

---

## **MSU BILLINGS LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN, 2013-2018**

November 2013

---

Over the next five to ten years, there will be many changes in the expectations about library services, new technology, and information access. The MSU Billings Library has identified three areas of opportunity to improve services to students and faculty: Teaching Excellence, Access/Support for Student Learning, and Community Enhancement. Within each of these, significant goals are identified and action plans are set forth.

Overall, the mission of the Library remains to serve students and faculty, providing access to needed and appropriate resources. Excellence of the Library is an important component of all four of the main points in the University's Mission Statement.

### **University Mission Statement**

The MSU Billings experience – fully embracing Access & Excellence on all levels – is characterized by:

- Strong commitment to teaching excellence
- Support for individual learning
- Engagement in civic responsibility
- Intellectual, cultural, social & economic community enhancement

### **About the University Mission**

MSU Billings is an urban university serving a diverse constituency with varied needs and expectations. This means all areas of the university have a responsibility to enhance the intellectual, social, and economic qualities of the Billings community as well as of our students. The university and the city that surrounds us are engaged in a symbiotic relationship that provides distinct advantages to our students. We constantly assess student achievement, community involvement and stewardship of our resources to ensure continuing educational excellence in alignment with goals outlined in the Board of Regents strategic plan and Montana State University's tactical "one university" mission.

### **Library Vision**

The Library at Montana State University Billings will be a vital information center of the campus, working with academic and support programs to ensure that students and faculty have timely access to the information and knowledge that they need. The Library is guided by the following principles:

- Libraries serve humanity;
- Respect all forms by which knowledge is communicated;
- Use technology intelligently to enhance service;
- Protect free access to knowledge;
- Honor the past and create the future.

## **Library Mission Statement**

The Library at Montana State University Billings is a partner in creating a dynamic, prosperous community of enlightened leaders and thoughtful, effective global citizens. The Library supports the University's drive towards meaningful education and excellent teaching, enabling individuals to achieve their full potential. In keeping with the mission of the University, the Library:

- Supports excellence in teaching and engagement in individual learning
- Provides a center for intellectual, cultural, social, and economic enhancement of the university and greater Billings communities
- Supports the quest to translate knowledge into practice
- Nurtures a community of learners
- Supports the research initiatives of all programs
- Responds to requests from students and faculty for improving Library collections
- Identifies needs of Library users through surveys, focus groups, and other means, and modifies current practice to fit user needs

## **Core Values**

The University and Library missions come together in three core theme areas:

- Cultivating Teaching Excellence
- Providing an Environment for Learning
- Enhancing the Community

Goals and tasks for each of these areas follow.

---

### **CORE THEME ONE: Cultivating Teaching Excellence**

A. Opportunity to Achieve: With faculty assistance, continue to review print and electronic collections to ensure currency and relevancy to MSUB curriculum and faculty research needs.

Specific tasks to undertake to realize this opportunity:

1. Complete JSTOR title weeding project
2. Complete Phase II periodicals weeding
3. Complete government documents weeding

B. Opportunity to Achieve: With ongoing input from faculty and students, continue to build a collection that is relevant to MSUB and City College curricula, faculty research needs, and student interests.

Specific tasks to undertake to realize this opportunity:

1. Expand ejournal offerings by subscribing to SAGE/Elsevier journals online\*
  2. Purchase additional primary source archives\*
  3. Expand ebook offerings by purchasing additional ebrary and MontanaLibrary2Go content\* \*\*
  4. Continue to expand offerings specific to City College programs.\*
-

---

## **CORE THEME TWO: Providing an Environment for Learning**

A. Opportunity to Achieve: Further develop the Library's web presence to facilitate student learning and discovery of information.

Specific tasks to undertake to realize this opportunity:

1. Expand LibGuide collection to create user-friendly, student-centered research portals\*\*
2. Create mobile-friendly website\*\*
3. Simplify Library website\*\*
4. Initiate online chat service\*\*
5. Continue offering LSCI 125 to teach students effective research skills

B. Opportunity to Achieve: Improve the Library's facilities to create collaborative learning spaces for students and faculty.

Specific tasks to undertake to realize this opportunity:

1. Offer additional technology-rich study areas\*\*
2. Replace government documents shelving with short shelving to let in sunlight
3. Create new study area on 2nd floor\*\*
4. Create new study area on 3rd floor\*\*
5. Explore possibilities for creating entrance on 1st floor
6. Meet with Academic Support Center to discuss opportunities for offering ASC services in the Library\*\*
7. Improve customer service by centralizing Circulation, Reserve, and Interlibrary Loan services under Technical & Access Services.
8. Discuss possibilities for increasing small-group study areas at City College.

---

## **CORE THEME THREE: Enhancing the Community**

A. Opportunity to Achieve: Continue and expand outreach programming to students.

Specific tasks to undertake to realize this opportunity:

1. Trivia Night\*\*
2. Book Club\*\*
3. Appoint librarian as liaison with ASMSUB
4. Work with ASMSUB to create Student Advisory Group\*\*
5. Improve outreach at City College by assigning a librarian to be there

B. Opportunity to Achieve: Expand outreach efforts to connect with and engage the wider Billings community, focusing on topics relevant to Montana and surrounding region.

Specific tasks to undertake to realize this opportunity:

1. Civil War series, Fall 2013\*
2. Poetry Month presentations, Spring 2014\*
3. International Women's History Month presentations, Spring 2014\*
4. Explore possibilities for creating a regionally/internationally unique collection, including digital resources, focused on the Yellowstone River region

5. Continue working closely with the Billings Public Library to offer library services at City College
  6. Expand outreach program offerings at City College
  7. Continue programming for campus Child Care Center
- 

\* Requested by faculty in the Spring 2012 Faculty Survey on Library Services

\*\* Requested by students in the Spring 2013 Student Survey on Library Services