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50th anniversary of R.M. Cooper Library booklet

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Celebrating 50 Years

R.M. COOPER LIBRARY

1966

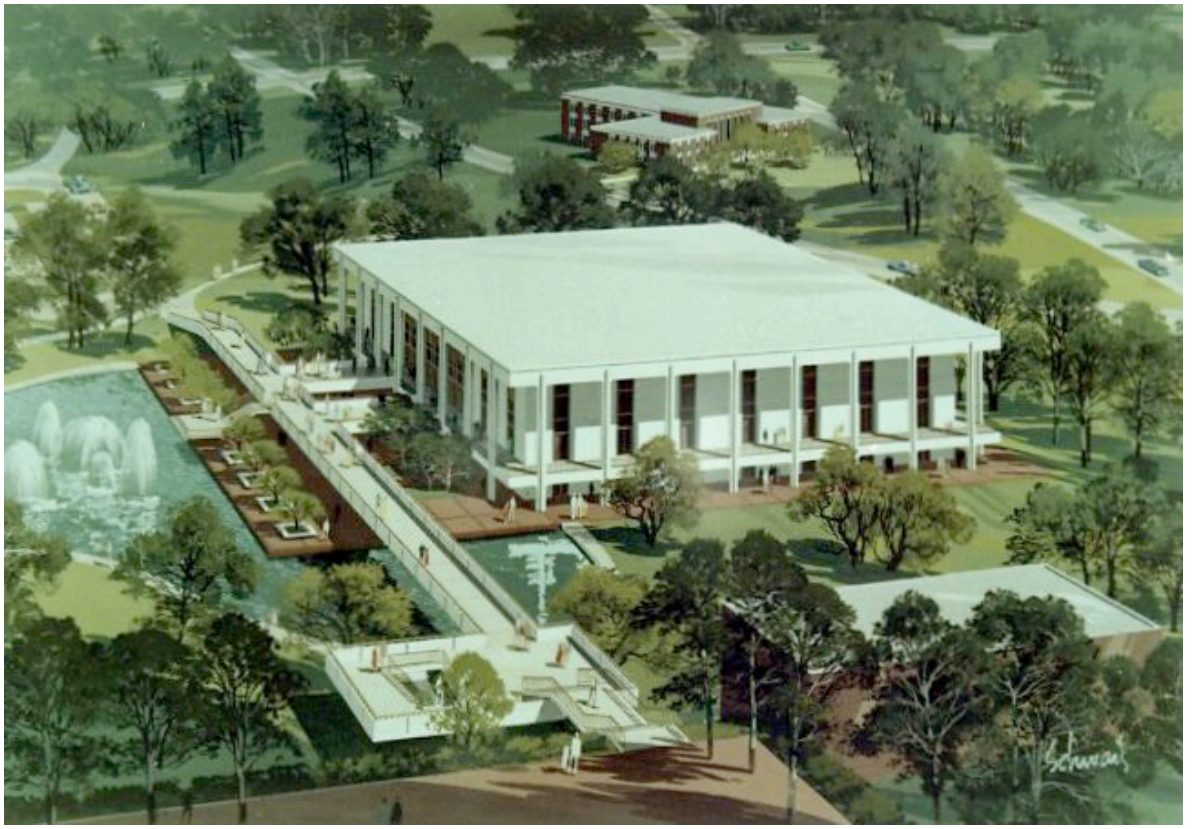
2016

"Cooper Library is the heart of Clemson University. The genius of the library leadership and staff is that they have been a change agent for keeping our library the heart of the University through a half century that saw substantial change. Cooper Library has transformed itself from a store-house to a meeting house."

– James F. Barker, FAIA
President Emeritus

Fifty years is a milestone in a life and more so in the life of the heart of the Clemson University campus. The Robert Muldrow Cooper Library was conceived as the intellectual core of campus and its striking white exterior, compared with the red brick buildings, as a beacon of knowledge. The 50th anniversary of the Cooper Library provides the university community a chance to look back on our history intertwined with the history of Clemson University, comparing how students have changed over the past five decades and how Cooper Library has continued to fulfill its mission in teaching critical thinking and providing access to the world's information.

While the history of Cooper Library primarily focuses on the building, it is the commitment of library faculty, staff, and student employees who have given life to the building. Their expertise in managing information, selecting and organizing collections, teaching students, overseeing study spaces, and helping faculty and students in accessing research materials has created the rich history of the Cooper Library. The 50th anniversary is a tribute to the many employees who worked in Cooper Library as much as a celebration of space.



past. present. future.

The Library in the Past

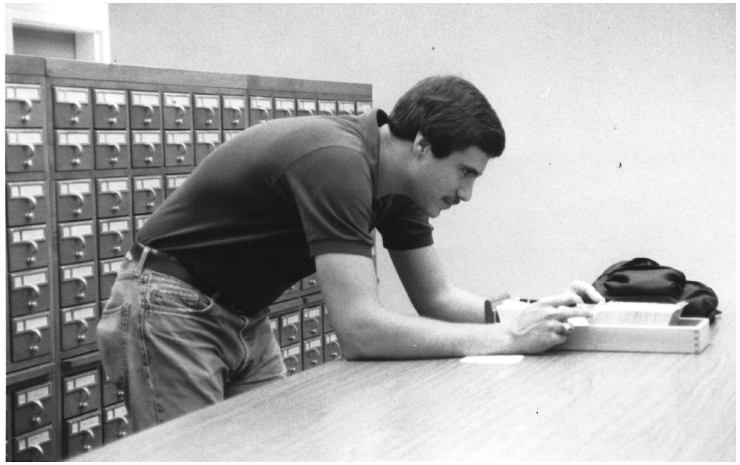
Clemson's main library occupied two locations, Tillman Hall and Sikes Hall, before moving to the center of campus with the building of Robert Muldrow Cooper Library. From construction (1964-1966) to dedication (August 1966), R.M. Cooper Library was designed to be the heart of campus. The Progress Report of the President of Clemson University in 1964/65 describes how the new library would soon "be a vital part of the educational experience of every student, graduate and undergraduate."

Conveyor belt used to move boxes of books out of old library

Cooper Library opened with a ground, first, and second floor along with a basement. The building went through three stages of expansion after its dedication. Expansion of the ground floor in 1972, along with the additions of the sixth floor in 1978, and second floor in 1980, led to the current six-floor configuration. The library's evolution was not only necessary to house an expanding collection, but also to accommodate the new services, technologies, and instruction developed by the building's greatest asset: the people who inhabit it.

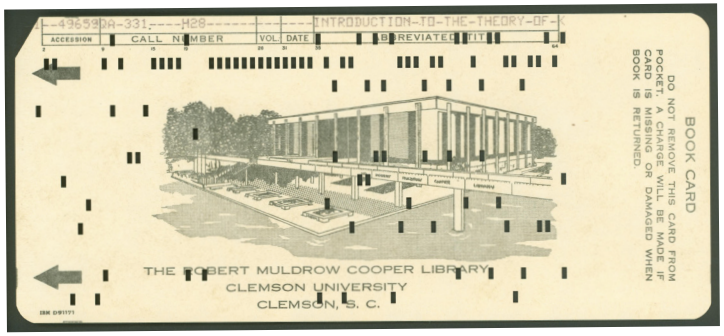
J.W. Gordon Gourlay, Library Director and Clemson President, R.C. Edwards break ground for new library

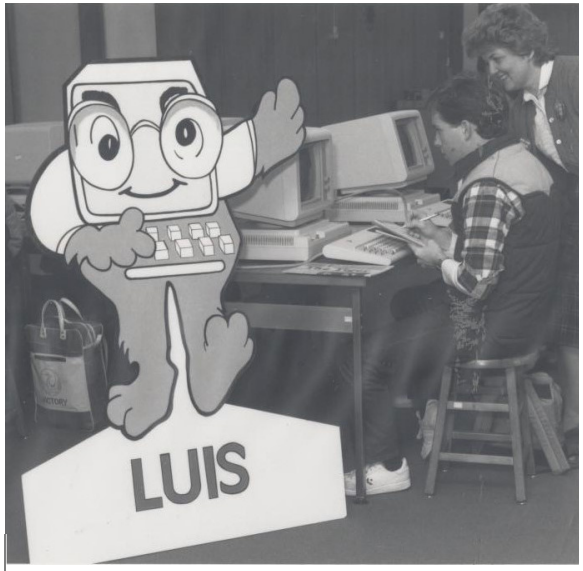
Computers Come to Cooper



The library's first technological leap came in 1968 with the introduction of a computerized circulation system that used punch cards for checkout. These cards can still be found in the back of some of the books in the collection. In 1978, the library began connecting to Dialog, a database company that provided dial-up access, which revolutionized how Clemson librarians conducted research.

An integrated library system (ILS) for an online catalog and supporting functions was discussed and recommended and NOTIS (Northwestern Totally Integrated System) software was acquired in 1983. Clemson's LUIS (Library User Information Service) system was made public and the paper card catalog was closed in 1984. LUIS provided online computer access to the library catalog and also allowed access remotely. With Dialog, NOTIS, and LUIS, the library was well on its way to moving beyond the walls of Cooper.





Do It Yourself (DIY) searching was added in 1986, where graduate students and faculty could search dozens of scholarly databases under a librarian's supervision, with the library paying a per-minute fee to Dialog. Beginning in 1988, Clemson was one of the very first academic libraries in the country to load commercial article indexes on a local mainframe for unlimited free searching across campus. This service, DORIS (Document Online Retrieval Information Service), provided a few general indexes, plus the Agricola agriculture database and BIOSIS (Biological Abstracts).

“No building is more important to a community than a library. Within its walls is an equality of ideas, endless paths of possibility, and the history of the world.”

– Mark Maynard, Author

The Library Branches Out

The library grew and expanded to include locations outside of Cooper Library. Gunnin Architecture Library was established in 1974. Located in Lee Hall, Gunnin was the first library at Clemson to be housed within the college it served. Special Collections and University Archives were originally located in Cooper Library. The Strom Thurmond Institute building was completed in 1989 and Special Collections was relocated to its ground floor. This allowed for more room for the Strom Thurmond papers and a growing collection of University archives.

Into the Internet Age

In 1990, the library introduced EDDIE (email, document delivery, and information exchange). Faculty and staff could check out materials, request photocopies, use Interlibrary Loan, make purchase requests, ask reference questions, and send suggestions entirely online.

The 1991/92 Clemson University Annual Report set a high standard for excellence in the libraries, envisioning that, “The Clemson University Libraries will be a national leader in providing access to information and in

educating individuals for life-long learning." In pursuit of this goal, the library continued its technological innovation. CD-ROM database stations were added in the reference area using a Local Area Network with six terminals.

In 1996, Cooper connected to the World Wide Web and rolled out CU Explorer. CU Explorer, a collection of internet-based workstations and resources, was introduced during Cooper Library's 30th anniversary celebration. At the 1996 fall convocation, Joseph F. Boykin, Jr., Dean of the Libraries, noted how such advancements impacted the role of the building, stating that, "library structures such as Cooper Library will become less important as warehouses and more important as meeting houses." He told the audience how, in Cooper's future, electronic delivery methods would become more important and how much more digital content would be available.

The Library in the Present

In a June 1, 2000 article from *The Greenville News*, Clemson President James F. Barker said, "We're going to reinvent the library at Clemson around concepts of accessibility and collaboration." President Barker was also quoted as predicting that eBooks would start to overtake print. While the library is still purchasing and actively circulating print materials, it also currently provides access to over 726,000 eBooks.

The New Millennium

Many technology, service, and building changes have occurred in the library since 2000. In 2001, a coffee shop was added to the 5th floor and in 2007, a convenience store was added on the 4th floor. A new ILS system, Millennium, was installed in 2002. PASCAL, a consortium of South Carolina academic libraries, provides access to the catalogs and delivery of books from these libraries through PASCAL Delivers. The library began offering this service in 2006.

Library Summits were held in 2000, 2003, and 2006 to explore how to be more responsive and relevant. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni, as well as corporate and academic partners, were invited to provide input and direction for the library. Invitations from President Barker included the reminder that, "A university can only be as strong as its library."

Cooper is constantly changing to keep up with the academic needs of the University. Adding compact shelving to the 1st floor in 2008 and 2009 allowed the library to consolidate collections and create more study space on the 2nd floor. Outside of Cooper, an agreement was made between the library and the College of Education to manage the Education Media Center. All of its materials were cataloged and made available for checkout. In 2010, a very visible transformation happened on Cooper's main floor: the creation of the Learning Commons.

Creating this collaborative space on the east side of the floor involved making the reference collection much smaller and moving it to the west side of the floor. New furniture and new Mac workstations replaced the old reference shelves and index tables. This same year, CCIT moved its support center into the 2nd floor of Cooper, where the vast microfilm and media collections once lived.

New Technology Frontiers

In 2014, Cooper sorted through more books and shifted shelves. This was in preparation for construction of the Adobe Digital Studio on the 5th floor. This partnership with Adobe, the first of its kind at a university, allows Clemson students and employees to download and use the full suite of Adobe products. The Adobe Digital Studio has video and audio recording studios as well as staff and students who provide support in using the Adobe products.

Education Media Center in Tillman Hall

Additionally, the Clemson Center for Geospatial Technologies has a newly-built lab and classroom located on the 4th floor of Cooper Library; collaborative projects in sharing and using geographic data are already underway. In order to streamline services and continue to offer quality help to patrons, the Circulation and Reference desks were combined to create a single Library Services desk in 2015.

TIGER PRINTS

open parks network

One of the latest tools offered at Cooper is a digital repository and publishing platform called TigerPrints. Faculty, staff, and students can publish their scholarly works, which can then be freely accessed anywhere in the world. TigerPrints also contains some of Clemson's unique collections, including *TAPS* yearbooks dating back to 1899 and *The Tiger* newspaper. In 2010, the library received a $1.57 million National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In a partnership with Purdue University and the U.S. National Park Service (NPS), material held at NPS parks and sites have been digitized. All of the over 315,000 digitized images can be viewed in the Open Parks Network.

While there were and continue to be many changes inside Cooper Library, there were also changes outside of the library. In 2012, the Library Depot, located at the Clemson University Research Park, was chosen as a location for off-site shelving of collections, the University Records Center, the Digital Imaging Lab, and Technical Services and Collection Management. These units provide valuable service for the library and University, as materials that no longer need to be immediately accessible in Cooper can be sent to the Depot for storage and retrieval. Articles can be scanned and emailed and books can be delivered. University departments can send their records for storage. New materials and images are constantly being digitized and made available for all types of scholarship.

"Cooper Library is truly a unique asset, having served Clemson in ways that few other university libraries can match. Simply put, Coop is Clemson's intellectual, social, and political hub. For me and many others, there is no way better to feel the Clemson experience than to stand in the Cooper foyer, surrounded by stacks full of information and data, enveloped in the sounds of students discussing issues and solving problems, and exposed to that magnificent view of the reflection pond and outdoor theater, framed by large old oaks and the heart of the Clemson campus."

– Robert H. Jones, Ph.D.
Provost

The Library in the Future

In looking back at the history of Cooper Library, we are proud of the many accomplishments and physical transformations of spaces that have served students and faculty so well for fifty years. In examining the history of Cooper Library, one wonders what the next fifty years will hold for Clemson University students.

Reconfigured Spaces

Already Cooper Library is transitioning for the future as the focus of the building shifts from housing print collections to providing student spaces. The variety of teaching and learning spaces will continue to increase as well as their flexibility in order to accommodate various teaching venues. Students will need more places that support collaborative learning and technologies that assist them in manipulating and presenting data. Faculty will work with students in smaller and more informal group spaces as the classroom breaks down from formal lectures into more mentoring and guidance of students in their tailored programs of study.

Information Transformation

As information materials continue to transform to electronic formats, Cooper Library will be less focused on print materials and more focused on housing expert librarians who are more engaged with instruction. Library faculty will not only increase their work with students in teaching information strategies and competencies

ADOBE
DIGITAL STUDIO
TYLAAR MILLER
HANNAH GREENE
KARLY NEHETH
ASHEN RICHARDSON
JED DONALE
CONNOR PASTEL
NEED HELP?
FIND ONE OF OUR
ADOBE DIGITAL STUDIO
INTERNS.

THE ROBERT MULDROW COOPER LIBRARY

but, they will be active partners with teaching faculty in developing modules and courses for teaching skills to navigate an increasingly complex and vast information landscape. Librarians will also be critical partners working with faculty and students in the creation of knowledge. As publishers, librarians will help with intellectual property rights and disseminate the unique knowledge created by Clemson students and faculty. While the focus on creation of knowledge, not just access to knowledge, will increase, there will continue to be a dedication to preserving the past through the unique collections of the University and state.

What's Next

What type of building will Cooper Library become in order to house all of these activities? Cooper Library will be a more open and flexible building with furniture and spaces that can support an open classroom in the morning and study space at night. Learning and living continue to merge with more space devoted for entertainment, eating, relaxing, and teaching. Academic libraries have been referred to as "living rooms" for university students but in the future, the analogy might more appropriately be the "kitchen" as students experiment with technology, gather around meals, and create knowledge. Whatever the analogy, the next fifty years hold much promise for the continued support of students and faculty.

Building on the solid foundation of its first fifty years, in 2066 Cooper Library will continue to be the heart of Clemson University.

R.M.COOPER
LIBRARY
1966
2016

“Cooper Library serves as an important hub for resear
social activity. It is many things to so many people, a
staff who work so hard to make our library so special.
students, as well as our faculty, staff, and the genera

search, scholarship, creativity, innovation, and even
e, and I am extremely thankful for the faculty and
cial. Having a strong library is a huge benefit for our
eral public."

– James P. Clements, Ph.D.
President

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

1966

Print volumes	250,000
Students enrolled	1,200
Employees	37
# of floors	4

2016

Print volumes	1.7 million
Students enrolled	22,698
Employees	112
# of floors	6
Annual visitors	1,360,632

These formats didn't exist in 1966:

eBooks	726,471
eJournals	65,878
Databases	490
Audio/Visual items	165,923
Digital Images	232,189
TigerPrints (eScholarship)	13,279

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

1954 – 1980	J.W. Gordon Gourlay
1980 – 1981	Richard Meyer (acting)
1981 – 2006	Joseph F. Boykin, Jr.
2006 – 2014	Kay L. Wall
2014 – 2015	Peggy Tyler (interim)
2015 – present	Maggie Farrell

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R.M.COOPER LIBRARY 1966 2016

Special appreciation for the contributions of the members of the Cooper Library 50th Anniversary Committee:

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Kirsten Dean
Amanda Johnson

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