

# Health Sciences Library System University of Pittsburgh

## Long Range Plan

FY 2011-12 – FY 2016-17

### **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 through development and provision of innovative information resources and services.

HSLs online resources offer onsite and remote access to indexes to the literature, full text databases and clinical information resources, and several thousand electronic journals and books. HSLs maintains an active Web site ([www.hsls.pitt.edu](http://www.hsls.pitt.edu)) with information about library services, resources and activities, and also publishes a bimonthly online newsletter, *HSLs Update*. The Computer and Media Center (CMC) in Falk Library is the primary health sciences service point providing computer and audiovisual resources.

### **Trends**

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

- Transformation from a “print-dominant” collection to one that is primarily electronic.
- Leadership in development and application of information technology in areas including instructional and curricular materials, document delivery, and acquisition and management of library resources.
- Continual development of the HSLs Web site as a technologically sophisticated electronic “front door” to print and electronic resources and library services.
- Ongoing development of internal organizational structures to integrate staff, collections and services into efficient management practices.
- Specialized information services in areas such as molecular biology, public health, curriculum integration, systematic reviews & meta-analysis and evidence based practice.
- Enhanced bibliographic control and security for rare books in the History of Medicine collection.
- Establishment of training programs which include an online Certificate of Advanced Studies in health sciences librarianship in partnership with the School of Information Science and a training workshop for practicing health sciences librarians in support of systematic review projects.
- Growing expertise of faculty librarians in conducting research, publishing in scholarly journals, and attracting outside funding through grants and contracts.
- Expanded responsibility for regional outreach through a contract award from the National Library of Medicine to serve as the Regional Medical Library (RML) for

the Middle Atlantic Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM-MAR). NN/LM-MAR encompasses the states of Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

## **Environmental Assessment**

### Strengths:

- Institutional support based on earned respect for HSLs' comprehensive collection and cost-effective management of institutional resources.
- Institutional appreciation for the value of knowledge-based information
- Leadership in the transition to the digital library
- Flexible and responsive staff with recognized expertise in a variety of specialized areas.
- Robust technological infrastructure
- Diversified funding sources
- Active training and information literacy program for library users
- Specialized information services to support, education of health sciences students, molecular biology and translational research and community outreach.
- A new model program of licensing and providing access to research tools to the scientific community.
- Growing expertise in online instruction and curriculum development.
- 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 packages and tiered pricing.
- Shifts in scholarly publishing paradigm as the demand for open access to scholarly content leads to new funding models.
- The increasing amount of accessible information on the Internet masks the complexity of the information universe and heightens the need for users to be information literate.
- 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.
- The demand for ubiquitous access anytime and anyplace is increasing.
- Ongoing need for staff to update existing skills and develop expertise in new areas.
- Physical facilities in Falk Library in need of renovation to accommodate new models of use.
- Continued economic challenges in healthcare and education.

## **Goals and Objectives**

The goals and objectives below reflect broad areas encompassed 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.

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 infrastructure to ensure that print and electronic resources are available and reliable, by working to integrate knowledge-based library information into environments such as the health sciences school curricula, by investigating new paradigms for organization of information as users' information seeking behavior evolves, and by identifying, preserving and providing access to unique materials through digitization, archiving and other methods.

GOAL 3: Develop effective strategies to enhance information literacy and use of information resources. This will be accomplished by providing diverse formal and informal face-to-face and online 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 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, and cooperation with other University entities. In addition, serving as the RML in the NN/LM-MAR will expand our affiliations with local, regional and national organizations and associations. HSLs will also 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, use 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 renovations as funds are available. Ongoing evaluation of the library's print collection, technology needs and space utilization by students, faculty and staff will inform renovations.