Strategic Themes for 2020

Overview

Following a process of extensive consultation throughout 2019 CAUL defined four strategic themes to guide its plan of action in 2020 – 2022.

The strategic themes are:

- Advancing Open Scholarship
- Enabling a Modern Curriculum
- Respecting Indigenous Knowledge
- Inspiring Sustainability

CAUL has prioritised work aligned with the Advancing Open Scholarship, Enabling a Modern Curriculum and Inspiring Sustainability themes as formal strategic programs for 2020. Work around the Respecting Indigenous Knowledge theme is under development. This overview summarises the themes as a framework to organise CAUL's current and planned strategic activities.

Advancing Open Scholarship

Open scholarship (Open) and Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable (FAIR) scholarly practices underpin the integrity of research, its efficient dissemination and facilitate faster scientific discovery and problem solving. CAUL recognises the need for ongoing action in partnership with libraries, funders, policy makers, publishers, research communities and all relevant national, regional and global stakeholders.

In order to maximise the benefits of Open and FAIR scholarship there needs to be clear and consistent policies and practices at institutions, nationally and internationally, particularly in governments, funding bodies and research institutions. Implementation of Open and FAIR policies and practices should be accompanied by the development and ongoing support of infrastructure and through comprehensive, ongoing skills development and support for staff and students.

CAUL and its members are committed to action including providing resources to advance open scholarship in the following areas: advocacy, competency, publishing, infrastructure, content acquisition and educational resources as outlined in CAUL's Open Scholarship Statement (2019).

Enabling a Modern Curriculum

As the role of education in society is challenged and redefined by changes in the global economy, the new nature of work, and rapid technological advances enabling a modern curriculum is essential.

A modern curriculum is defined by lifelong learning, student success, digital dexterity, career readiness and new learning paradigms. University libraries are well placed to build national partnerships for innovation and to work with academics to lead the transformation of learning and teaching at their institutions.

A modern curriculum can be achieved by re-imagining skill development, services, spaces and resources. Innovation can be driven through the development of sustainable, affordable and collective approaches to the provision of learning and information resources and the collective development of learning & information resources with access, equity, affordability, and diversity at their heart.

By enabling a modern curriculum CAUL is prioritising the needs of library clients and promoting the success and career readiness of current and future university students and graduates.

Respecting Indigenous Knowledge

CAUL will lead a culture of respect, responsibility and reciprocity by developing a cohesive strategic approach to indigenous knowledge. The aim will be to embed a culture of respect and recognition for information and knowledge management practices, and develop strategic partnerships and relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Expected outcomes would be a greater understanding of indigenous knowledge as well as acknowledgement and promotion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, language, knowledge, artefacts, documents and records in library collections.

Through a focus on respecting Indigenous knowledge CAUL is demonstrating the role university libraries can play through partnerships and relationships for the preservation, management and discovery of indigenous knowledge for research, learning and teaching.

Inspiring Sustainability

Higher education is increasingly subject to global economic, social, technical and environmental trends that create uncertainty and increase the need for agility and responsiveness in tertiary institutions. Sustainability is defined and shaped by an organisation's ability to keep up with and respond to rapid change, emerging issues and disruptive influences. Through a focus on inspiring sustainability, CAUL is prioritising current and emerging challenges framed as the "new normal' which university libraries are facing in the short- and medium term as they recover, reset and reimagine sustainability in the following three areas of focus.

Empowering workforce capabilities

University libraries have a critical role to play in preparing students and staff for the future of work by enabling the development of skills and capabilities that allow them to participate and thrive in a digital information society. Libraries should actively identify, develop and empower the next generation of leaders within the library and information profession to meet these challenges.

By imagining a sustainable workforce of the future CAUL can build resilience within the library and information sector, ensuring the future of the library profession.

Future-proofing scholarly information resources funding

Within a changing global higher education environment, volatile economic circumstances, and an ongoing culture of change libraries need to establish shared strategies and approaches to enable operational resilience in areas including fiscal and operational management and be able to clearly articulate the value of their library within their institutions to achieve sustainable funding for information resources.

By strengthening the sustainability of university libraries CAUL will ensure that universities understand the benefits that libraries deliver in professional areas as well as through service delivery.

Advancing the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

University libraries play an essential role in addressing and advancing the UN 2030 SDG global sustainability challenges. Libraries should capitalise on the expertise and skills available to inspire these diverse contributions to the lives of students, staff and their community more visible.

By making library contributions to global sustainability visible CAUL will ensure that university libraries are recognised for their collective and individual leadership role in addressing global sustainability challenges.