MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

Our vision is to be a library with great heart that empowers great minds. The Library Strategic Direction 2021-2025 will be the foundation for partnering with our community to achieve success for everyone at Curtin University.

The appointment of the Foundation Principal Librarian, Geoffrey Allen, in 1967 as one of the first staff members of the Western Australian Institute of Technology (WAIT), followed by the opening of the TL Robertson Library in 1971 on the newly developed WAIT campus, set the foundation for the Library. We remain central to the University’s vision of ‘a recognised global leader in research, education and engagement’.

We have transformed from the early days of an entirely physical library on the Perth campus to active spaces at campuses in Western Australia and at the University’s four international locations. While these physical libraries remain busy hubs that are highly valued for their contribution to the student experience, our early adoption of digital delivery of collections and services has ensured that staff and students can access information and services at a time and place that suits their individual needs. The importance of highly developed on-campus and online spaces and services is one of the key tenets of this strategy.

Our overall remit has also broadened in recent years, and service offerings now include:

- trusted scholarly and special collections
- effective information discovery
- research support, including the institutional repository, research data management services, and publishing advice
- online and on-campus flexible spaces
- learning success through programs in reading, writing, referencing, numeracy
- digital dexterity
- copyright.

All of these areas have a role to play in the Curtin community’s success and we welcome the opportunity to develop in ways that match the innovative and future-focused approaches for which we are known.

The Library Strategic Direction 2021-2025 aligns with the University’s values and the values of the Australian Library and Information Association. We’re a proud advocate of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. For more information about our alignment with the SDGs see page 14.

The following goals will guide the Library over the period 2021 to 2025 to ensure that we support the learning, teaching and research of the University; demonstrate leadership nationally and internationally in our areas of expertise; and ensure that our operations remain sustainable.

Catherine Clark
University Librarian and Director, John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library

“A library with a great heart that empowers great minds.”
LIBRARY AS PARTNER

• We will provide expertise from our specialist staff to enhance University learning, teaching, and research outcomes.

• We will leverage available technology and digital resources to design and deliver the best possible learning experiences in a range of academic and digital literacies.

• We will advocate for widespread knowledge co-creation, transfer and exchange, including the adoption of open and F.A.I.R. practices in learning, teaching, and research by modelling open, innovative approaches.

• We will endeavour to provide appropriate services, training and infrastructure to facilitate the recording, sharing, and preservation of Curtin-produced scholarly content, including research data and both traditional and non-traditional research outputs.

• We will advocate for the responsible use of research metrics and provide services and advice on the use of research metrics to demonstrate excellence in Curtin’s research.

• We will leverage technology and relationships with University partners to improve the efficiency and responsiveness of our services, and will ensure that they are effectively communicated to clients.

Our catalogue was searched over 4,800,000 times in 2020.
We will build and curate a dynamic collection of information resources to support the evolving needs of Curtin teaching, learning and research.

We will prioritise a ‘digital by default’ approach to our collections to best meet the diversity of our client groups wherever they are located.

We will develop and expand the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Archive and our other archival and special collections to preserve, digitise and promote unique research resources to the Curtin University community and beyond.

We will add value to the information experience by providing connected and holistic discovery tools to ensure information seeking is increasingly tailored to the interests, purposes and backgrounds of individual library users.

We will lead innovative solutions to the challenges of providing open access content and containing the costs of scholarly information resources.

We hold over 8.5km of physical items, including books, quartos and journal articles.
We will provide welcoming and equitable facilities as active centres on the University’s campuses for informal learning, knowledge sharing, connection, and collaboration.

We will ensure maximum use is made of the once-in-a-generation transformation of the TL Robertson Library into a place for digital innovation and social collaboration for students, staff and the wider community.

We will maximise opportunities for online spaces where clients can learn, connect and collaborate, extending the opportunities available in our physical spaces into the online space and aligning with the University’s Teaching and Learning @ Curtin document.

We will ensure the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library continues to be a place that inspires researchers accessing significant archival and special collections.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- We will support the University’s engagement with the broader community including alumni, industry partners and members of the public through online and in-person engagement with the Library’s services and spaces.

- We will actively recognise the contribution to Australian society of the University’s namesake, wartime Prime Minister John Curtin, by supporting, curating and promoting research and events related to his life.

- We will communicate significant initiatives and activities to the broader library and learning community. We will also learn from these communities, and develop our services in response to trends in the broader national and international environment.

Our library, research and study skills workshops attracted almost 19,000 attendees in 2020.
We employ almost 100 students to design and deliver our services.

CULTURE AND WORKFORCE

• We will create a culture of engagement and learning through collaboration, sharing and support for each other.

• We will empower staff to grow and develop to their full potential and encourage leadership across all roles.

• We will provide inspiration and service excellence to facilitate success for our clients.

• We will actively pursue a ‘students as partners’ model to design and deliver services wherever appropriate.
SDG 4. Quality Education

- By adopting openness in our learning, teaching and research areas, we can make information more accessible to the broader international community. Our learning experiences for Curtin students will ensure the best outcomes in achieving quality education.
- Our trusted information resources support Curtin learning, teaching and research by providing out client groups access anywhere, anytime, and at a low or zero cost.
- Our spaces are available to Curtin staff, students and the wider community as centres of knowledge, innovation and collaboration.
- Our community engagement will open our spaces and services to a broader range of client groups, aligned with Curtin’s broader objectives to transform lives through learning, teaching and research.
- Our staff will commit to raising awareness of the UN SDGs amongst the broader community.

SDG 8. Decent work and economic growth

- Through our ‘students as partners’ model we will provide opportunities for students to lead and contribute to activities and projects that make them career-ready and demonstrate a diverse set of skills to prospective employers.

SDG 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure

- By providing access to Curtin research outputs, including data and publications, the Library is providing services and infrastructure to support Curtin’s strategic ambitions in research and innovation.

SDG 12. Responsible production and consumption

- The transformed TL Robertson Library will modernise our facilities with a target towards 5-Star Green Star Design and As Built sustainability rating.

SDG 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions

- Access to information is key to achieving this and other SDGs. The Library provides access to trusted information resources, including access to unique archival and special collections for the broader community.