“The question for scholars...is not whether change is coming. It is whether they will be among the change-makers.”

Lisbet Rausing, “Toward a New Alexandria”

The vast majority of our student users—and a growing number of faculty—are digital natives. Yet the library as a physical place remains essential. Library use and users continue to push libraries in different but complementary directions. The “both and” model of library use is now the norm, with scholars continuing to value the library as a physical place in which to work, study, and even socialize while requiring an ever more robust arsenal of online resources with which to accomplish their aims.

Digital technology—increasingly powerful and nearing ubiquity—has changed the academic landscape in a way not seen since Gutenberg and the invention of moveable type. Data is available on a scale scarcely imaginable even a generation ago. This evolution has not, however, obviated the need for libraries or librarians. Rather, the profusion of data has made the work of the library immensely more vital and complicated, and the partnership of librarians, curators, software engineers, and others more critical, as researchers seek to transform data (raw and sometimes disorganized bits and bytes) into information and thence to knowledge.

We are rising to the challenges inherent in this new and ever-evolving information age by reimagining the role of the Sheridan Libraries. We are revitalizing our infrastructure and leveraging technology and our expertise to create a library that is not only a world-class repository of resources but is also a center for original research and scholarship.

An Athenaeum for the Digital Age

$10.5 million, with opportunities beginning at $10,000

This virtual center will draw students and faculty into intimate contact with our special collections materials (rare books, manuscripts, archives) and make possible a new kind of scholarship that seamlessly unites digital technology with close textual reading. Through fellowships, research, courses, exhibitions, lectures, and publications, we will foster and support new lines of inquiry into the words and artifacts of the distant (and not so distant) past.
Institute for Book and Conservation Science
$3 million, with opportunities beginning at $25,000
The relatively young discipline of book conservation is rooted in the centuries-old arts of paper- and printmaking and bookbinding. We are combining these studio arts with an active research laboratory committed to scientific investigation of materials—paper, ink, bindings—in order to better advance both the art and science of conservation and preservation.

Data Conservancy
$5 million, with many opportunities to participate
We are at the forefront of understanding, shaping, and supporting data management practices by scientists and humanists. Our research, development, and implementation of a large-scale data management infrastructure is essential for data-driven scholars in all disciplines, and will result in a foundation for the library of the future.

Center for Educational Resources
$3.5 million, with opportunities beginning at $50,000
An endowment is sought to name the Director of the Center for Educational Resources to provide leadership and permanence to the center, ensuring its continuing impact on pedagogical excellence, instructional technology, and student outcomes assessment.

George Peabody Library
$4 million, with opportunities beginning at $150,000
A full-time, dedicated librarian is essential for building the collections, promoting teaching and research opportunities, and developing classes and exhibitions. The librarian will manage the George Peabody Library collections, including those connected to the larger university libraries collections; identify and promote teaching opportunities with the collections; develop specific classes, exhibitions, and programs that are tied to the library; and help fully realize the Peabody as a Center for 19th-Century Thought and Studies.

Milton S. Eisenhower Library Revitalization
$7 million, with many opportunities to participate
The library’s role and usage at Johns Hopkins University has evolved greatly in the 50 years since this building was erected. We will update the library building itself, adding new collaborative study rooms, and provide a new, more visible home on M-level for the Center for Educational Resources (CER). The Garrett Room, which currently houses CER, will be returned to its original purpose for use by the Johns Hopkins community for lectures, symposia, and workshops. The Q-level area previously occupied by Café Q will be converted into gallery space for exhibitions curated by students and displays of art gifted by donors.

Acquisition Funds for Special Collections and Archives
$10 million, with many opportunities to participate
In-kind gifts provide objects for study and enjoyment for members of the Hopkins and Baltimore communities. Recent gifts (e.g., the Hinkes Collection in the History of Science and the Wertheim-Frary Collection of Stephen Crane) enhance the scholarly experiences available to our students and faculty. We also seek to strategically acquire new items and collections worthy of study and preservation to add to the resources currently available.

Current Use Support and Friends of the Libraries
$5.5 million, with opportunities at all levels
Since 1931, the Friends of the Johns Hopkins University Libraries have helped provide resources for Hopkins scholars and supported programming designed to engage, enlighten, and inspire. Annual gifts are essential to our efforts to build and strengthen the libraries’ collections, both print and digital, while making technological enhancements that foster the research and teaching aims of the university.