# Brunel University Library

## Library Strategy 2012/13 – 2016/17

### Mission

The University Library facilitates the creation of knowledge and the advance of understanding by:

- Shaping the student experience through the provision of a welcoming environment and a gateway to services and information
- Supporting teaching and learning by the provision of information and support at any time of the day, in any part of the world, through any device
- Equipping students with the skills that they need and the confidence to apply them
- Supporting the creation and dissemination of research

### Vision

The University Library underpins the critical business of the University in terms of teaching, learning and research, providing excellent access to digital, physical and spatial resources and specialist support.

### Values

We believe in:

- Making a positive difference
- Empowering student learning
- Opening the gateway to knowledge
- Constantly challenging / developing / evolving
- Going the extra mile
- Being ambitious, passionate and innovative about what we do
- A shared and loyal commitment to the student experience

### Context

Despite major developments over the last five years, we remain ambitious and we face a challenging environment in terms of changes to the higher education sector and new policies in areas such as scholarly communication and copyright. The following assumptions have shaped the strategy's development:

- The expectations of our users and related demands for accountability will continue to increase
- Demand for Library space will continue to grow
- Digital scholarship, along with social networking technologies will mean scholarly communication and publishing continues to evolve, with new roles for the Library in areas such as digital curation
- E-Books may become the format of choice, as e-Journals are for journal publications
- Mobile devices will become ubiquitous, and new services will need to be developed
- The Library's virtual presence will need to expand to become more vibrant and interactive

The Library will support the University in the following ways:

## 1. Shaping the student experience through the provision of a welcoming environment and a gateway to services and information

1. Providing Library facilities that are attractive, safe and inspirational
2. Working towards the refurbishment of the extension and resolution of known building issues
3. Extending opening hours over the Easter and summer vacations
4. Investing in technology
5. Improving the provision of reading list material
6. Expanding the e-book collection and developing patron driven services for provision
7. Reviewing the Library provision to ensure parity with competitors / comparators
   - Working together with the School of Social Sciences and the Business School to design and build a Bloomberg Trading Facility
   - Introducing new services for part-time and distance learners
   - Maintaining our ranking in the NSS
8. Continuing to engage with students to understand their information and Library needs
9. Ensuring our services remain easy to access and use
10. Working with colleagues across the University to provide seamless access to information

## 2. Supporting teaching and learning by provision of information and support at any time of the day, in any part of the world, through any device

1. Supporting the use of technology enhanced learning
2. Increasing the level of teaching support provided to academic staff
3. Continuing to exploit new and emergent technologies
4. Increasing the range and availability of support to students
5. Developing improved access to all Library resources
6. Improving services for part-time and distance learners
7. Increasing the number of resources available remotely

## 3. Equipping students with the skills that they need and the confidence to apply them

1. Working with departments to embed skills development within all programmes at all levels
2. Improving the learning activities and support offered to students
3. Increasing the level of research support available to PhD students
5. Increasing the opportunities for students to benefit from work relevant activities
6. Extending learning opportunities for students that support the employability agenda

## 4. Supporting the creation and dissemination of research

1. Sustaining access to an excellent electronic Library
2. Promoting understanding of developments in scholarly communication and implementing the recommendations arising from the Finch report
3. Continuing the development and management of the Open Access fund
4. Continuing to provide assistance in preparations for REF 2014 and REF 2020
5. Continuing to raise the impact and visibility of Brunel research through development of BURA

6. Exploring potential links between University research systems e.g. the potential of CRIS through BRUCE
7. Working closely with the PVC (Research) to introduce research data management policies, procedures and systems together with the necessary support for academics in adopting new practices
8. Increasing the level of research support available to academic staff
9. Conducting recognised research within areas of interest
10. Minimising the risks of reputational damage through plagiarism by introducing a new process for submission of PhD theses including use of Turnitin software prior to submission
11. Further developing research spaces that encourage the generation of ideas and collaboration between subjects

In addition to the strategic aims identified above, we will also support the University's strategic plan in the following ways:

## 5. To support the University's mission of expanding our reach, we will:

1. Strengthen existing partnerships and build new collaborations
2. Increase our external engagement
3. Influence and shape regional, national and international agendas

## 6. To support the University's mission of organising for success, we will:

1. Monitor and respond to changes in the external environment e.g. copyright, Open Access, technology, responding where necessary and ensuring University SMG is kept informed
2. Ensure the Library is best positioned and has the necessary resources to support the core business of the University
3. Explore further opportunities to work with schools and departments across the University

## 7. To support the University's mission of providing an enabling culture in which all students and staff feel that they can excel, we will:

1. Provide increased opportunities to support and encourage staff and students
2. Investigate options for involvement in volunteering by Library staff
3. Continue to work closely with the schools and the WP team in supporting the WP strategy

## 9. To support the University's mission of communicating our successes, we will:

1. Continue to raise the high profile and visibility of the Library and ASK, internally and externally
2. Promote the University by continuing to raise the visibility and ranking of research outputs through BURA and other means
3. Promote the University by continuing the Library's NSS and awards success
4. Improve engagement with prospective students
5. Improve engagement with alumni

## 10. To support the University's mission of financial, environmental and social sustainability, we will:

1. Continue to reduce the environmental impact of our services and facilities
2. Continue to demonstrate value for money and operational efficiency

3. Continue to provide services to the local community

This document build's on the Library's successful completion of its previous strategy and proposes a five year framework for development. The strategy has been written to support the University's new Strategic Plan and has been informed by feedback from colleagues and students. The strategy will provide the structure for the Library's annual operational plans.

The achievement of the strategy will be monitored annually through:

- The development and reporting on a set of Key Performance Indicators
- Library rankings in recognised surveys such as NSS and PTES
- Financial performance and reports to the COO
- Developments within the Library, against our annual operational plans
- External achievements, awards and recognition

Ann Cummings
Library Services Director, January 2013