Ohio Private Academic Libraries Strategic Plan (2017-2020)

OPAL Mission
To strengthen and promote member libraries through financially responsible collaboration and innovation.

OPAL Vision
Together, OPAL will explore opportunities and solutions to deliver resources and provide expertise to our communities.

Our Guiding Principles
- We believe clear communication is important to our success.
- We believe collaboration creates a strong foundation for our work, services and resources.
- We believe investing in our future ensures long-term relevancy to our communities.

Long Term Strategic Objectives and Goals

GOAL 1: Foster open communication and knowledge sharing
- Strategy 1: Implement efficient procedures to maximize collaboration
  - Tactic 1: Use a consent agenda at Directors’ Council (DC) (and other meetings as applicable) to shift focus to an action-oriented meeting
  - Tactic 2: Action items are shared with OhioNET Executive Director/CEO, Deputy Director, Director of Administrative Services, and Director of Technology Services
- Strategy 2: Gather expertise from diverse sources
  - Tactic 1: Refine the Working Groups (WG) and Communities of Interest (COI) to cultivate shared knowledge
  - Tactic 2: Find opportunities to invite, participate, and engage with all private non-profit academic libraries in consortial activities
- Strategy 3: Improve information flow with all stakeholders
  - Tactic 1: Determine ways and means to best share OPAL business with full membership
  - Tactic 2: Craft and communicate a stronger identity in order to heighten visibility (both internally and externally)
- Strategy 4: Document the history of OPAL
  - Tactic 1: Establish an OPAL archive
GOAL 2: Empower library staff to affect change

- **Strategy 1:** Provide opportunities for staff at all levels to engage with OPAL
  - Tactic 1: Encourage individual OPAL library staff to engage in the work of the consortia
  - Tactic 2: Support leadership/professional development opportunities
  - Tactic 3: Refine Communities of Interest (COI) with more structured practices

- **Strategy 2:** Identify routine tasks related to the Library Management System in order to increase consortial efficiencies
  - Tactic 1: Encourage staff to review and expand upon established tips and FAQs
  - Tactic 2: Explore deep collaboration and mechanisms for library staff to perform routine systems tasks to free up OhioNET staff for other priorities

GOAL 3: Invest in our future

- **Strategy 1:** Respond to emerging trends and issues that affect private academic libraries
  - Tactic 1: Leverage OPAL library staff to identify issues
  - Tactic 2: Use existing structure (COI, WG, DC) to prioritize and find solutions
  - Tactic 3: Develop OPAL digital collections (e.g. CONTENTdm)

- **Strategy 2:** Refine the mentoring program
  - Tactic 1: Develop on-boarding, orientation, and training guidelines and expectations

- **Strategy 3:** Actively investigate the future of the shared library management system
  - Tactic 1: Meet with and provide input to OhioLINK staff/governance to chart our shared vision of the future
  - Tactic 2: Solicit demonstrations from alternative providers (e.g. FOLIO) as OPAL or with other interested libraries

- **Strategy 4:** Engage with Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio to advocate on our behalf
  - Tactic 1: Identify how to engage in a mutually beneficial relationship for all private academic libraries