



SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE
LIBRARY

2025-2026

Library Annual Reivew

Introduction

A Year of Laying the Groundwork

The 2025-2026 school year marked the first chapter of the Library's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, the first strategic plan in our history. Developed through a collaborative process involving Library faculty and staff, the plan provides a shared framework for supporting the evolving needs of our users while advancing the mission of the college.

This year we focused on building the foundation needed to support long-term success: we concentrated on strengthening internal systems, improving our ability to assess services and collections, and creating the infrastructure necessary for informed decision-making. This work may not always be visible to library users, but it is essential to ensuring that future initiatives are responsive, sustainable, and aligned with campus priorities.

The progress highlighted in this review reflects a library that is evolving with intention: one that values collaboration, embraces continuous improvement, and is preparing thoughtfully for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Grounded in planning
and stewardship



Strategic Plan Progress

Our Strategic Plan identifies a series of initiatives designed to support four broad areas of focus: Stewardship of Resources, Holistic Student Experience, Campus Engagement, and Operational Sustainability.

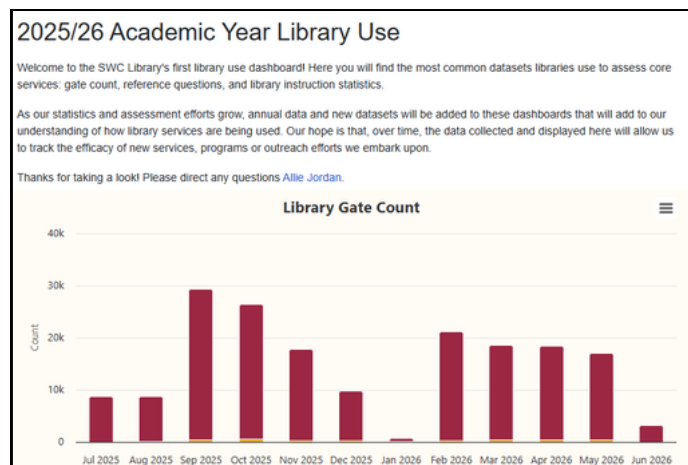
Several initiatives were launched during the first year of implementation. While many of these projects are still in progress, two achieved significant milestones this year: the Statistics Roundup and the Collection Audit. Together, these projects establish a stronger foundation for evidence-based decision-making and ensure that library collections, services, and resources remain aligned with the needs of our campus community.

Statistics Roundup

The overarching goals of this project were twofold: to assess the current state of data collection in the Library, and to identify improvements that will help us use our data more effectively.

Through cross-team collaboration, we identified gaps and inefficiencies in our data collection and have centralized the core statistics needed for external reporting. We also utilized recently upgraded library-specific statistics software to begin systematically collecting database usage data. This software has also enabled us to visualize library usage in real-time and create public dashboards.

These new workflows will significantly improve our ability to make data-driven decisions about our database budget, services, outreach, and programming. Having this infrastructure in place will also inform the strategic initiatives we have planned for next year.



Our first public dashboard, now viewable on the library webpage.

Collection Audit

Libraries are living organisms, in that materials, services, and workflows must constantly evolve to meet the needs of the user population. The aim of the Collection Audit was to conduct a deep assessment of our collections to ensure they support curriculum and are reflective of the campus community.

Over the past year we completed a review of the print book collection at Chula Vista campus library, right-sized our reference collection, and improved the findability of academic eBooks in OneSearch. Additionally, we have updated all Library collection guideline documents and brought liaison librarian subject areas into alignment with Fields of Study. These revisions help us reaffirm that our internal processes serve the campus well.

Although different in scope, both the Statistics Roundup and Collection Audit share a common purpose: to improve our understanding of how the Library's resources and services support teaching, learning, and student success.

By strengthening our assessment practices, refining internal workflows, and aligning collections with curriculum and campus priorities, these projects provide the foundation for future strategic initiatives. The knowledge gained through this work will guide our planning efforts as we continue implementing the Strategic Plan and responding to the evolving needs of Southwestern College students, faculty, and staff.



**User-centered and
responsive**

Highlights from 2025-2026

While much of the Library's strategic work this year focused on internal planning and infrastructure, we also enjoyed a number of collaborative and community-centered programs. New partnerships, expanded outreach efforts, and increased engagement with our colleagues demonstrate our continued commitment to building relationships across campus and creating meaningful connections with users.

Creating Meaningful Campus Experiences

Celebrating Culture



This fall, the Library installed its first Día de los Muertos altar, creating an interactive exhibit that invited students to contribute and participate. By encouraging personal reflection and community engagement, the exhibit helped strengthen the Library's role as a welcoming and inclusive campus space.

Using funds from an SWC Foundation Mini Grant, the Library purchased a "Little Free Library" that now resides in the middle of campus. These small, grassroots community lending libraries are a global sensation that promote literacy by removing barriers to book access.



Promoting Literacy Beyond the Library

New Collaborations

Expanding Educational Partnerships



This spring semester, the Library partnered with teachers from Options Middle College High School to deliver library instruction sessions that introduced students to academic research practices. These visits provided an opportunity to connect students with library resources early in their educational journey and establish relationships that will continue to develop in future semesters.

The Library collaborated with instructional faculty and community organizations to develop *Across the Waves*, an exhibit highlighting the South Asian diaspora. By bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise, the project demonstrated the Library's role as a space for learning, dialogue, and cultural engagement.

Building Community Through Collaboration



Engagement with purpose



Library by the Numbers

91Library Instruction
Sessions**2,265**

Students Served

**175,823**Total Gate
Count**42,504+**Print & Digital
Books Checked
Out**1,607**Digital
Textbook
Loans**31,984**Study Room
Check Outs**7,671**Total
Questions
Answered**92,130+**Unique
article
downloads

Looking Ahead

From Foundation to Momentum

Looking ahead, the Library will build upon the foundational work completed during the first year of the Strategic Plan. Improved data collection practices and assessment infrastructure will allow us to better understand how students, faculty, and staff use library resources and where opportunities for improvement exist.

Future initiatives will focus on gathering direct feedback from users, strengthening outreach to faculty, and continuing to develop services that respond to changing campus needs. As implementation of the Strategic Plan continues, the Library remains committed to thoughtful growth, meaningful collaboration, and evidence-based decision-making that supports student success and advances the mission of Southwestern College.

