

Oberlin Group of Libraries

Strategic Plan Draft

September 2019

Vision

A vibrant, inclusive, trusted community of library leaders who advance the critical role of academic libraries in transformative liberal arts education.

Mission

The Oberlin Group provides a forum for member directors and staff to discuss issues of common concern, to share accomplishments and information on best practices in library operations and services, and to help members anticipate and adapt to the challenges of college library administration and liberal arts education.

(Source: "About the Oberlin Group" web page and Organizing Principles - Endorsed January 2011 by the Membership)

Shared Values

The Oberlin Group fosters an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect. Members value its collegial and egalitarian ethos, and rely on the informality and open communication within the group to create a supportive environment for sharing ideas and experiences and for developing our institutions and ourselves. Leadership of the group is a mutual responsibility, and all members are expected to contribute to the good of the order. Decision making through consensus building is the preferred mode of operation.

(Source: Organizing Principles - Endorsed January 2011 by the Membership)

Strategic Directions

1. Universal Access to Scholarship. Contribute to global efforts to make scholarship and data universally accessible.

(Examples of potential activities: Track and share developments and models, track and share current campus activities, identify investment opportunities, contribute to broader initiatives, develop a mechanism for measuring progress)

2. Strengthen Our Community (Network?). Generate structures to sustain and connect the Oberlin Group members.

(Examples of potential activities: Offer robust systems of communication, ensure the future of Oberlin Group, admission criteria and pace of growth, capture and share characteristics/data, expand further to all types of staff)

3. Innovation. Support exploration and expand capabilities (capacity?) of the group to develop new avenues for collaboration.

(Examples of potential activities: Shared specialized staff, collaborative collection development, project incubation)

4. Learning Community. Leverage our expertise by sharing best practices and promote learning among staff to explore innovation and learn from successes and failures.

(Examples of potential activities: Webinars, in-person and virtual workshops to advance our understanding of ongoing change in academic libraries and higher education)

5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Support member libraries engaging around the issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion to advance or set their goals and identify ways to work together to achieve these goals.

(Examples of potential activities: support recruiting and retaining a more diverse workforce, inclusive collections, services, outreach)