How do you think the University Libraries is doing? What do you perceive as its strengths?

The University Libraries is well integrated into the educational mission of the University and responsive to the needs of the academic curriculum. One good indicator of this is its instruction program, which directly supports and enhances faculty efforts to develop students’ information seeking habits and critical thinking abilities through class library visits, online tutorials, and structured assignments that build on student skills across their academic career.

In addition the Libraries has benefitted from a collections budget and robust information technology infrastructure that have increasingly allowed it to provide 24/7 access to research resources to its constituents. Its digital collections and institutional repository are noteworthy.

The staff of the University Libraries has a strong customer service orientation, which is reflected in feedback obtained from surveys of students and staff.

What do you think the University Libraries could do better?

The Libraries needs to be better at communicating the value of its people and their expertise to UNLV’s educational mission and the community at large. Current services need to be more widely promoted and planning for new services should take into consideration whether or not there are enough people, resources and time to see them become meaningful and effective services. The budget needs to be increased to allow for larger research collections and more staff.

Identify characteristics of excellent libraries at other institutions and specify what they have that you want to have and can work toward.

An excellent university library is focused on efficiently meeting the needs of its users. In order to do that we strive for innovation in delivering services and access to resources, and need to look beyond libraries and explore other industries for best practices and innovative ideas to bring to the UNLV Libraries.

What would you like the University Libraries to be known for?

We would like the University Libraries to known for its excellence in meeting the research needs of its faculty and students and its contribution toward student success through its services and innovative collaborations and partnerships formed with the campus community. The Libraries is also proud of its physical and digital collections. Among its unique collections are Special Collections, oral histories, and materials on the history of southern Nevada.

What are some ideas for changes in the University Libraries that would build on its current national reputation?

In order to build a national reputation the University Libraries needs to continue to implement new technologies. Libraries’ faculty should continue to develop subject expertise with the goal of achieving local and national recognition and disseminate its knowledge through scholarly output. In addition we would recommend adding endowed chairs or fellowships within the Libraries. We should build on our existing excellent reputation for digital collections by increasing the content available on the web.
The Libraries needs to work on obtaining large external grants and on building community partnerships.