Mission and Vision Statements

The Creighton Libraries have Mission and Vision statements posted on their respective websites:

- Reinert-Alumni Library (RAL) - http://www.creighton.edu/reinert/aboutus/mission/
- Health Sciences Library (HSL) - http://www.creighton.edu/health/library/aboutus/

What is Library Assessment?

Library assessment is a structured, ongoing process used to better understand and serve our communities by responding to their needs through beneficial resources, services, and spaces. Examples of assessment tools include surveys, listening tours, focus groups, statistical data, and reports that are then analyzed and interpreted for both library staff and the university community.

Why is Library Assessment Important?

Ongoing assessment helps all library staff take action, monitor and improve our services, and identify changing patterns in users’ needs and their use of information. Assessment also assists with marketing and promoting library collections, staff expertise, and library facilities.

Goals of Library Assessment

- To understand and respond to the teaching and learning needs of our users.
- To maintain and improve our resources, services, and facilities.
- To assist and encourage staff to measure and improve resources, services, and facilities.
- To assist and encourage staff in using data, not assumptions, to make decisions.
- To identify library services that relate to our goals and strategic plan.

Library Assessment Committee

The Library Assessment Committee consists of two staff from HSL and two from RAL, under the direction of the University Librarian and in partnership with the Law Library Director. The Committee’s broad charge is to facilitate continual library improvement and to illustrate the value of the library to the university community.

The Committee will contribute to promoting a culture of assessment that is user-focused by coordinating various assessment activities in the Libraries, such as:

- Determining areas of library services, programs, and collections in need of assessment.
- Publishing and promoting library assessment results to the university community.
- Educating staff on the benefits and techniques of library assessment.
- Collaborating with the Office of Academic Excellence and Assessment to share in the culture of assessment at the university level.
Assessment Goals and Priorities

Based on the mission and vision of the Creighton University Libraries and their role in supporting the liberal arts and health sciences curriculum, the Assessment Committee recognizes three overlapping focus areas:

- Student learning outcomes and literacies
- Library program evaluation, i.e. resources, services, and facilities
- Library value and impact

HLC Requirements for Library Assessment

Creighton University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The University was most recently re-accredited in 2006-2007. The Creighton Office of Academic Excellence and Assessment encourages co-curricular units such as the library to provide an annual assessment plan that identifies, measures, and reports progress on learning outcomes/objectives. The University uses the TaskStream accountability management system for this purpose. Outcomes are mapped to the university goals and can be mapped to professional standards, including those of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL).

Communication

The Library Assessment Committee will keep the library staff and the university community informed of assessment activities and plans through the following channels:

- Library assessment web page (LibGuide)
- Library annual report(s) and other news publications
- Library meetings called by the University Librarian

The Committee will maintain assessment information on the library assessment webpage. Our goal is to share statistics, survey results, reports, and studies with the Creighton Libraries, the university community, and with other libraries. Committee members have primary responsibility for updating and adding new material to the page, as contributed by library staff. The page is available at: http://culibraries.creighton.edu/assessment. The Committee uses SharePoint to store and access raw data and preliminary documents for internal library use.

Strategic Goals and Priorities

Strategic planning is the management function that involves establishing goals and deciding how best to achieve them. It involves setting priorities, allocating resources, and ensuring agreement among staff and stakeholders. Assessment is often part of, or even predicated on, the strategic planning process.

Library strategic planning efforts are beginning, in tandem with the University’s strategic plan: https://www.creighton.edu/strategic-plan. In the interim the Library Assessment Committee will strive to prioritize and assess library goals as identified, and take further direction from the University Librarian.