

Executive Summary

Task Force on New Collection Paradigms

In this increasingly digital world libraries must be prepared to evolve into centers for the discovery, exploration and creation of knowledge. This is an exciting time for libraries with the opportunity to influence the direction of the growing digital society and economy.

To position the SDSU library for this ever expanding digital future this committee was asked to:

- Explore new technologies
- Examine publishing and access to scholarly information
- Explore the concepts and practical aspects of digital libraries

The committee envisions capitalizing on new technologies and paradigms to support research, teaching and creative activities by providing enhanced services to students, faculty and the community; and encouraging new connections, contexts and products.

To meet this vision the committee recommends that the library:

- Develop a road map to effectively incorporate digital services
- Create digital collections from our rare and unique holdings
- Support new publishing paradigms for our faculty and staff
- Encourage open, unfettered access to information
- Develop tools to enhance the discovery of knowledge and incorporate new knowledge
- Evolve and grow the library's web presence
- Create infrastructure and an organization supporting the evolution to the digital library
- Develop resources, both human and capital, to support digital services and projects

The task force organized our charge into three strategic directions: 1) Create and implement a plan for managing digital projects; 2) Use technology to enhance access to collections across products, departments, and organizations; and 3) Build the infrastructure necessary to support new collection paradigms.

The task force has mapped an implementation strategy in three phases. The estimated timeline for the first two phases ranges from three to eighteen months. The last phase involves long-term planning and discussions. In many cases, the responsibilities for the tasks in this phase are unclear this early, given that each will be built on earlier decisions; given that most involve outside partnerships; and given the exponential changes in the underlying technology.

Each of these strategic directions is best accomplished through transformations in the Library, both in terms of resource allocation (human and funding) and a

shift in culture. Change is so rapid that all Library employees must be willing to engage and be supported in learning new skills and shifting library paradigms. The structure of the Library will need to become more fluid so that old tasks and models can be released as new ones occupy our attention and so that Library units work together and communicate efficiently and without disabling boundaries.

In order to begin this shift, the task force recommends a Digital Initiatives Steering Committee that will bring together Library faculty and staff from various departments for short- to mid-term ad hoc project groups. Where possible, these groups will do the work contained in this plan. Where more collaboration or decision-making is necessary, the Steering Committee will recommend and promote the necessary prerequisites for success.