ENGAGING THE PRESENT: 
A PLACE TO LEARN, CREATE 
AND COLLABORATE

In an age when students and faculty have instant access to information at their fingertips, one might be surprised to learn that Cooper Library is still the place to be at Clemson University. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2016, Cooper Library is an important portal to information for the people who utilize its vast resources.

As the center of the University’s “town square,” Cooper Library is the place to learn, study and conduct research. This dynamic environment is also the place to share ideas, develop group projects, practice presentations, utilize and discover new technology and even gather for coffee.

This is the Place

While other campus libraries see declining use, Cooper Library’s visitors are on the rise. A 24/7 facility, Cooper Library visitor counts exceed 1.2 million annually. According to a 2009 student engagement survey, Cooper Library is one of the most popular hangouts on campus, whether for meeting friends or completing assignments.

On their first glimpse of Clemson’s campus, all touring prospective students visit the Library’s new Learning Commons and witness the nonstop traffic of students and faculty — a lasting impression of the University.

A Place to Grow

Although Cooper is in an enviable position as a heavily used facility at the heart of campus, our aging library is in dire need of a physical transformation that can respond to the changing needs of students and faculty. When Cooper Library opened in 1966, it was a state-of-the-art facility designed as a place for quiet study. Books were found through the drawers of a card catalog and checked out with a card in the back cover pocket. Today, research has found a new home online and collaboration is at the core of college curricula. As with everything else on campus, Cooper Library must evolve to meet the needs of students and faculty — needs that continue to change.
The Library as Place Fund

A 2011 study of library facilities, known as the Cooper Library Road Map, suggests important new changes are necessary to enhance the facility for the future. By relocating services, adding new entry points, creating more spaces for study and use of technology and increasing flexible seating, Cooper Library will remain an inspiring and relevant destination for years to come. Rather than a rigid master plan, this road map allows for unexpected needs and opportunities to make use of alternative routes in reaching our destination. The Library as Place Fund will get us on our way.

An Invitation to Invest

With your help, Cooper Library will continue to be the one place that supports students and faculty from all majors and disciplines. After all, no one graduates *from* the Library, but no one graduates *without* it.

We invite you to invest in the Library as Place Fund. Your gift will continue Cooper Library’s road map to improvement and offer opportunities to name your place — a room, a study space or a technology area — providing the students of tomorrow with a library of tomorrow.