



# **The University of Tasmania Library Future Vision to 2025**

*‘Great universities have great libraries’*

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Rathjen

Address to the Council of Australian University Librarians, September 2014

## The development of the Library Future Vision

Research libraries are key university assets, draw extensively on university resources, are major users of space and often define the institution itself by being the signature building on campus.

It is time to be bold in responding to changes in the university and wider higher education environment. Global trends and technological advances, as outlined in the *NMC Horizon Report 2015 Library Edition*<sup>1</sup>, further accelerate changes in the increasingly complex and dynamic scholarly information environments in which research and academic libraries operate. These changes demand a new vision of library spaces, collections and the professional expertise required to contribute value to the learning-teaching-research nexus.

The current *Library Strategic Plan 2013-2015*<sup>2</sup> does not in itself constitute a long-term future vision for the Library. A Library Master Plan Steering Committee was convened in 2014 with the terms of reference to provide a forum to articulate what constitutes a contemporary academic library in the digital age, appropriate to a research-intensive University.

Wide-ranging consultations across the University community have contributed to a Library Future Vision which addresses questions such as:

- What kind of Library does the University need in the future?
- What services will it offer?
- How can the Library play a key role in the attainment of the University's strategic goals?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nmc.org/publication/nmc-horizon-report-2015-library-edition/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/about/vision-strategic-plan>

## University Library Spaces

**Vision: Library spaces are destinations, places in which to think, collaborate, learn, discover and create knowledge.**

University libraries have a physical, virtual and symbolic importance in an academic research institution. In response to the challenges and changes in higher education, the Library's spaces, both in physical buildings and online, are evolving to be places which offer innovative environments that inspire and excite creative quality learning experiences.

Aspirations	Actions and partners	What will success look like?	Timescale
<p>The Library is recognised as an immersive information environment of active learning spaces for staff and students.</p>	<p>Collaborate with Commercial Services &amp; Development (CSD) and Information Technology Services (ITS) in the design and planning of new types of learning spaces in the University, both physical and online.</p> <p>Redevelop Library locations to offer a range of different types of space, in consultation with the University community and CSD.</p>	<p>The Library is a student-centred work and learning space, distinguished by technological innovation and creative design.</p> <p>All Library locations offer exciting and dynamic research and learning spaces that facilitate members of the University community choosing to work alone or in groups.</p>	<p>In conjunction with redevelopment/ relocation of existing Library locations planned for the next decade.</p>
<p>The Library online is a focal point of access to resources and services equivalent in scope and quality to those available in the Library's physical spaces.</p>	<p>Empower the University community to independently use the Library online in an environment with rich functionality which delivers a quality experience.</p>	<p>The Library online is distinguished by ease of use, equity and ubiquity of access, quality of content and technological innovation.</p>	<p>2025</p>

	Collaborate with other areas of the University to ensure the Library online integrates seamlessly with other internal and external systems and utilises innovative technology and tools.		
The Library is a cultural hub for the community.	Collaborate with other areas of the University and organisations and groups in the wider community to engage with the Library, its collections and services.	Greater community awareness, interest and engagement with the Library including opportunities for the community to contribute to specific Library activities, for example as volunteers.	2016-2020

## University Collections

**Vision: The breadth and depth of the Library’s collections, and the services that underpin them, are crucial aspects of the University’s teaching, research and engagement with the wider community**

The traditional role of librarians to build, preserve and protect collections has been enhanced and transformed to prioritise online access to collections, global discovery of digitised content and objects, and expectations of instant access to information and services regardless of physical location or time of day.

Aspirations	Actions and partners	What will success look like?	Timescale
The Library delivers access to the world’s scholarly information.	Collaborate with other libraries and agencies to share information resources.  Utilise emerging	The University community has extensive access to a broad range of information from local and global sources that underpins learning, teaching and research.	2016-2025

	technologies and tools to empower the University community to determine how they discover and use information.	The University community has a range of options for discovering and engaging with information resources to enrich their learning, teaching and research.	
The information resources and digital collections which the Library provides access to and curates are valued as core institutional assets which contribute to the University's reputation and provide opportunities for key research advantage.	<p>Extend initiatives to make unique collections discoverable to a global audience and showcase Tasmania's cultural heritage and the University's research output.</p> <p>Collaborate with other Tasmanian cultural and heritage institutions to enhance the value and reputation of unique collections.</p>	<p>The Library is recognised as a key cultural collection in the University.</p> <p>The Library participates in joint activities with other Tasmanian cultural and heritage institutions to further the strategic objectives of both institutions.</p> <p>The Library's repository is highly ranked amongst institutional repositories, both globally and in Australia.</p>	2018-2020
As a research Library, information resources and data are collected, curated, linked and shared with a national and global community of academic libraries and researchers.	Collaborate with other areas of the University and other agencies to remove barriers and find new ways to increase the exposure and visibility of the Library's collections and the University's research excellence.	The University's collections, data and research excellence are globally visible and the University community participates in networks of collaborative relationships.	2020

## University Community

### Vision: Valuing and recognising the expertise of Library staff

Library staff bring professional skills and expertise to transform the way people discover and engage with information. Technological advances, changes in formal learning processes and complex information structures represent both challenges and opportunities for Library staff to significantly redefine their roles to fundamentally enhance the University's learning, teaching and research impact.

Aspirations	Actions and partners	What will success look like?	Timescale
The Library is an expert partner throughout the research cycle.	Forge close and collaborative relationships with the Division of Research to contribute Library expertise to the University's research agenda.	The Library has a leading role in the University's research data management services.	2016-2019
	Lead the University's responses to changes in scholarly publishing.	The Library is recognised as a source of expertise and advice on scholarly publishing and research impact.	2019-2025
	Seek and develop staff with the skills and expertise to meet the challenges and opportunities emerging in complex research environments.	The Library has a leading role in the University's open agenda.	2017-2025
		The Library leads initiatives which further promote the University's research reputation, for example a University ePress.	2020-2025
The Library is recognised as playing a key role in students and researchers experience and success.	Forge close and collaborative relationships with Student Learning to ensure students master digital literacies in changing learning environments.	Application of information and research skills are recognised as a key component of a student's learning and success.	2018-2025
		The Library's support for student learning is personalised, easily	2017

	<p>Collaborate with the PVC (Research Training) to ensure higher degree research candidates have the information and research skills necessary for success.</p>	<p>accessible and integrated with other student-centred services.</p> <p>Higher degree research candidates have developed the information skills necessary to undertake and communicate their research.</p>	<p>2025</p>
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