

Swansea University Library Content Strategy

Swansea University Library Content Strategy is a framework that establishes our approach to the management and development of our physical collections of largely books and journals and increasingly its access to digital content. This document underpins the aims and objectives of the Library and the University as a whole as outlined by their respective strategic plans.

Challenges

- A changing world of scholarly communications with a shift towards Open Access.
- An increasingly complex publishing world where content can change publisher and/or platform, and involve complex contractual arrangements that reflect a hybrid of Open Access and traditional publishing models and markets.
- Changes in the University's research and teaching and learning priorities including the move towards blended and other models of learning.
- Pressures on study space emphasised by increase in student numbers and the proposed refurbishment of Singleton Library.
- Budget pressures as content costs increase alongside expectations.

In response to these challenges, the library will:

- Deliver and/or provide access to information content in a timely manner that meets user requirements.
- Manage physical collections to ensure best use of space and enhance the student experience of working within the University's campus library network.
- Be forward looking and aware of new and developing trends relating to content acquisition and usage.
- Develop new services and ways of working to maximise user satisfaction within the budget and spatial constraints.

Key strategic goals

- Implementation of a Library Content Development and Management Policy to guide future management of library content.
- The adoption of a digital first approach to content acquisition whereby the priority where possible will be to procure content digitally over print and move towards a situation of zero growth of physical collections.
- A commitment to reduce the footprint of the library's physical collections in particular at Singleton Library with an initial target reduction of 30% in preparation of the library's refurbishment.

- Carry out an analysis of physical collections to identify:
 - high demand and/or current material and make available via open shelves and
 - low demand yet relevant material for which off-site storage can be better utilised or the decision taken to maintain solely as digital content.
 - material that has a high retention value regardless of actual usage and put in place mechanisms to ensure their security. Examples of this includes special collections and titles where external availability is considered too limited.
- Assess risks associated with long-term access to digital library content with a view to joining archival schemes such as LOCKSS and Portico to ensure the long-term stability of access.
- Contribute and make better use of collaborations such as United Kingdom Reserve Research (UKRR), a collaborative distributed national research collection as an additional support of University's research needs.
- Review the operation of the library content budget and procurement workflows to ensure maximum return on funding and a service that is responsive to changing circumstances.
- Support the development of library services and student experience through the proactive management of space and physical collections.

Annette Linton
Head of Library Content & Scholarly Communications