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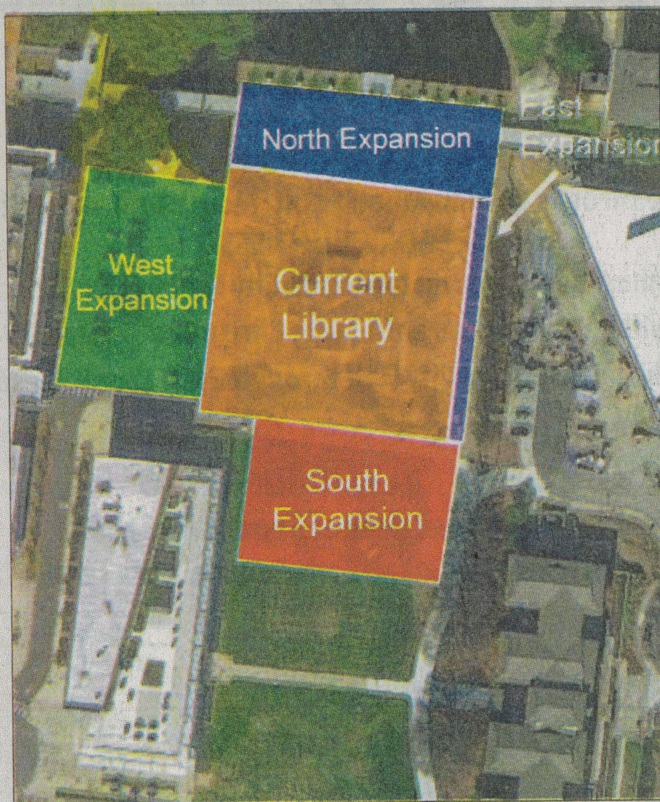
**Christopher Cox** | Clemson University dean of libraries



Clemson University dean of libraries **Christopher Cox** shared plans earlier this month to expand the size of the R.M. Cooper Library in the coming years.

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# Growth *on the* horizon?



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An unofficial graphic showing the potential directions of expansion for Clemson University's R.M. Cooper Library.

## University eyes massive library expansion plan

**BY CAROLINE ELSWICK**  
SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Clemson University is planning to double the size of the R.M. Cooper Library in the coming years, a move that will be pricey.

Dean of libraries Christopher Cox spoke to the Clemson Undergraduate Student Senate last month about the upcoming expansions.

"We know Cooper Library is too small for the popularity," Cox said. "What we are going to do is double the amount of space in the library."

According to Cox, the

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# **LIBRARY:** Work will take several years

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library will be pushing outward in nearly every direction. The 2020 Cooper Library Master Plan provides even more details.

Officials plan to add an addition where the West Library parking lot currently is, which would be the largest possible move. They are also considering adding a bridge to connect the library and the Watt Family Innovation Center. The priciest expansion is estimated to cost \$26.5 million.

To the east, officials would push the library more toward the newly expanded Daniel Hall. This would probably be the smallest expansion and isn't being considered as much as the others. There was no cost listed for the east expansion.

To the north, the library would push a three-story building right up to the edge of the campus reflection pond. According to the master plan, that would require demolition

of the library bridge and construction of a new one next to the pond. It would also provide another entry to the library. That is projected to cost nearly \$19 million.

In the south, the library would expand onto the South Library Green behind Cooper. This would also create a new entryway and connect the library to the Watt Center. The south expansion would likely cost around \$12.7 million.

Outside of the proposed expansions, officials plan to completely renovate the library. In total, the renovations and expansions are expected to total more than \$108 million.

"Right now, we are on the list that the board of trustees approved to have Cooper renovated," Cox said. "That renovation probably won't happen until, right now it looks like 2027 or 2028, so it'd be six or seven years away. But it's possible."

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