MAJOR OBJECTIVES FOR FY15

Milner Library’s strategic directions and each of the specific goals are intended to enhance the library’s ability to support the University’s mission in teaching, learning, research and alumni relations. This document originates in a strategic mapping exercise in which Milner Library faculty and staff defined the organization’s overarching central challenge, the achievement of which is integrally connected to the four goals of Educating Illinois 2013-2018. Six strategic priorities have been identified as enabling Milner Library to achieve its central challenge. Those priorities serve as the structure of this document.

Optimize Access to Information

*Increase Understanding of Campus Information Needs*

- In collaboration with the academic departments and student groups, establish strategies and criteria for determining which materials should be located in the open book stacks
- Examine curricular content as reflected in the articles, books and other materials included in course syllabi in order to ensure congruence between library purchases and course needs
- Systematically gather information about the research interests and activities of academic faculty as a first step in developing strategies to enhance library support

*Build and Sustain Collections that Support Learning and Research*

- Work with departments to review materials in the library and in two storage facilities to ensure that the most needed materials are readily available in the open book stacks
- In response to the increased need for video content, pilot a project in which academic faculty directly initiate the purchase of streaming video
• Inventory and prioritize unique and rare collections held by Milner Library and the University Archives that could be digitized in support of learning and research

• Develop digital preservation plan that ensures continued availability of the most important materials in Milner Library and University Archives

*Enhance Access to Information*

• Implement and refine program to deliver library materials to faculty offices through campus mail

• Enhance the efficient and effective use of all available open book stacks and spaces

• Incorporate articles and readings currently on reserve for limited checkout into Reggienet

• In consultation with faculty and students, improve navigability of library website and search tools

• Catalog and provide online finding aids for hidden collections in University Archives and Special Collections, including the online conversion of a paper-based card catalog in the latter area

• In response to student concerns, explore possibilities for remaining open during some university closures, and extending hours during key periods of the semester

• Transfer the Faculty Publications Database, which includes citations to University scholarship since 1857, to a new, more robust and flexible software

*Advance Transformative Teaching and Learning*

• As a pilot with a small number of academic departments, identify critical information skills required for success in the disciplines and map the teaching of those skills across the curriculum

• Host campus discussions about teaching “information skills across the curriculum,” including those associated with research, technology, critical thinking, creativity and metacognition

• Implement a Library-wide plan for teaching information research skills in the academic disciplines that incorporate specific learning outcomes

• Explore online or digital opportunities for teaching information research competencies
- Reach out to campus about teaching with primary source materials found in Special Collections, Archives, the Library’s digital collections, and the Teaching with Primary Sources program

- Coordinate, with campus departments, a thematic series of programs and exhibits linked to both the curriculum and to directions highlighted in Educating Illinois

**Enhance Strategic Partnerships**

- Establish common understanding between Milner Library and academic departments regarding expectations and aspirations of their liaison relationship

- Implement regular discussion forum with students and academic faculty concerning current library activities and longer-term initiatives in order to pursue projects that matter to stakeholders

- Nurture alumni support for the Library and University in partnership with the Alumni Association through development of resources (e.g., alumni databases) and services designed for alumni

- With the fundraising assistance of University Advancement, generate revenue to support short- and long-term library operations, resources, and facilities

- Review and enhance the Library’s partnership with Visor Center to provide quality space and support for writing

- Pursue campus collaborations that sustain the data visualization project, open access and the University’s institutional repository, ISU ReD

- Enhance the Library’s numerous partnerships with academic and non-academic departments on initiatives of mutual concern, and continue to seek others

- Investigate collaborations among the public and academic libraries of Bloomington/Normal in areas of collection access, services, cataloging, professional development, and programming

- Work closely with members of CARLI, the Illinois academic library consortium, to sustain and enhance existing services and shared resources
Design a Facility that Enhances Learning and Research

Construction and Remodeling

- Implement the following improvements included in the Academic Priorities for Facilities Report:  1) upgrade restrooms for ADA compliance; 2) improve HVAC to provide more consistent temperatures; 3) build a cold storage room for University Archives; 4) and enhance public spaces

- Create a sustainable, quiet study area on the 5th floor by replacing furniture, designing a larger, more efficient space with more seats, and provide greater soundproofing from noisier areas

- Design and furnish the northwest corner of the 2nd floor adjacent to Einstein Bagels’ kiosk: replace carpet, add whiteboard walls, exhibit space, new book shelves, bulletin boards

- Redesign the library vestibule and entry-way to enhance its appearance, incorporate better signage, and provide students with short-term lockers

- Increase the number of electrical outlets throughout the building

- Install water fountains that include ability to fill water bottles

- Design and implement a moderately sized speakers area in the southwest corner of the main floor

Planning for Future Redesign

- Develop a five-year space plan for the library that focuses on enhancement of learning and research, emphasizing the efficient use of all spaces

- Develop a plan for a Center for Digital Scholarship and Media Commons to include robust multimedia capabilities, “maker-spaces” and social media listening area

- Create a way-finding plan that incorporates signage, online FAQs, and “quick lookup terminals”

- Redesign reference desk and consultation area in order to facilitate collaborative work between librarians, students, and faculty
Encourage Library Faculty and Staff Excellence

- Develop a broad range of recognitions reflecting the variety of library work and classifications, including Civil Service, Administrative Professionals and Non-Tenure Track faculty.

- Investigate and discuss a shared governance process that more deeply engages and includes all library classifications.

- Support the work of the Library Committee on Diversity and Internationalization in generating staff and professional development opportunities

- Promote development activities such as webinars and workshops that incorporate discussions and follow-up work concerning implications of the content for Milner Library

- Collectively identify development priorities and personnel plans, based on emerging campus information needs and academic trends

- Support research that guides Milner Library in meeting its central challenge

- Provide professional development on teaching methods and the teaching of information content

Align Library Resources with Strategic Priorities

- Implement a strategic budgeting process that better anticipates future needs and continual inflation of costs, while deliberately linking long-term revenue and expenses

- Develop a plan for assessing library activities based on their role in supporting teaching, learning and research

- Implement a library structure that best supports strategic priorities

- Systematically explore grants and fundraising as alternative strategies of revenue-generation

- Realign instructional activities and personnel to advance transformative teaching and learning

- Develop close partnership between the departments of Collection Development and Cataloging, Acquisitions & Processing in order to identify options for fiscal savings
• Pilot an electronic document delivery service as an alternative to more costly subscriptions to lesser used databases

PERMANENT FUNDING REQUESTS

Each year, the cost of journals and databases increases by approximately 7%. This year, the cost of inflation was estimated at $214,000. In response to these annually escalating expenses, Milner Library has historically cancelled existing subscriptions. Currently, the Library is pursuing more creative strategies to limit the effect of inflation on the collections. For instance, we are exploring the possibility of cancelling subscriptions while simultaneously providing document delivery for the same content. Nevertheless, despite our best efforts, Milner remains challenged to make up these costs. As a result, the Library requests permanent funding of $100,000 to ameliorate the effects of inflation.

STRATEGIC BUDGETED CARRYOVER (SBC) REQUESTS ONLY (PERS 937)

Please refer to PERS 937 for details.

PROVOST ENHANCEMENT REQUESTS AND STRATEGIC BUDGETED CARRYOVER

Please refer to PERS 937 for details.

PERSONNEL REQUESTS

Milner Library is requesting funding for three Tenure-Track faculty positions. Please refer to PERS 936a for details.