

AFBI LIBRARY

STRATEGIC PLAN **Draft**  
**Outline**

2018  
2023



## Introduction

The strategic plan for the AFBI Library provides the framework within which library and information services will be delivered to employees of the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) in the second phase of the ten-year contract, 2018-2023. The AFBI Library will support the Institute in achieving its goals as set out in its Corporate Plan and Science Strategy. AFBI's vision is to be an internationally recognised and successful centre of excellence for scientific research and services within the biosciences; its mission is to deliver effective, high quality scientific services to local, national and international public and private sector customers. The role of the AFBI Library in support of these corporate aims is to provide a high quality library service with access to first-rate resources and expert guidance and advice in order to enable AFBI staff to continue to deliver science of a high international standard.

The AFBI Library Strategic Plan reflects the need to support all AFBI staff in achieving their objectives by providing high quality, accessible resources in a timely manner with the services and training required to ensure maximum exploitation of these resources. An awareness of changing priorities in strategically important core areas of science, user expectations, the role of technology and the need to achieve value for money underpin the plan.

The plan has evolved through a process of consultation and information gathering involving regular meetings of the AFBI Library Action Group, the AFBI Library Committee and user feedback via the AFBI Library Online (ALO) website and regular user surveys.

The plan is responsive to change and will be reviewed and updated regularly. An operational plan will outline specific objectives and tasks on an annual basis.

### 1. Context and strategic aims

The AFBI Library strategy aims to ensure the implementation and enhancement of the services defined by the contract. In particular, the role of the Library is to contribute to the work and core values of AFBI by helping staff to make effective use of the knowledge and information base contained within, and made available through, the AFBI Library in partnership with the Queen's University Library. The Library will support the stated aims of AFBI by providing access to the highest quality information and resources and by ensuring excellent library services are available to meet the needs of all the AFBI Library members on all AFBI sites.

The period covered by the plan is a challenging one for libraries. The demand for fast, flexible and reliable access to a wide range of resources is occurring at a time when financial pressures are severe. AFBI's delivery of innovation and scientific support to the biosciences sector needs to be based on the best and most up-to-date evidence. Library staff have an important role to play in evaluating, selecting and managing resources and ensuring that users find it easy to access and use them. The Library will depend increasingly on electronic resources and print-based collections will diminish in the second phase of the contract. However, the Library will continue to offer a hybrid library service during the five-year period and, while expanding electronic provision, will safeguard those print collections that are still an important resource for some users.

Library resources represent a major investment by AFBI and it is vital that users are aware of the services on offer and are provided with the guidance and training required to exploit resources and services to the full. Promotion and training are key elements of the strategic plan. This plan will focus on delivering training and advice both in person and online to ensure full benefit is derived for the organisation from all resources.

There are undoubtedly challenges facing the Library in the next few years but there are opportunities also. The partnership between AFBI and Queen's University offers an excellent

opportunity to procure, promote and provide access to a wide range of services and resources which underpin excellence in delivering scientific work and providing high quality advice and expertise to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and others. An overarching consideration will continue to be the need to keep in step with the requirements of all our users and to ensure that services and their delivery are constantly kept under review to ensure appropriate service orientation.

Projects contributing to the implementation of the strategic plan for the AFBI Library can be grouped under the following headings:

- procurement and management of resources
- delivery of resources and services
- service development
- promotion and marketing of resources and services
- support and training to ensure maximum exploitation of resources and services
- library staff development
- optimisation of library environments
- service monitoring/performance indicators
- risk management

## **2. Goals and action plan**

### **2.1 *Procurement and management of resources***

- Use our expertise in collaboration with AFBI staff to select and purchase the most relevant and cost-effective resources
- Continue to increase the number of e-books purchased
- Further explore Evidence-Based Acquisition (EBA) as a model
- Maximise our investment by monitoring usage of electronic resources
- Carry out annual journals review exercise

### **2.2 *Delivery of resources and services***

- Deliver resources electronically where possible as a cost effective and efficient way of providing access to AFBI staff wherever they are located and avoiding duplication across physical locations
- Review and improve the AFBI Library Online website
- Investigate the use of mobile technologies to enhance delivery of services and resources

### **2.3 *Service development***

- Continue to develop document delivery services
- Update the Library Management System on a regular basis
- Support and promote Open Access and research impact
- Explore possibility of working with AFBI on an institutional repository

- Support for publishing

#### **2.4 *Promotion and marketing of resources and services***

- Exploit social media to promote services/resources and communicate with AFBI staff
- Engage with students working on AFBI projects
- Run regular surveys
- Develop annual plans to market specific projects, resources and services

#### **2.5 *Support and training to exploit resources***

- Continue to provide a comprehensive training programme including group and individual sessions
- Run student-focused training sessions
- Provide bespoke training to Branches
- Investigate possibility of desktop support
- Develop online guides and tutorials
- Draw on QUB expertise in areas such as RDM and OA

#### **2.6 *Staff development***

- Ensure library staff continue to develop and update skills through attendance at QUB training sessions, attendance at conferences etc
- Maintain high levels of satisfaction with library services
- Continue to seek CSE revalidation

#### **2.7 *Optimisation of library environment***

- Review all print holdings to optimise space requirements
- Continue to develop modern up-to-date spaces to reflect changing library use
- Enhance wi-fi coverage in main AFBI libraries
- Establish and promote new multi-functional library space at Loughgall
- Prepare an options appraisal if opportunities arise to relocate or amalgamate any of the existing libraries

#### **2.8 *Service monitoring***

- Annual report
- Usage figures/KPIs

#### **2.9 *Risk management***

- Maintain and regularly review risk management register

## Conclusion

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A new Strategic Plan, based on the above outline, will be prepared in 2018 following input from AFBI staff and the Library Committee to cover the second phase of the contract, 2018-2023.