

## **Assumptions**

These are assumptions about conditions that will exist in the next few years that will have an impact on the Library and the University.

### **Budget**

The Library will experience budget constraints for the foreseeable future: reduced funding is predictable in the near term with level funding at best over the next few years. The Library will set priorities for use of resources and examine processes to ensure efficiency in operations. The number of positions will likely decrease and staff assignments and duties will change. Gift funding will increase in order to support programs, acquisitions, equipment, etc.

### **Physical Space**

Utilization of physical space will change in response to several influences: increases in electronic information and decreases in paper-based information, the need to provide services efficiently through consolidated service points, student need for collaborative/social and quiet study areas, changing patterns in use of the Library, and the opportunity to collaborate with other University departments to provide academic services to students.

### **Digital Information and Technology Management**

The growth of digital information will continue to impact the Library: new skills and resources will be required if the Library is to successfully manage digital content, services will change as users interact with the Library in new ways, and the Library will be challenged to respond to changes in a timely manner. The Library will collaborate with other University offices and outside organizations (e.g. MOBIUS) in order to manage digital content. Issues such as privacy, licensing, preservation, access and copyright will grow in importance.

### **Staffing**

The ability of the staff to deliver quality services in a changing environment will be critical to the success of the Library. Jobs will change requiring new skills and training. Leadership and forward thinking will be needed throughout the staff if the Library is to meet student and faculty

needs for new services. Technology is bringing about integration of services among departments within and outside the Library, requiring cross-training and increased knowledge of each staff member. Staff will be expert at high-tech *and* high-touch service.

## **Enrollment and Curriculum**

Due to state and regional demographic changes, the University may experience a declining enrollment requiring new initiatives to serve students beyond its traditional base. Major changes in enrollment will affect the Library: a decline will have financial implications; reaching out to new markets may involve Library support for increased online education; more transfer, international, or non-traditional students may affect the kinds of services offered. Curricular changes will affect collection development and instruction.

## **Collaboration**

Changes in the Library's services, physical space, and use of digital information combined with changes in instruction, learning and ways that faculty and students use the Library will bring about opportunities for collaboration with other University departments, e.g. the Writing Center, the Student Success Center, ITS, and the Center for Teaching & Learning. Collaboration with area elementary and secondary schools, public libraries and cultural organizations will be a way for the Library to fulfill its role as a regional academic and cultural resource.