UNSW Library Plan

2025

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We are led by the **UNSW Library Vision, mission and values** and the **UNSW Values in Action: behaviours** and leadership signatures.

The 2025 UNSW Library Plan supports the **UNSW Progress for All Strategy 2025-34** and the 2025 UNSW Operational Plan.

The Library has chosen to take a streamlined approach to this one-year plan, after which there are expected to be three x three years library plans.

Our Strategic Priorities

05   The Library will continue to develop inspiring environments for students and staff across campuses

06   The Library will continue to refine its scholarly collections and deliver world-class, future-focussed content relevant to the UNSW community

09   The Library will enhance engagement with students and staff

10   The Library will target student and staff engagement with digital library infrastructure and research services

13   The Library will further develop its people and organisation

The Library will continue to develop inspiring environments for students and staff across campuses

Opportunity

Library spaces at Kensington, Paddington, and Canberra campuses support student learning and sense of belonging, and staff productivity and organisational culture.

Response

The Library will continue to work with University stakeholders including Estate Management, Library staff and other partners on continuous improvements to our valued library spaces.

Strategy link

Through accessible education, empower current and future generations.
Develop inspiring and cutting-edge environments and simple, effective and trust-based systems.

Goal

- Main Library project will be progressed towards new staff and student workspace
- The Digital Knowledge Space pilot will be designed and delivered for Main Library
- Expand and improve facilities that meet student needs, including neutral sensory spaces
- Pending Defence project approval, Academy Library Canberra refurbishment project will be progressed
- Canberra City Campus Library "Campus Heart" (E Block CIT Reid Campus) will be progressed

The Library will continue to refine its scholarly collections and deliver world-class, future-focussed content relevant to the UNSW community

Opportunity

NSW Library's valuable research collections of not widely held and Australian materials are maintained for future generations and available to be shared with researchers globally. They support UNSW's innovative research, distinctive education, and commitment to the public good, to deliver progress for all.

Procurement of scholarly resources is subject to market fluctuations and the publishing industry which is undergoing significant change in response to technological change and shifting dynamics in the commercial publishing market.

Response

The Library will work with Estate Management (Sydney) and Estate, Safety & Security (Canberra) to complete the Collection Maintenance Framework projects. This will ensure the preservation and continued access to unique and high value, research print resources, to maintain the scholarly record.

Library to collaborate with partners including CAUL and University stakeholders to identify opportunities to negotiate improved subscription agreements, contain costs and review.

Strategy link

Through accessible education, empower current and future generations.
Through research, lead knowledge creation, innovation and translation.

Goal

- Complete stage three of the Collection Maintenance Framework for L3, L6 and L8 Main Library
- Academy Library Canberra Collection Framework will be completed and the Optimisation project significantly progressed
- Partner with CAUL to refine subscription agreements, in response to open access publishing, global inflation, currency fluctuations and increasing costs
- Modernise print borrowing services and install self-service book lockers and investigate RFID
- Improve conservation and storage of research and special collections
- Implement environmentally sustainable GLAMR practices into the award-winning Library Exhibitions program, working with UNSW and local partners. Continue to raise the profile of the program across the sector.

The Library will enhance engagement with students and staff

Opportunity

The Library is a key university partner supporting learning, teaching, research and community. Our services, digital and physical infrastructure, and our collections and exhibition are all about empowering students and staff. Our engagement strategy is designed to support, inspire and create moments that matter for our students.

Response

The Library will implement scalable, sustainable programs to increase student and staff awareness, and utilisation of its services to support academic outcomes. The Library will continue to deliver Digital Literacy with an emphasis on smart searching using AI and the ethical use of AI.

Strategy link

Through accessible education, empower current and future generations.

Convene across sectors and build networks locally and globally.

Goal

- The Library's digital information skills framework will be refined for in-library and in-faculty delivery to students
- Digital Literacy Package expanded offerings to all in-faculty events
- Digital Literacy to incorporate a focus on smart searching using AI and ethical use of AI
- Library service delivery will be extended to the Canberra City Campus
- Library services will be extended to UNSW College
- Develop programs centred around experiences with our collections including object-based learning, leisure reading for students, and piloting of the Digital Knowledge Space

The Library will target student and staff engagement with digital library infrastructure and research services

Opportunity

The Library's digital services and platforms connect staff and students with expert guidance, staff, and millions of resources. Library digital infrastructure contributes to excellent research environments. As new technologies including AI continue to disrupt and change client expectations and behaviours, the Library will analyse these changes and how they influence research and resource discovery. Open access is a key contributor to societal impact.
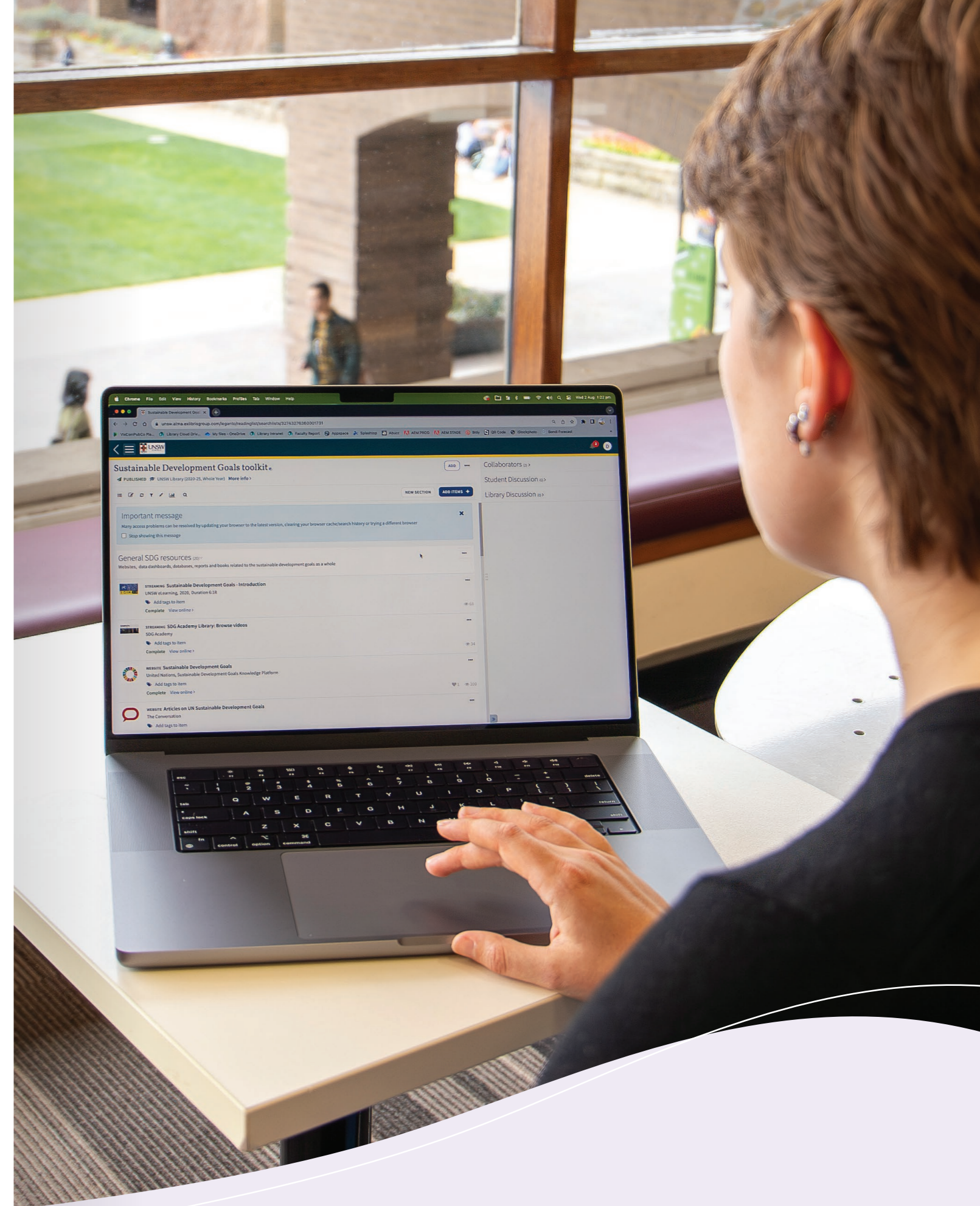
Response

The Library will showcase research outputs that contribute to the University's societal impact through UNSWorks and other services, enhance the use of persistent identifiers to link outputs, data, and people together, contribute to UNSW policy, and analyse the impact of new technologies on research and discovery.

Strategy link

Develop inspiring and cutting-edge environments and simple, effective and trust-based systems.

Goal

- Increase quality and proportion of UNSW research outputs in UNSWorks, and continue to enhance technical functionality
- Showcase UNSW's research collections for societal impact
- The Library will engage with Governance to develop and contribute to University policies relevant to guide staff and students
- Explore discovery of Library resources and expertise and build researcher and student confidence, as search behaviours shift amid the rise of AI
- Augment Library services through the ethical use of AI and AI tools
- Build staff capabilities to deliver AI-related services

The Library will further develop its people and organisation

Opportunity

An organisation with a clear purpose, a healthy culture, and future focused, skilled and client focused people will provide students and staff with the most innovative, resilient and efficient library service.

Response

The Library will listen to its people and will provide pathways for collaboration, feedback, discussion, and recognition.

The Library will enable staff to develop capabilities to lead and innovate, to design and deliver future-focused library services to meet emerging client needs

Strategy link

Create a culture in which all people are united by purpose and can deliver their best work.

Convene across sectors and build networks locally and globally

Goal

- Review and enhance the Library's Reward & Recognition program to celebrate staff achievement
- Facilitate staff-led approaches to collaboration, innovation, problem-solving and professional development, such as cross-team drop-in sessions and cross-team skilling
- Develop a framework to build a skills and capabilities register, recognising expertise across the Library
- Consult and engage our people on Future Campus activity based work spaces, etiquette and procedures for the Main Library project
- Induct our people and UNSW Press into the new workspace
- Continue to work, engaging with university and sector partners, on supporting indigenous knowledges and cultural protocols
- Through participation in sector bodies, representative staff will utilise relationships and networks to drive impact in areas of library expertise