

Haverford College Libraries Strategic Statements

Vision Statement

The Haverford College Libraries will support the educational mission of the College with an unrelenting commitment to excellence—for the institution, the students, the faculty, and the staff—through our collections, instruction, and services.

Mission Statement

The Haverford College Libraries act as a locus of intellectual activity supporting the teaching, research and learning needs of the Haverford community. Infused with [Haverford's Quaker heritage and values](#), we support the mission of the College to develop academic excellence and personal growth through a liberal arts education. More broadly the libraries foster curiosity, exploration, introspection, and scholarly engagement for each individual within the Haverford community.

Haverford in the Landscape of Modern Libraries

Academic libraries remain central to the core of the campus, both in its centrality as a space of knowledge and as a place of intellectual engagement. Views of libraries as buildings full of books alone, therefore, are increasingly outdated. Libraries are now dynamic, intellectually vital, mission-driven, and user-focused. Though Haverford began a shift towards a focus on teaching research skills and meeting users needs some time ago, we are intensifying our focus on our students and faculty by creating intellectually vital spaces and services for the campus.

The teaching role of librarians is central to our work and contributes to the core mission of the College in profound ways. In support of the faculty, librarians teach students research skills and strategies, including the very critical work of finding and interrogating texts in all formats. Librarians also facilitate rich, complex, dynamic, and dialectic engagement with these texts. We provide intensive, one-on-one support to students throughout their college career, culminating in their senior capstone projects. At all academic levels, librarians foster information literacy, critical reflection, knowledge production, understanding, and scholarship.

Successful libraries respond to the dynamic, changing needs of their users by delivering collections—digital and physical—in ways that facilitate learning and research. As such, the Haverford College Libraries, in collaboration with the faculty, will continue to build meaningful collections in all formats. Electronic resources, and the economic demands they place on our operating budget, will play increasingly significant roles in our selection and collection building. With the rise of e-resources, the role of print resources will also change, making books and other printed materials rare and important elements of the cultural record. We will select these rare materials with care as well. Our careful attention and response to the changing trends in scholarship, pedagogy, and publishing will help ensure the academic excellence that is the hallmark of Haverford College.

For millennia libraries have been early adaptors of emerging technologies—be it scrolls, manuscripts, books, or digital texts. Today's libraries remain well positioned within that technological landscape informing and supporting scholarly endeavors and inquiry. At

Haverford, the libraries leverage technologies, old and new, to support the generation of scholarship, new knowledge and the development of students' abilities to think critically. In this regard, we are building our capacity to support and participate in new modes of inquiry, including, digital scholarship.

Technology has provided us with intensive opportunity to gather, parse, and evaluate data and information. Librarians are uniquely qualified to help researchers navigate the digital information glut, analyze, critique information, data and texts, and move through the scholarly process of inquiry to generate new knowledge and cultural understanding. Further, librarians are skilled at working with digital assets that must be managed, described, preserved, curated, and made available to users in order to further the understanding and preservation of the cultural record.

Librarians are increasingly leading open access initiatives. Our role in advocating and providing the infrastructure for such an initiative at Haverford will result in more economically responsible choices that may allow us to move away from unsustainable business models of some e-publishers. More importantly our institutional repository will preserve and make available the critical scholarship of our faculty to a wider audience.

Developing a library as both place and space that reflects the changing needs of today's students, faculty and staff, and to the degree possible anticipates future needs, is an important priority. Quiet study spaces, collaborative spaces, social spaces—all infused with technological robustness—are integral to the generative experiences that are typical of the modern library. Additional space goals include better access to subject experts; technologically robust teaching and seminar rooms; a digital scholarship commons, a café, 24/7 spaces for student and community use, and meeting and event spaces for lectures and other programs within the library.

Radical improvements to library spaces are essential to the overall success of the College. We are embodied souls, and the spaces where we learn, think, study, and contemplate ideas matter a great deal. Further, a strong, beautiful library will protect the competitive strategic position of Haverford College. According to the Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers, students select schools based on the facilities that support their prospective major and after that, on the basis of the quality of the library. The Library, therefore, remains a critical factor in the decisions of students to matriculate. Further studies have shown the clear link between the quality of the library and the retention of underprepared students. Creating a collaborative, intellectually vibrant environment that encourages scholarly engagement of faculty, staff and students is central to the goals of the libraries.

Collaboration informs the activities of the libraries. Membership in the Tri-College Library Consortium yields both economies of scale and professional and intellectual partnerships that result in rich offerings for Haverford, Bryn Mawr, and Swarthmore and the wider network of libraries on local, regional and national scales. Continued collaboration there, and with other libraries and consortiums remain a strength. These long-standing relationships—PALCI, Oberlin Libraries Group, Lever Press, EAST, HATHI Trust, the DPLA, PACSCL, ALA and ACRL—also continue to yield worthwhile partnerships. The strength gained through these relationships will enable the Libraries to work with campus partners—departments and academic centers—to offer a rich and wide array of programs such as lectures, symposia, exhibits, and other events that support the broader academic mission of the College.

In all things, the College's Quaker heritage and values inform the Libraries' philosophy and activities. The Libraries—through our collaboration with faculty, the centers, and our Tri-college counterparts, and engagement with scholars throughout the world; through the expertise of our staff; through our collections; through our programming; and through our

improved space—will evolve in ways that will enable Haverford students to be viable thinkers in the world, both today and tomorrow.