



## Wishart Library Strategic Directions 2019

The Arthur A. Wishart Library staff and resources are critical supports for delivering high quality education to Algoma University students and for ensuring student success. The mission of the Library Team is to serve as the access hub to learning resources, especially through providing learner-centered programs in research skills and information access. We envision the Wishart Library Strategic Directions to be a living document that will be reviewed regularly to take into account the university strategic priorities and the university [Academic Plan](#).

Through a number of meetings with library staff the following four Strategic Directions were identified:

- Direction 1: Enhance User Experience**
- Direction 2 : Promote Access, Accessibility, Diversity, and Equity**
- Direction 3: Community Engagement and Outreach**
- Direction 4: Staff Excellence**

The following table illustrates the strongest points of intersection between the Library and the University’s Five Corporate Priorities:

	Student Experience	Special Mission	Strategic Enrollment	Experiential Learning	Institutional Excellence
User Experience	+	+	+		+
Access	+	+	+		
Community Engagement and Outreach		+		+	
Staff Excellence	+			+	+

Under each strategic direction there are listed specific goals and action strategies to chart a course of action over the next 3-5 years .



## Direction 1: Enhance User Experience

We will enable an inviting and successful library experience for all users, including students, faculty, staff, and the community.

**GOAL 1.1:** Improve the Library's facilities to create healthy, configurable, and flexible learning spaces that encourage collaboration, research, and independent study.

- **Action Item 1.1.1** - Assess the library spaces in terms of accessibility, types of students and their possible or specific needs/wants
- **Action Item 1.1.2** - Develop a space plan to respond to the changing needs of our user community
- **Action Item 1.1.3** - Assess furniture currently in the library and plan for replacement with comfortable and functional furniture
- **Action Item 1.1.4** - Support balanced and healthy users (physical and mental health)

**GOAL 1.2:** Enhance services to support our satellite campuses and distance education students

- **Action Item 1.2.1** - Explore the possibility of Timmins students automatically receiving Algoma University student cards to allow access to inter-library loans through the Wishart Library
- **Action Item 1.2.2** - Budget for library staff to visit each satellite campus 2-3 times per year to provide instruction/orientation
- **Action Item 1.2.3** - Investigate how to automatically register students for the library upon registration at Algoma

**GOAL 1.3:** Engage in OCUL's Collaborative Futures/OMNI project to provide library users and staff with an up to date library services platform

**GOAL 1.4:** Offer extended open hours throughout the school year

- **Action Item 1.4.1** - Create a 24 hour study hall space in the library

**GOAL 1.5:** Ensure print and digital collections meet users' needs and support the teaching, learning, and research activities of Algoma University

- **Action Item 1.5.1** - Evaluate our physical and electronic resources to identify areas of improvement

**GOAL 1.6:** Advance the role of the archives in supporting and documenting research at Algoma University

- **Action Item 1.6.1** - Select and deploy a digital repository system for the preservation of campus research output

**GOAL 1.7:** Develop specialized programming in learning and research

- **Action Item 1.7.1** - Develop research support services and services to promote scholarly communication within and outside the University
- **Action 1.7.2** - Create experiential learning opportunities for library student employees



- **Action 1.7.3** - Support student success and achievement by fostering partnerships with campus learning support services
- **Action 1.7.4** - Continue to display student work and support student culminating assignments

## **Direction 2: Promote Access, Accessibility, Diversity, and Equity**

To provide equitable and inclusive access the library will work closely with Algoma's diverse user communities to understand their needs and aspirations, so that the library can respond appropriately with collections and services to meet those needs

**GOAL 2.1:** Ensure that library services are available to all users

- **Action Item 2.1.1** - Identify micro communities and user groups and their diverse needs
- **Action Item 2.1.2** - Implement specific programming/services to meet these needs

**GOAL 2.2:** Be compliant to AODA standards (physical and electronic)

- **Action Item 2.2.1** - Redesign Library and the Engracia De Jesus Matias Archives and Special Collections websites to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Level AA
- **Action Item 2.2.2** - Select and implement new archival software
- **Action Item 2.2.3** - Review AODA requirements to ensure that the library's physical spaces are accessible

**GOAL 2.3:** Review and revise current library policies to promote access

**GOAL 2.4:** Support and promote the adoption and creation of open access educational resources

- **Action Item 2.4.1** - Create a campus open access research policy, in consultation with the RAC, for adoption by Senate
- **Action Item 2.4.2** - Provide opportunities for faculty to learn more about open educational resources

**GOAL 2.5:** Create a completely welcoming and interdisciplinary space ensuring equity for all users

- **Action Item 2.5.1** - Continue extracurricular programming and outreach

**GOAL 2.6:** Investigate the feasibility of replacing Library of Congress and Canadian subject headings related to Indigenous peoples with subject headings using more current terminology

## **Direction 3: Community Engagement and Outreach**

Position the library as a valued partner on campus and in the community and heighten awareness of its accomplishments, services and activities.

**GOAL 3.1:** Share, learn, and grow through partnerships with our community partners within Algoma and Sault Ste. Marie

- **Action Item 3.1.1** - Foster partnerships within the community (Museum, Public Library, Sault College, Lake State, Hospital Library, Law Library, Contact North...)



- **Action 3.1.2** - Promote the resources we offer to high schools, recognizing we are their only scholarly resource

**GOAL 3.2:** Solidify ties and foster partnerships with Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig

**GOAL 3.3:** Strengthen shared programming with the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre

**GOAL 3.4:** Develop a communication plan to understand the library services and resources needs of students, faculty and staff and the public

- **Action Item 3.4.1** - Consult with user groups to gather feedback on ways to improve services

**GOAL 3.5:** Communicate the Library's contributions and value effectively to stakeholder groups to increase the profile of the Library

- **Action Item 3.5.1** - Create and distribute a library annual report
- **Action Item 3.5.2** - Create a social media campaign promoting library services
- **Action Item 3.5.3** - Create a virtual tour of library
- **Action Item 3.5.4** - Produce library orientation videos to create awareness of library services

**GOAL 3.6:** Pursue grant and funding opportunities available to the Library

- **Action Item 3.6.1** - Pursue donations from the community
- **Action Item 3.6.2** - Investigate and apply for grants available through the Ontario Library Association and the Ontario Council of University Libraries
- **Action Item 3.6.3** - Work with the Director of Strategic Advancement identify available funding opportunities

## **Direction 4: Library Team Excellence**

The library will provide an environment that encourages the pursuit of excellence to meet the rapidly evolving needs of our user communities.

**GOAL 4.1:** Support a culture of lifelong learning, skills development and customer service excellence for all library personnel.

- **Action Item 4.1.1** - Complete a review of competencies and skills required to be successful
- **Action Item 4.1.2** - Investigate professional development opportunities available through the university
- **Action Item 4.1.3** - Provide an increased number of professional development opportunities for library staff

**GOAL 4.2:** Develop a staffing/succession plan that takes into account the increased enrollment expected through Algoma's Strategic Enrollment Plan

**GOAL 4.3:** Ensure that the library's student workers have a positive and valuable work experience