Countway Library of Medicine

An Alliance of the Harvard Medical School and Boston Medical Library

1. **Countway Library of Medicine Brand Positioning Statement**: Countway Library of Medicine is a wellspring of research, knowledge and education. With accessible resources, it’s a multi-discipline community that supports everyone by bringing all people together through learning, wellness and enrichment.
2. **Mission Statement**: The mission of the Countway Library of Medicine is to cultivate and advance education, research, scholarship and professional practice in the health and biomedical sciences by facilitating access to scholarly information and knowledge, preserving a historical record, and creating a stimulating and synergistic setting for intellectual growth.
3. **Pillar Units**
4. **Research and Education**
5. Strengths: HMS and HSPH ranked among top funded research centers in US. The HSPH has the top funded grants on Longwood Campus. Full life cycle library taking an active role in supporting research. Collaboration among units and services as well as outreach into the community. As educators and teachers, we are embedded into the curriculum. External support to primary and secondary schools.
6. Opportunities: Need additional staff with statistical teaching expertise. Need multi-tiered offerings (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced) to address the knowledge needs of our users. Will need additional hires to support additional classes. Need research to understand what topics the users want.
7. Application to mission statement: Cultivate and advance education through intellectual growth. Promoting relevance and current practices. Preserving historical records.
8. Short-term goals: Review class curriculum to determine which ones have the opportunity to offer a Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced time slot. Review how current staff can accommodate extra classes.
9. **Resources and Access**
10. Strengths: Countway Library of Medicine has one of the leading/largest resources in the US. Countway Library of Medicine Center for the History of Medicine is one of the leading/largest resources in the world. Access to all of Harvard’s resources throughout the world for students and faculty of the Harvard Community. Resources inform contemporary medicine, dentistry, humanities, public health/public policy, and other disciplines. Access to Countway Library of Medicine resources are available to the public.
11. Opportunities: Need to better manage backlog of material to be cataloged. Determine guidelines to evaluate what materials to acquire and maintain. Evaluate how to manage the rising cost of buying materials. Improve and expedite access for the Harvard Community who are working remotely. Implement a better way to continuously inform our users about what we have to offer.
12. Application to mission statement: Facilitate access to scholarly information and knowledge. Cultivate resources to advance scholarship across all disciplines.
13. Short-term goals: Determine guidelines to evaluate what materials to acquire and maintain.
14. **Information and Resource Specialists**
15. Strengths: Specially trained subject-centric expertise. Proactively respond to users’ needs through versatile institutional knowledge. Connect people to resources while providing the knowledge of information lifecycle.
16. Opportunities: Inadequate staffing across all disciplines and units. Develop practices, policies, and guidelines to deliver consistent end product based on individual user needs. Information & Resource Specialists are not physically integrated.
17. Application to mission statement: Cultivate and advance all aspects of scholarship. Facilitate access to scholarly information, knowledge, and historical records.
18. Short-term goals: Develop practices, policies, and guidelines to deliver consistent end product based on individual user needs.
19. **Classes and Events**
20. Strengths: Programs are educational, thought provoking, and diversified. Classes/Events most sought after services offered. Countway Library of Medicine life cycle philosophy provides holistic learning and enrichment to Longwood Campus and the greater community.
21. Opportunities: Need multi-tiered offerings (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced) to address the knowledge needs of our users—will need additional hires to support additional classes. Current schedule/format of classes/events is too limited to meet wide array of users’ needs. Understand the barriers of why the Harvard Community does not take better advantage of the current classes/events.
22. Application to mission statement: Cultivate and advance all aspects of scholarship. Facilitate access to scholarly information, knowledge, and historical records. Stimulating setting for intellectual growth.
23. Short-term goals: Review class curriculum to determine which ones have the opportunity to offer a Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced time slot. Review how current staff can accommodate extra classes.
24. **Community and Space**
25. Strengths: Our space is conductive to inspire an emotional and aspirational connection with the greater community. We are the one place on Longwood Campus that HMS, HDS, HSPH come together for learning, research, and socialization. Countway Library of Medicine plays a central role in binding the Harvard Medical Community.
26. Opportunities: Lack of clarity around the standard percentage of space reserved for physical resources vs. space for study, exhibits, relaxation, etc. Inadequate space for independent/group study, classes/events, intellectual programs, and decompression. No on-site places to buy nourishment.
27. Application to mission statement: Creating stimulating and synergistic setting for intellectual growth.
28. Short-term goals: HMS Dean has approved phase 1 of renovation project (1st and 2nd floor). Currently pending final approval from University before project can begin.