



Western Libraries' Strategic Directions 2026–2028 is a refresh of **Forward Together**, our 2022–2028 strategic plan. It clarifies our direction and identifies priority projects that demonstrate Western Libraries' unique contributions to the work and mission of Western University. It is not intended to capture all of our operational work.

This refresh aligns with **Towards Western at 150**, which emphasizes research impact and excellence while maintaining a strong commitment to the student experience and to meaningful partnerships with campus and community stakeholders. The **Strategic Directions** recalibrate our efforts for the next two years as we navigate sector-wide and local resource constraints. They also invite staff into deliberate conversations about work that may need to pause, stop, or be refocused. Articulating specific priorities strengthens our ability to respond thoughtfully to emerging needs and opportunities. While these projects will start over the next two years, some may continue beyond 2028.

Build and provide access to deep, diverse, well-described collections

- Create a strategy and plan for long-term collections storage and preservation
- Identify a new primary book vendor
- Participate in collective collecting and shared stewardship pilot programs

Partner with scholars across the research lifecycle

- Implement Western's Researcher Information Management System (RIMS)
- Update Western's Research Data Management (RDM) strategy
- Collaborate with Western Research to capture and promote Western scholarly outputs
- Strengthen the Knowledge Synthesis program

Forward Together Pillar: **Catalyze research, scholarship, and creative activity**

Enable learner and researcher success at point of need

- Continue iterative improvement of reference and consultation services across Western Libraries
- Intentionally integrate the Library Curriculum into our work
- Collaborate with faculty and campus partners to embed AI-related learning outcomes thoughtfully within teaching and learning contexts

Forward Together Pillar: **Foster the development of library research skills, knowledge, and values**

Develop and offer versatile research and learning environments

- Activate the Scholars Lab in Weldon Library
- Develop and launch a new Western Libraries website
- Plan for the Ursuline Archive on West Campus
- Support the growth of Western International College

Forward Together Pillar: **Enhance the student experience**

Advance the partnership with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives to further decolonization and Truth and Reconciliation at Western

- Provide access to collections that support unlearning and learning, like 4 Seasons of Reconciliation
- Continue to develop and promote the Community Collections program
- Promote and make permanent the Western Libraries-FIMS Black and Indigenous Students Fellowship program for MLIS students

Forward Together Pillar: **Partner to create an inclusive library that values Indigenous peoples, perspectives, and ways of knowing**

Deepen awareness of and commitment to action that advances EDIDA at Western Libraries

- Welcome the Pride Library and its collections into Western Libraries
- Plan and deliver goals articulated in the Western Libraries EDIDA plan, including events, professional development for staff, and engaging in Western-wide initiatives

Forward Together Pillar: **Collaboratively advance Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity, and foster belonging and community at Western Libraries**

Engage local community in realistic and meaningful ways

- Establish the Community Scholars program

Forward Together Pillar: **Expand our services and outreach to local and global communities**

Examine and improve internal processes

- Review of our core services to ensure alignment with strategic priorities
- Recalibrate our service model and staffing
- Upgrade and enhance digital infrastructure
- Advance the second phase of an organizational culture initiative
- Ensure that Western Libraries staff have opportunities to develop and share knowledge related to AI tools, ethics, and responsible use