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Serving Students: The Legacy of Milner's Library

Milner Library Exhibits

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2018

## Serving Students: The Legacy of Milner's Library 10: Milner Library (3 panels)

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### Recommended Citation

Bonnell, Angela L., "Serving Students: The Legacy of Milner's Library 10: Milner Library (3 panels)" (2018).  
*Serving Students: The Legacy of Milner's Library*. 7.  
<https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/servingstudents/7>

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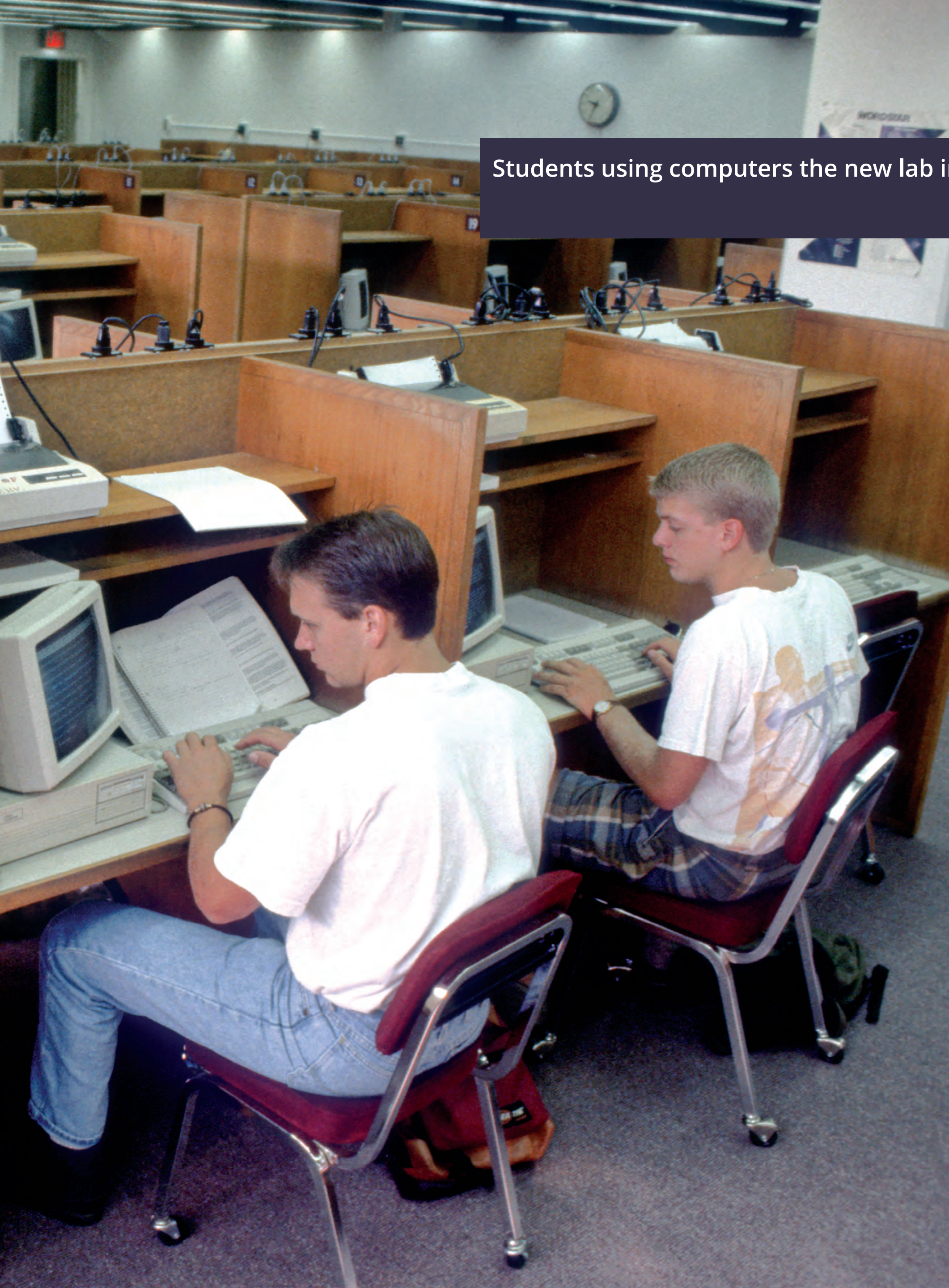
# MILNER LIBRARY

## 1976–present

- › Cost of construction for Milner Library: \$8.8 million
- › Open 124 hours/week
- › Supported 19,000 students in 1976
- › Employs ~70 librarians/staff







Students using computers the new lab in Milner Library in the mid 1990s.

## Tools & Technology

Many student-centered services valuable in previous libraries are no longer necessary. The “microcomputer lab” appeared in 1989 replacing the need for typewriters in the three typing rooms. The 58-cabinet card catalog was dismantled in 2002 when it became superfluous following the advent of the online catalog. Access to sources and assistance expanded dramatically in 1996 when the Library developed its first webpage. Milner Library was the first campus building to offer wireless access in 2004, allowing students to use or borrow laptops, tablets and other devices anywhere in the library.

## Space

Ange. V. Milner created library spaces that were popular with students. Milner Library continues to be a busy student space offering a variety of quiet and group spaces for learning, research and teaching.



## Designed to Adapt

After years of planning and lengthy delays, the second space to be known as “Milner Library” opened in July 1976. For 41 years this building has served as the library, the longest duration in campus history. Its space was intentionally designed to adapt and transform (without expensive remodeling) to changing student needs and technological developments.

## Anywhere, Anytime

In 1890, when the library opened in the fall semester, it employed its first fulltime librarian who was “always in attendance.” By 1976, 73 librarians and staff served the needs of students. In addition to service points where students can drop by for in-person assistance, we now help students navigate our resources and services virtually through chat, email, text and FAQs. Individualized attention remains one of our core values as subject librarians serve students in all majors and fields offering in-depth research consultations and instruction. Ange. V. Milner was among the first to offer “instruction on the use of the library.” Instruction remains an essential component of Milner Library’s student-centered services. Customized instruction sessions cater to specific course and subject needs. Not unlike Milner’s mimeographs, librarians supplement instruction with specialized library guides that students can access anywhere, anytime.

