Elizabeth Huth Coates Library

Mission and Strategic Vision

2025-2029

Mission Statement

The Elizabeth Huth Coates Library embodies Trinity University's commitment to inquiry, collaboration, and the expression of knowledge.

The Library's physical and digital spaces invite and inspire researchers to explore ideas individually and together. Its collections offer a combination of carefully selected and managed resources in a variety of formats to meet the information needs of students, faculty and staff. Special Collections and Archives houses a unique and distinctive collection curated to support teaching and research, with an emphasis on preserving and making accessible the history of the institution and its context in the San Antonio community. The Library faculty collaborates with teachers across the curriculum and the interdisciplines to create learning experiences that enhance students' understanding of knowledge, its access, evaluation, ethical use, and creation. Dedicated and knowledgeable professionals offer instruction, guidance, and support to the Trinity community at the point-of-need and anticipate the experiences that will enhance a lifetime of learning, meaning, and purpose.

Strategic Vision

1. The connection between the third floor of the Library and the new Trinity University Welcome Center, as well as the path of the recently constructed Beneski Parkway, will make the Library the front door of the upper or north side of campus. Utilizing inventive and innovative design planning, the physical building will harmonize the Library's resources and staff with Student Success partner units while continuing to provide individual, small group, and large group spaces for students and others. This comprehensive renovation of the Library will prepare the building's infrastructure, interior spaces, and exterior spaces to serve as a vibrant and accessible hub for people, resources, and activities in the decades to come.

2. The Library's Resource Management and Discovery team will provide access to information and curate an optimal selection of resources that support the learning and research needs of the Trinity community. The future renovation will make the physical collection more accessible to a wider variety of visitors and will facilitate the maintenance of the Library's legacy print collection, recognizing the cognitive skills and the singular experience of learning and working with print text. A continuing emphasis on the value of open access resources and publishing will foster greater visibility and accessibility to student and faculty research and scholarship.
3. As one-size-fits-all instruction increasingly fails to meet the needs of a diverse and talented cohort of students, the Library's Instruction Team will continue to enhance collaborations with classroom instructors to support meaningful research experiences. Additional points of access to teachers in the library through individual and group appointments, digital and asynchronous learning support, workshops and research labs, and full semester courses will enhance the meaningful learning options available to students, faculty, and staff.
4. As a unique and distinctive collection, the Library's Special Collections and the University Archives will be better poised to collect, preserve, and provide access to more resources after the renovation project is completed. Appropriate physical spaces for storage and display, increased environmental protections to safeguard materials, and more appropriate accommodations for teaching and learning with primary sources will allow Special Collections and Archives staff to meet a higher standard of service. Designated funding commensurate with its role to preserve and protect the history of Trinity University and the people who have made it thrive will provide for the long awaited digital upgrade that will facilitate the storage and archiving of born- and found-digital artifacts.
5. As a consequence of the renovation, the Library's Access Services unit will be better able to meet its objectives to support students, faculty, and staff as they locate and use resources and spaces in the building. Increased efficiency in these activities will allow staff to focus on additional areas of development and support, including the re-envisioning of the student employee program as a pre-career experience as well as enhancing the library's outreach and support for students interested in careers as library and information professionals.