MAJOR OBJECTIVES FOR FY16

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 (listed in bold) serve as the structure of this document.

Optimize Access to Information

*Increase Understanding of Campus Information Needs*

- Examine curricular content as reflected in course syllabi in order to ensure congruence between library purchases and course and program needs.

- Systematically gather information about the research interests and activities of academic faculty as a first step in developing strategies to enhance library support.

- Through surveys and focus groups, identify emerging technologies, pedagogies, areas of research that Milner Library could support. This will provide evidence of campus interest to justify future acquisitions, spaces to accommodate new activities and partnerships.

*Build and Sustain Collections that Support Learning and Research*

- Prioritize print and artifact collections from Milner Library and the campus community, candidates for digitization, which would most support learning and research.

- Digitize print and artifact collections of importance to learning and research and make them accessible through Milner Library’s web site.
• Review standing orders, such as annual updates of reference materials, and make determination regarding availability and desirability of electronic versions.

• Where possible and advisable, eliminate duplication of print and electronic versions of materials in the reference collection and in storage areas.

• In consultation with campus faculty, implement evaluation of lesser-used journals and monographs in the basement of Milner Library in order to make retention and location decisions; many journals and monographs (now out of copyright) may be available electronically.

• Assess representative areas of 170,000 sheets of Government Documents microfiche as part of a multi-year project to review for later cataloging or discarding.

• In addition to Government Documents microfiche, review all microform collections and make recommendations regarding retention.

Enhance Access to Information

• Redesign Milner Library’s web site to enhance navigability and ready access to information.

• Create finding aids for collections of non-book materials in Special Collections.

• Complete the conversion of print and hand-written records from Special Collections card catalog to online environment.

Advance Transformative Teaching and Learning

• Develop and implement train-the-trainer teaching model, in collaboration with key stakeholders, for the Milner Library components of the Critical Inquiry Program.

• Collaborate with key stakeholders in the continued development of subject-specific tiered instruction that incorporates information fluency learning outcomes.

• Provide training, education and consultation to campus departments in the preservation and conservation of rare and fragile materials.

• Explore the possibility of providing basic instruction with various technologies that circulate such as laptop computers, iPads, digital cameras and camcorders, graphing calculators, etc.
• Assess the viability and campus need for gaming technologies to support learning and research.

• Continue to work with the School of Teaching and Learning to design an online Masters’ degree and K-12 endorsement in school librarianship.

• Gather and systematically use information about the curriculum to inform Milner’s teaching and learning activities.

Enhance Strategic Partnerships

• Continue to forge alliances with campus departments in order to inventory, digitize and preserve historical documents of importance to the University.

• Explore collaborative projects with the college deans and Provosts Office to support student learning and faculty research.

• Continue working with the Student Government Association and other campus stakeholders to address the issue of textbook affordability.

• Convene a meeting of non-academic campus units that support student learning in order to identify areas of mutual interest and activity. This will be a step towards serving students in an increasingly coordinated and holistic manner.

• Partner with the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology to ensure coordination and parallel integration of technologies, pedagogies and services that support student learning and faculty teaching.

• Explore and develop the possibilities for robust collaborations between the academic and public libraries of Bloomington/Normal.

• Build on existing partnerships with departments and projects including, among others, Health Promotion and Wellness; Facilities; the Visor Center, Campus Dining; Veterans and Military Services; and the American Democracy Project.

Design a Facility that Enhances Learning and Research

• Facilitate efforts to repair water infiltration on the Milner Library Plaza, which would provide the opportunity to remodel and reopen the first floor to public use.
• Move forward with the creation of a comprehensive space plan for Milner Library that would guide the use of current spaces, as well as the development of future spaces.

• Continue the upgrade of study carrels and seating options on the fourth floor in order to further support individual quiet study areas and increase seating.

• Upgrade the third floor study area with dividers, electrical outlets and new furniture.

• Improve and partially redesign the library vestibule to include benches, brighter walls, and an electronic message board.

• Replace worn carpets as funds permit on the 3rd, 4th and 5th floors.

• Renovate four restrooms in order to make them more accessible and to ADA compliant; this will be the first step in a phased in process over several years.

• Increase access to electrical outlets and charging stations throughout the building.

• Create a flexible learning space on the east side of the third floor to support the data visualization center with partial enclosure to hose classes or other groups.

Encourage Library Faculty and Staff Excellence

• Formally launch the Library Council as a library-wide shared governance unit that will take on many of the duties and responsibilities of the former Library Faculty Council.

• Establish a regular schedule of professional development opportunities based on findings of campus surveys and other gathered information.

• Solidify a formal orientation program for new employees.

• In order to enhance library-wide familiarity with all of the departments and their activities, provide open houses or learning events for all library staff.

Align Library Resources with Strategic Priorities

• Re-conceptualize the library materials budget, in collaboration with campus faculty, to ensure sustainability despite possible losses of future funding.

• Implement a strategic budgeting process that better anticipates recurring expenses, inflation, and emerging future needs in the areas of technology, furniture, spaces, etc.
• Develop a program review plan for the entire library that includes the identification of meaningful library outcomes and strategies for assessing their achievement.

• In response to the campus IT audit, establish processes and documentation that enhances management controls to safeguard assets, maintain data integrity and operate effectively.

• Systematically explore grants and fundraising as alternative strategies of revenue-generation; one specific area of grant-seeking will concern preserving and conserving materials located in Special Collections and Archives.

• Examine business services that provide “shelf-ready” materials as a strategy for cutting costs associated with cataloging.

• Participate in campus-wide implementation of IT Service Management (ITSM) solutions which will streamline the technology request and support process.

• Implement the System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM) tool on the library’s workstations in order to more effectively manage updates, patches, and management of technologies from remote locations.

PERMANENT FUNDING REQUESTS

None requested.

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

Please refer to PERS 937 for details.

PROVOST ENHANCEMENT REQUESTS AND STRATEGIC BUDGETED CARRYOVER

None requested.

PERSONNEL REQUESTS

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