

Health Sciences Library System University of Pittsburgh

Long Range Plan – Executive Summary

2005/06 – 2009/10

Mission and Overview

The Health Sciences Library System (HSLs) supports the educational, research, clinical, and service activities of the health sciences community of the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) through development and provision of innovative information resources and services.

HSLs includes Falk Library of the Health Sciences, Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC) Library, the James Frazer Hillman Health Sciences Library and the Hopwood Library: A Health Resource Center for Patients and Families at UPMC Shadyside, and the Blaxter Medical Library, the Family Resource Center, and the Moulis Children's Library at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. HSL Online resources offer onsite and remote access to indexes to the literature, full text databases, 3,800 full-text journals and 5,000-plus electronic textbooks. HSLs maintains an active Web site (www.hsls.pitt.edu) with information about library services, resources and activities, and also publishes a bimonthly newsletter, HSLs Update. The Computer and Media Center (CMC) in Falk Library is the primary health sciences service point providing computer and audiovisual resources, with satellite computing facilities at each of the hospital libraries.

Environment and Assessment

Significant trends in HSLs development during the past 10 years include:

- Transformation from a "print-dominant" collection to one that is primarily electronic.
- Initiation of service contracts with all UPMC hospitals throughout Western Pennsylvania and in Italy for onsite and remote access to a comprehensive suite of electronic resources to support clinical practice.
- Leadership in development and application of information technology in areas including instructional and curricular materials, interlibrary loan and document delivery, and acquisition and management of library resources.
- Implementation of the HSLs Web site as a technologically sophisticated electronic "front door" to print and electronic resources and library services.
- Development of internal organizational structures to integrate staff, collections and services into efficient system management of four distinct library sites.
- Evolution of reference librarians from database searchers to teachers and consultants.
- Introduction of a specialized Information Service in Molecular Biology and Genetics
- Addition of services and collections to support consumers, patients and families

- Partnerships with the Allegheny County Health Department, the Center for Public Health Practice, and the Center for Biosecurity to provide services and collections
- Enhanced bibliographic control and security for rare books in the History of Medicine collection.
- Establishment of a training program in health sciences librarianship and biomedical informatics in collaboration with the Center for Biomedical Informatics.
- Growing expertise in conducting research, publishing in scholarly journals, and attracting outside funding through grants and contracts.

Environmental Assessment

Strengths:

- Strong institutional support based on earned respect for HSLs' comprehensive collection, strong service orientation, and cost-effective management of institutional resources
- Institutional appreciation for the value of knowledge-based information
- Leadership in the transition to the digital library
- Staff expertise
- Strong technological infrastructure
- Diversified funding sources
- Active training and information literacy program for library users
- Specialized information service to support molecular biology and genetics research
- Training program for new librarians supported by National Library of Medicine
- High rankings in most areas of comparison with other academic health sciences libraries

Challenges:

- Large, diverse and geographically dispersed user population
- Complex information environment, as publishers experiment with new business models such as comprehensive licensing of journal packages and tiered pricing based on institution size.
- Shifts in scholarly publishing paradigm as the demand for open access to scholarly content leads to untried funding models based on authors' fees rather than readers' subscriptions.
- "Google-ization" of information seeking masks the complexity of the information universe and heightens the need for users to be information literate. Information on the Internet is fragmented, scattered and unfiltered.
- Difficulty in maintaining the library's identity as the primary provider of knowledge-based information resources, as HSLs resources are seamlessly integrated into other enterprise applications
- Need for staff to develop skills and expertise in new areas
- Physical facilities, especially in Falk Library, in need of urgent renovation.

Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives below reflect broad areas stated explicitly or implicitly in HSLs' mission statement. Specific annual targets relevant to the goals and objectives will be discussed in detail in HSLs Annual Reports and Annual Plans over the next five years.

GOAL 1: Acquire knowledge-based information resources in appropriate formats to meet the needs of the health sciences community. This will be accomplished by applying the best practices in collection development and maintenance, as well as ongoing needs assessment.

GOAL 2: Provide effective access to local and remote information to meet the needs of a diverse user community. This will be accomplished by developing a strong local infrastructure to ensure that print and electronic resources are available and reliable, by working to integrate knowledge-based library materials into related environments such as the electronic medical record and curricular materials, and by investigating new paradigms for organization of information as users' information seeking behavior evolves.

GOAL 3: Develop effective strategies to enhance information literacy and use of information resources. This will be accomplished by providing diverse formal and informal training opportunities to users, by developing targeted approaches for specific user populations and disciplines, by supporting the curricula of the schools of the health sciences, and by providing expert reference services for onsite and remote users.

GOAL 4: Promote awareness of library services, resources and expertise to a large, diverse, and geographically dispersed user population. This will be accomplished by developing innovative methods to publicize library services, and by promoting the HSLs identity and logo to enhance user recognition of HSLs.

GOAL 5: Nurture and extend partnerships and collaboration with internal and external departments, schools, programs, and organizations. This will be accomplished through liaison programs with the schools of the health sciences and other programs, service agreements with UPMC hospitals and facilities, cooperation with other University and UPMC entities, in addition to partnerships with local, regional and national organizations and associations. HSLs will seek to identify new funding sources from grants, contracts and gifts.

GOAL 6: Cultivate an environment of learning for librarians and staff that encourages ongoing assessment and evaluation, application of best practices, creativity, innovation, and growth. Capitalize on new opportunities and challenges as they arise. This will be accomplished through ongoing evaluation of library programs and resources, adoption of evidence-based practices, recruitment and retention of well-qualified staff and librarians, and continuing professional and staff development.

GOAL 7: Redefine space to best accommodate the delivery and storage of information resources and services. This will be accomplished through renovation of Falk Library,

and the other HSLs libraries as funds are available, and implementation of high-density compact storage at the University's Thomas Boulevard facility.

For additional information, contact
Director's Office
Falk Library of the Health Sciences
200 Scaife Hall, 3550 Terrace Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15261
Telephone: 412-648-2036