



The New Horizon
for
OU LIBRARIES

The University of Oklahoma®



Hallway into Collaborative Commons, Bizzell LL1. REES Architecture, Planning, Interiors

The New Horizon for

WE ARE EAGER TO SHARE WITH YOU our new strategic direction for the OU Libraries. Our perspective has been shaped by eight months of extensive listening and dialogue sessions with OU faculty, students, campus leaders and library supporters, which led to the formation of a new strategic plan. Before arriving at the University of Oklahoma as dean of University Libraries, I heard the story of how our first president, David Ross Boyd, looked out across the open horizon of what would become our great campus and exclaimed, “What possibilities!” These words spoke into existence an ideal that still thrives at OU.

Today we face another open horizon — one that offers possibilities limited only by our imaginations. Technology has transformed information’s role in our lives. We reside at the very pulse of information transfer and consume information at a relentless pace. Young students entering college today do not remember a time before the Internet or cell phones. They have been leaving a digital footprint since they were born. For them, technology has not been added to their lives, it is the invisible network that enables everything they do.

These shifts in the way society acquires information challenge us to rethink traditional approaches to education. Our understanding of learning is evolving away from a model in which faculty transmit information to students solely through lectures and written assignments. Research shows that to truly learn something new, students need to interact with, discuss, explore and experiment with ideas. New knowledge is not transmitted, it must be co-created. Rather than using technology to reinforce old paradigms, we are challenged to integrate technology to support learning in new, interactive ways.

Our libraries also are undergoing technology-driven shifts. For example, today we have ubiquitous access to abundant information delivered on computers and mobile devices via the Web and library databases, which has led to information overload. Consequently we must focus on teaching critical evaluation of the sources of information when conducting research in the digital age. As we rethink our own approaches, we must move beyond translating traditional library services into new electronic mediums. Instead, we need to re-conceptualize a paradigm for library



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services that is in synergistic alignment with the way our community now learns and conducts research. Working at the intersection of the print and digital worlds, we must find the proper balance between both worlds to ensure that our collections and services remain a vital community resource.

Bold thinking and imaginative execution, new resources and collaborative engagement with our community are required to secure this future for the OU Libraries. This document frames our new strategic direction at a high level, and sharing our thoughts is part of the planning process. There are few crosscutting campus units that can broadly strengthen the University of Oklahoma as directly as the library. We ask you to engage with us as we face these challenges. Successfully responding to this inflection point will positively impact the student experience, and enable our research community to make a leap forward in our understanding of the world around us.

Rick Luce
Dean, University Libraries
Peggy V. Helmerich Chair, and
Associate Vice President for Research, Norman Campus



Creating Excellence in the Library Experience

THE RESEARCH LIBRARY IS THE INTELLECTUAL COMMONS OF THE UNIVERSITY, a bustling matrix of collaboration that serves as a “living laboratory” for new ideas. As a neutral commons, it is a center of trans-disciplinary discovery and interconnection. Imagine a library experience that provides a synergistic blend of interactive learning labs, collaborative workplaces, information and data centers, and a center of community programs and exhibits – all integrated to enable lateral learning through group interaction. These spaces would provide a synergistic blend of interactive learning labs, collaborative workplaces, information and data centers, and a center of community programs and exhibits – all integrated to enable lateral learning through group interaction. Utilizing our vast information resources, we can enhance these dynamic spaces with library content, human expertise and enabling technologies, providing a comprehensive hands-on interactive learning experience for students.

In addition to reconceiving our physical space, imagine a library experience where online resources enable researchers and students to interact with and solve problems in new ways. Students across campus can visualize relationships between data and access audio, video, and digital library materials from their mobile devices and touch screens. Professors can utilize online resources to teach in dynamic ways, such as integrating an interactive online exhibit or using the libraries’ videoconferencing capabilities to set up a mock debate with other institutions. Students and faculty alike use our website to discover everything the library has to offer on a topic by using a single search.

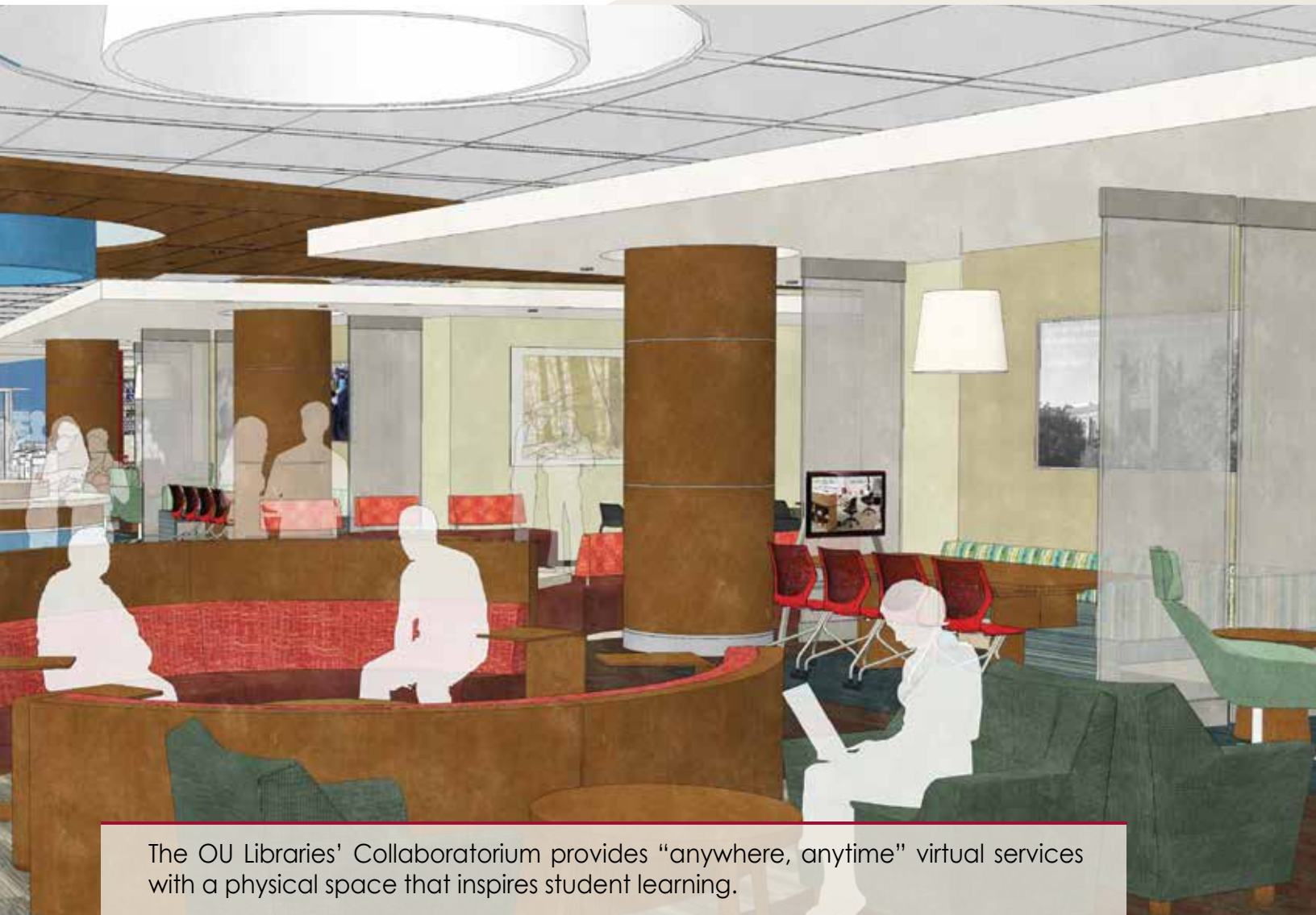


Collaborative Commons, Bizzell LL1, REES Architecture, Planning, Interiors

*Transforming the
library experience
begins by:*

Envisioning a Master Renovation Plan

University Libraries will create a comprehensive plan for facility improvements and capital investments for Bizzell Memorial Library and the University Libraries system to support current and future library needs. We seek to dynamically support OU’s emphasis on place-based education with experiences that match the learning and research needs of our community. Our challenge is to preserve the beauty of Bizzell’s exterior, while renovating interior spaces with equally inspiring spaces to accommodate today’s needs. Renovating our physical spaces begins with bringing the library into the everyday lives of students and faculty, while providing the capability to support an evolving agenda of academic and public initiatives to be housed within Bizzell.



The OU Libraries' Collaboratorium provides “anywhere, anytime” virtual services with a physical space that inspires student learning.

Establishing a Collaboratorium

The Collaboratorium is a renovated space in the Lower Level 1 Neustadt wing within Bizzell Memorial Library that supports and enhances active learning and collaborative group work. This revitalized zone provides a collaborative environment where students can work on group projects, utilize geo-spatial tools, edit video for a class, video conference with universities across the globe, analyze data in the humanities in ways never before possible, or simply sit down for coffee with friends.

Enhancing Information Discovery

To transform the virtual experience, we will upgrade our information discovery system to acquire the next generation of systems that integrate library content in all formats. Beyond improved discovery, the next generation system will integrate the delivery of content across the OU enterprise and support personalization as well as collaborative content creation.

Building on Excellence in Special Collections

OUR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ARE THE EMBODIMENT OF EXCELLENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA. They contain rare primary source materials that capture the human experience throughout time and are internationally noted for their immense cultural and historical value. The History of Science Collections holds the entire set of 12 first editions of Galileo, some containing his handwriting on the fragile pages. Not even the Library of Congress or the British Library can say the same about their collections. Within the Western History Collections are rare artifacts that preserve the richness of Native American culture, including 2,400 audio recordings of Native American songs and folklore, and oral histories by Oklahoma pioneers.

As stewards of cultural memory, we seek to enable excellence by building on our strengths in special collections. This requires being poised to acquire rare works that become available once a century, as we did recently with the 1623 Orazio Grassi *De Sphaera* manuscript. It also entails being poised to acquire contemporary rare materials, such as the personal papers of Wilma Mankiller, the first female Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Moreover, due to the eminence of our

collections, we are able to attract to campus the scholars whose books line our shelves. Imagine students being able to discuss Civil War history with the individual whose book they have studied in class. It is this rigorous inflow of new materials and constant growth of public engagement that creates a living library in our midst.

As we witness the disruptive technology changes now under way, special collections increasingly become important as differentiators. These collections are not only great treasure troves of the world for studying the past, but more importantly, they provide a laboratory for scholarship that supports knowledge creation in both physical and virtual space, and they connect communities of scholars and students around the world in collaborative and multidisciplinary ways.

By building tools and resources that increase access to our special collections, we are providing students the opportunity to grapple with the original records of human culture undigested by others. It is from the intersection of these rich primary resources about the human experience that our researchers and students create new knowledge.



George and Etta Mopope, 1901 by Annette Ross Hume



Galileo Galilei, *Sidereus nuncius* (1610)



Mr. Brumble illustration by Joseph Clayton Clark (1837)

Digital reproductions of our special collections enhance access for everyone. Imagine Native Americans being able to teach their children the native songs of their grandparents by clicking on the audio archives of *Indians for Indian hour*, a radio show that captured their culture in the 1940s.

*Building on
excellence
in our special
collections
begins by:*

Enhancing Access

We are creating a digitization laboratory to increase access to OU's resources while also increasing our international visibility via the Internet. We seek to take the extraordinary treasures housed here, and multiply their impact on imaginations worldwide by making them accessible to the world.

Increasing Awareness

By partnering with other top-tier institutions such as Oxford University, the Marine Biological Laboratory and the Max Plank Society, we can extend our reach of access to OU resources while increasing the visibility of the university.

Building a Living Library

We will continue to aggressively acquire historical and contemporary items for our special collections. Because excellence is nurtured, we will augment the value of these exemplary resources by cultivating public engagement with students, the public and scholars from around the world. We will stimulate dynamic, cross-disciplinary conversations around significant acquisitions through exhibits, public lectures and programs that illuminate and contextualize these rare materials.

Integrating Primary Source Materials

As classes at OU increasingly incorporate research methods into the curriculum, we will provide access to primary materials from our collections — such as newspapers from the Great Depression — to more than 1,000 first-year students so that they can learn for themselves what it was like to live during that period of history.

This virtual exhibit provides scholars access to materials that are usually locked in vaults. By digitizing these rare collections, we are creating the means and the tools for scholars to interact with materials in previously unimaginable ways.



Supporting OU Campus Research

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA'S STATUS AS A TOP RESEARCH INSTITUTION helps to stimulate Oklahoma's economy by attracting businesses that thrive around centers of creativity and research. Our libraries play a growing role in supporting campus research initiatives. Collections are the core of any research library, and not resting on past accomplishments requires both building born-digital collections, and creating new methods of interacting with this content. Imagine a research library with the capabilities to not

only classically support researchers with resource materials, but to also actively partner in the research process. Librarians would utilize their knowledge of information science principles to help faculty interact with, organize and manage data as required by federally funded grants. Through the creation of digital scholarship laboratories, our libraries are poised to play a pivotal role in the production of knowledge – becoming 21st-century disseminators of knowledge.

Supporting OU campus research begins by:

Establishing a Digital Scholarship Lab

The digital scholarship lab will support research in the humanities and social sciences by facilitating the visualization and analysis of data. It will contain geo-spatial information resources, an electronic data center, and data management services. The completed digital scholarship lab will be an intellectual magnet for interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary exchange and collaboration.

Facilitating Data Curation and Preservation

Preservation has always been a unique library responsibility. Just as libraries have curated and preserved historical print collections, today we must curate and preserve born-digital materials and datasets for long-term use.

Building Collaborative Partnerships

OU Libraries will partner with the Office of the Vice President for Research, OU IT, and other university units to support campus research initiatives, including the creation of data management plans that appropriately address the challenges of preserving research data.

Imagine students and faculty applying new methods of data-driven research to their field and asking questions that previously were not possible by utilizing the resources in the digital scholarship lab.



Charting a New Role for Scholarly Communication at OU

OUR SOCIETY'S INFORMATION-SEEKING BEHAVIOR HAS UNDERGONE ENORMOUS CHANGES, as illustrated by how Oklahomans pursue information about inclement weather. Previously we read about the devastation of an F5 tornado in newspapers a day after the storm. Today, we seek information in real-time by looking at weather radar on cell phones, streaming news broadcasts on laptops, and reading about damage on our social networks in real time as it happens to our friends and family. This is an apt metaphor for the changes in scholarly communication. Traditional publishing models delay the release of vital information due to peer-review processes and publication cycles and restrict access to information because of expensive subscription costs.

Researchers are finding innovative ways to share their insights with the world. Imagine a critical

study that impacts the foundation of cancer research being published online as hundreds of scholars post, comment and share the riveting findings with each other, their students and the public. Imagine researchers being able to publish their finding in blogs and open-access repositories so that the public can have free and unfettered access to research their tax dollars help fund. Imagine digital course materials that are complimentary for students and available in a variety of formats so that the expense of traditional textbooks is no longer an issue. We can already see this new publication paradigm emerging out of pre-prints, e-prints, e-books and open-access databases. Through the creation of digital scholarship laboratories and institutional repositories, the University of Oklahoma will be poised to play a pivotal role in the new scholarship paradigm.

Charting a new role for scholarly communications at OU begins by:

Providing Easy Access to OU Research

A repository for OU research, theses and dissertations will showcase the intellectual endeavors of students and faculty of the university. Not only does it help preserve the body of knowledge being created at our institution, it serves as a showcase for the university's commitment to excellence.

Supporting Open Educational Resources

Open access initiatives bring educational materials into the classroom in dynamic ways. Not only do they support the university's goal of addressing the cost of higher education by reducing the reliance on expensive textbooks, they give students greater access to online tools, articles and enhanced multimedia presentations created by outstanding faculty at our institution and others.

The weather globe at the National Weather Center is a prime example of how our ability to communicate research and data in new ways enhances the learning experience at OU.



Strengthening Skills and Capabilities

SPARKED BY RELENTLESS ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY, libraries have adapted to many challenges. As librarians, we have translated information-seeking skills to a new medium; yet, current changes demand more from libraries than simply transferring skills to new mediums. Faculty, researchers and students are working with data and information in fundamentally novel ways that require today's research libraries to augment existing capabilities.

Imagine a research library in which we are true collaborators with the research community, facilitating the use of sophisticated information technology to manipulate data and create new knowledge in ways that only seemed possible in science fiction movies. To achieve this vision of the future, our information professionals are called to incorporate new methods and acquire new skills.

Strengthening skills and capabilities begins by:

Investing in Career Development

Expanding the libraries' role requires expanding our capabilities. Creating excellence in the workforce requires expanding our capabilities to meet the needs of 21st-century scholarship – those that have already emerged and those needs that will develop in the future.

Attracting New Talent

These challenges require the cultivation of new capabilities by adding highly talented individuals to support strategic programs such as digital preservation, database and e-publishing platforms, geo-spatial information systems, electronic data centers, and support for evolving forms of scholarly communication.

People are the core of our community at OU, and certainly they are the face of the libraries. We are committed to developing, supporting and growing our workforce, while expanding our core capabilities and competencies.

Building Community Support

AS THE UNIVERSITY'S INTELLECTUAL COMMONS, we touch every student and faculty member in some way during their time at OU. We help the university to attract top students, to recruit and retain outstanding faculty, to continue to build world-class research collections, to attract external funding, and to provide our students with the capabilities they need to take on the complex challenges we face as a society.

We need your help to succeed in meeting these challenges. This can come in many forms, whether it is through your financial support or through helping us build significant local and national partnerships. Even spreading awareness about our special collections to family and friends or attending our public programs can help us build a stronger community. Engage with us as we chart a course for a new horizon full of possibilities.

The OU Libraries is an asset that helps support the culture of excellence at OU.





For additional information, please contact:



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