

2024-2029 Strategic Plan

WIU Libraries and General Studies

Introduction

The strategic plan for WIU Libraries and General Studies embodies Western Illinois University's core values of Academic Excellence, Educational Opportunity, Personal Growth, and Social Responsibility. This document outlines our mission, vision, and strategic goals, guiding us toward promoting academic excellence and creating a dynamic and inclusive learning environment.

Mission

The mission of WIU Libraries and General Studies is to uphold Western Illinois University's core values by providing services, diverse collections, educational programs and opportunities that meet the needs of students, faculty, staff, and the broader community, fostering lifelong learning, innovation, social awareness and responsibility at local and global levels.

Vision

Emerging as a thriving academic hub, WIU Libraries and General Studies empowers students, researchers, and scholars to navigate information, foster critical thinking, and cultivate lifelong intellectual curiosity. As the intellectual core of the university, we inspire a vibrant community dedicated to research, scholarship, and social responsibility.

Components

**University
Libraries**



**Bachelor of Arts
in General Studies**

Strategic Goals

WIU Libraries and General Studies

Goal 1: Academic Excellence

Facilitate academic excellence by enhancing and developing educational programs, and by strengthening resources and services to support innovative research, teaching, knowledge creation, dissemination, and student retention and success.



01

Expand existing educational programs and develop new ones at undergraduate, graduate, micro-credential, and certificate levels through collaborations with internal and external units, colleges, and/or institutions.

02

Contribute to faculty and student learning development by hosting and assessing initiatives on research, digital scholarship, teaching, and other educational areas aligned with the institution's professional and academic needs, fostering innovation and scholarly growth.

03

Examine student library usage and its impact on student retention and success through at least one research initiative per year.

Goal 2: Physical and Virtual Space

Provide comfortable and productive physical, digital, and virtual spaces for students, faculty, and the community to research, learn, teach, and collaborate.



01

Secure at least one internal and/or external grant to augment and/or transform our existing spaces.

02

Collaborate with WIU programs, departments, or initiatives that create unique and scholarly digital materials to preserve, provide access, and make visible through the institutional repository.

03

Offer expanded digitization services and education to regional organizations and individuals to develop and preserve unique content.

Goal 3: Diversity and Inclusion

Cultivate an inclusive, welcoming environment that celebrates multiculturalism and supports diversity by fostering a sense of belonging through innovative services, collections, staffing, and policies.



01

Examine, assess, and enrich collections by incorporating historically underrepresented perspectives of local and global communities, in alignment with the university's teaching and research priorities.

02

Collaborate with departments, student associations, and community organizations to curate exhibitions that showcase diverse cultures, histories, narratives, and perspectives.

03

Support digital scholarship projects that explore issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion by facilitating interdisciplinary research collaborations and providing guidance on best practices with digital tools.

04

Implement diversity training programs for library staff to increase cultural competency and sensitivity.

Goal 4: Partnerships and Outreach

Strengthen and expand partnerships in Western Illinois and beyond by offering a collaborative environment that inspires creative interactions in research and scholarly projects.



01

Expand our role as western Illinois's premier regional heritage archive by designing and delivering at least one annual initiative for local and regional organizations (e.g. public libraries, historical, and genealogical societies) focused on preserving and/or interpreting local and regional history.

02

Seek significant grants designed to provide a pathway for underrepresented students to complete the Bachelor of Arts in General Studies.

03

Solidify WIU as the intellectual and cultural hub for the Western Illinois region and foster opportunities for collaboration to help facilitate innovative teaching and research, as well as improve community wellbeing.