Maastricht University Library Strategic Agenda – road map to 2021

Mission

The University Library aims to be a partner in research education and supports knowledge development and knowledge dissemination within the broader UM community.*

Central theme

The information landscape is undergoing significant changes. The scale and variety of forms of scientific information are increasing, resulting in changes in the acquisition, development and dissemination of knowledge. A clear shift is taking place away from books in favour of scholarly articles, with data playing an increasingly pivotal role. Information is becoming more and more accessible as well as more open to the public domain, and easier to combine, to develop and share, including via social media. The University Library aims to familiarise its users with this changing information landscape by facilitating them in terms of **Content & Access**, **Skills & Support**, **Digital scholarship & Intelligence** and **Engagement & Community**. The University Library is doing so in consultation with and at the request of users, by supporting them in their education and research objectives. In this way the library will actively contribute to the CORE principles of Maastricht University: *Collaborative Open Research Education.*

The University Library is excited to be working alongside its stakeholders to achieve the objectives of this challenging agenda, and is doing so in line with the following core values:

Open	Open mind, access to information; access to learning spaces
Collaboration	Meet and collaborate and connect the broader UM community
Academic	Integrity, creativity, experimental, excellence, critical
Flexible	Adaptable and multi-functional facilities and services
Sustainable	Responsible, socially committed and sustainable

* Broader UM community: UM including campuses, azM, UM contract partners, the city of Maastricht, and regional and Euregional education partners

Focus on key themes

Content & Access

The University Library as a source of information
The University Library is committed to promoting science and patient care by maintaining, providing, and disseminating new and existing knowledge resources.

We are focused on new types and forms of knowledge resources
We integrate those resources into the learning and working environment, making them findable and searchable in an intuitive way.

We advocate sustainable and alternative publication models
We invest in making UM publications and research data freely available; this includes negotiating financial support for open access publication.

We are working with researchers to achieve a transition to new models of academic communication and digital scholarship.

Alongside lecturers and authors, we strive towards achieving open educational resources.

We feel access to our collections is more important than owning content. We offer knowledge resources to users at the right place and at the right time.

We showcase our special collections
We invest to preserve our cultural heritage collections and expand them where this would be a significant contribution to the UM and the region.

We promote the use of the special collections in teaching and research in an original way and allow interested parties to get to know the highlights of those collections.

What do we envisage for 2021?
- integration of collections in learning and working environments
- open access sources
- all UM publications are available in the UM repository
- storage and availability / metadata of research data
- personalised and annotated content
- policy regarding 'access versus property' debate
- improved full-text searchability of collections
- sustainable discovery tool founded on optimum findability and searchability of sources
- licences that include reading, usage and publication rights
- joint licenses with partner institutions
- intensive use of the cultural heritage collection within research education

Skills & Support

The University Library equips the entire UM community with the skills required to foster successful researchers, lecturers, students – and competent world citizens.
The University Library plays a connecting role in the integration of knowledge resources, educational technology and skills. We achieve continuous improvements through collaboration, development of expertise and adaptation.

We are committed to developing and providing 21st century skills for a diverse community**
We contribute to the development of flexible learning pathways and identify and recognise diversity and the various ways in which students, lecturers and researchers want to learn – all of this in close cooperation with the faculties and the MUMC.

We cater to the increasing need for educational tools
We promote the application of educational technologies to support new and effective methods of learning. In this way, we are able to meet the academic needs of students and the didactic needs of lecturers, both on campus and off.

We provide instruments that facilitate researchers in their tasks at various stages, throughout the research process.

We are a professional support organisation
We advise researchers and lecturers on, and offer assistance in, the use of tools in research and teaching processes.

What do we envisage for 2021?
- 21st century skills in research education for the broader UM community
- emphasis on self-directed learning and constructive alignment in faculty education programmes
- flexible and professional support aimed at the broader UM community in 2021 in relation to sources, skills and e-learning tools
- integration of digital skills in information literacy training

** 21st century skills**:** critical thinking, ethical conduct, scientific integrity, flourishing in an international setting, solving complex problems, dealing with uncertainties, being resilient to change, intercultural competencies, media savvy, creative thinking, communication, leadership

Digital scholarship & Intelligence

The University Library actively contributes to scientific productivity, impact and communication. We offer services, systems and expertise that allow current and emerging academic research to be strengthened and promote innovation in education.

We actively support aspects of the research and education processes
We provide a coherent suite of services, systems and workflows designed to assist and facilitate researchers and lecturers at critical points during the research and education cycle; we work alongside them in that process.

We facilitate UM in making strategic decisions
We are committed to supporting the ambitions of UM in the field of research impact and the effectiveness of education. We provide building blocks for that endeavour, such as metrics and learning analytics.

We facilitate communication and collaboration within the academic community
We provide lecturers and students with tools and support to facilitate collaboration, feedback, peer review and assessment in education.

We help shape the policy and practice of research and data management and facilitate digital scholarship activities by providing the relevant infrastructure and services.

We are highly committed to letting open science flourish
We are working towards realising open access clauses in licenses, provide assistance in open data and open access publishing, and promote open educational resources in the digital environment.

We assess the needs of our users, measure the effects of our efforts and use the results as the basis for continuous improvement and innovation.

What do we envisage for 2021?
- contribute to UM-based research data infrastructure
- support of FAIR principle for data ***
- full visibility of research output (CRIS and IDs)
- contribute to applied quality and impact measurements and learning analytics
- tools and services that promote scientific / academic integrity
- promote open access as a common publication model
- offer open educational resources to university teaching

*** FAIR: Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability

The University Library as a crucial component of the UM community
The library is regarded as a valued partner that contributes added value in helping its users realise their ambitions. Physical and virtual learning environments serve as common spaces and promote 'discovery' and collaboration.

We invest in state-of-the-art learning, research and meeting environments
The University Library aims to transform itself into a collection of 'hubs' where students, lecturers, researchers and external partners will be able to meet and inspire one another to create, share and apply knowledge.

We will be developing and offering a flexible learning and working environment with multimedia features and space for interaction. This will add value to the education and research conducted. In addition, it will allow us to respond to the didactic needs and the education policies of the faculties.

We like to meet our users at the junction where they find themselves.

We extend our collaboration to include external partners
The University Library uses its networks to gain new ideas and implement them within UM to realise economies of scale.

We are committed to using best practice tools and services within the University Library in order to project an image of excellence to the outside world and thereby put both UM and the library on the map.

What do we envisage for 2021?
▪ a digital learning environment that allows for personalised, individual learning pathways, composite curricula, lifelong learning, feedback, peer learning, and distance learning
▪ customisable, functional and inspiring as well as sustainable physical learning and research environments (multi-functional, activity-driven, integrated)
▪ state-of-the-art physical learning environments (Tapijn development, Randwyck development and other campuses)
▪ tailored access policy and opening hours
▪ intensive cooperation with partner libraries in the Netherlands and abroad, including in the Meuse-Rhine Euregion
▪ scaled up e-learning support

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