## LIBRARY PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS

Patricia Cia (Chair), Alison Curtis, Briana Fraser, Annie Jensen, Gary Kalmek

## THE STEERING COMMITTEE AND PLANNING TEAM THANK:

Rebecca Jones, Dysart & Jones Associates

The employees of Langara Library

All respondents to focus groups and interviews

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