

A magnifying glass with a wooden handle and a metal rim, positioned over the text 'Check Out' and 'What's Inside'.

Check Out

What's Inside

Helen Matthes Library

Strategic Plan 2012-2020

ACTION PLAN 2013

Mission: The Helen Matthes Library provides community engagement and life-long learning through literature, technology, and information access.

Vision: The Helen Matthes Library empowers individuals and enriches the community.

Values: Culture, Technology, Service

Strategic Goals

A. Provide exceptional library service

1. Provide education and training opportunities for staff.
 - *Provide opportunities for attendance at off-site training events.*
 - *Provide 4 on-site training events, one of which focuses on opportunities and lessons learned from other libraries moving into a new facility.*
 - *Provide opportunities to visit innovative libraries.*
 - *Implement core technology competencies for all staff and provide training for staff to meet these core competencies.*
 - *Offer one Readers Advisory training event to staff/year.*
 - *Develop a Wellness Program for staff.*
2. Provide a facility that meets the community's needs.
 - *Continue fundraising efforts for new facility.*
 - *Seek out and apply for grants to help support the new facility.*
 - *Begin construction of new facility.*
 - *Keep community informed of progress of new building through a blog/local newspaper.*
 - *Explore alternate ordering system for adult non-fiction by analyzing which collections need to be refreshed in the next two years.*
 - *Develop a seed library to compliment the community gardens.*
 - *Explore alternatives to the Dewey classification system.*
 - *Explore options for front facing "easy readers" in the Children's Department.*
3. Market our services.
 - *Increase attendance at all programs by 10%.*
 - *Increase participation rate of Summer Read Program by 5%.*
 - *Increase completion rate of Summer Read Program by 5%.*
 - *Increase social networking presence.*
 - *Develop baseline service figures of women, 25-35 and men, 55-65.*

- *Develop business survey to see how we can better serve this population.*
- *Develop at least 3 community outreach partnerships to improve marketing of services and programs.*
- *Visit local, state, and federal representatives at least once.*

B. Increase access to technology

1. Increase self-sufficiency of patrons through technology to allow staff to provide more specialized assistance.
 - *Develop resources for readers advisory that can be used online and in person.*
 - *Expand efforts to have staff spend more time in stacks and at computers assisting patrons.*
 - *Migrate to the Polaris platform in the SHARE consortium.*
 - *Explore offering access to Skype for patrons.*
2. Leverage grant dollars to continue to be good stewards of the community's resources.
 - *Pursue grants that will allow the purchase of new public computers.*
 - *Pursue grants that will bridge our community's need for access to better technology.*
 - *Develop/Revise technology plan to ensure that technology is being refreshed when needed and that grant and general fund dollars are being used strategically.*

C. Develop partnerships to enhance library service

1. Expand outreach and strategic partnership opportunities to better leverage our services.
 - *Participate in EggStravaganza, Halloween Parade, Arts and Hearts, and Old Fashioned Christmas.*
 - *Host the Artisan Fair 5K*
 - *Continue to offer and develop the Homebound program.*
 - *Partner with at least 6 non-profit organizations to provide/enhance a program.*
 - *Partner with at least 6 businesses to provide/enhance a program.*
 - *Pursue grants that will allow for greater programming opportunities.*
 - *Participate in Mission: Summer Fun.*
 - *Increase volunteer hours by 5%.*
 - *Participate in the backpack program through FISH.*
2. Become an incubator for ideas and development in the community.
 - *Explore grant opportunities to purchase new equipment/furnishings to facilitate group activities.*
 - *Develop/strengthen relationships with the community groups and business leaders working with students and entrepreneurs.*
 - *Explore grant opportunities to provide books for visiting nurses while on family visits.*

D. Integrate with schools

1. Integrate with schools to provide literacy development.
 - *Develop reserve collection for local schools.*
 - *Promote our location as a site for tutoring and other types of community service hours for high school students.*
 - *Participate yearly at teacher's in-service events.*
 - *Have a presence at school registration events.*
 - *Host an unstaffed progressive storytime on the TREC trail to encourage literacy development.*
2. Seek partnerships with higher education.
 - *Continue to explore collection partnership options with Lake Land College.*
 - *Work with Eastern Illinois University and Lake Land College to host at least 2 community education opportunities.*
 - *Explore grant opportunities to host Roads Scholar events.*

E. Expand our service area

1. Explore the variety of options of expanding our service area.
 - *Increase city library card redemption by 5%.*
 - *Increase non-resident card participation by 5%.*
 - *Explore options for creating/partnering to develop Little Free Libraries in unserved areas.*
 - *Research different methods for expanding service area.*