



# HALE LIBRARY'S COLLECTIONS

## ▶ BOXED UP AND PACKED OUT

Thanks to hundreds of workers who put in thousands of hours, more than 1.5 million collection items were packed out of Hale Library less than 17 weeks after the fire.

From beginning to end, the pack-out started in late May on the hot, humid first floor, and it ended in late September in a chilly, air-conditioned Stack H, just above Hale Library's fourth floor. Until Hale Library is renovated, all of its books—approximately 147,400 boxes of them—will be stored in multiple air-conditioned warehouses across the region. Workers at the storage sites will clean each book one at a time and then re-box and store them until they can be returned to campus.

To clean a soot-covered book, a HEPA vacuum is used on the book's exterior to remove most of the dirt and soot. Then the covers, fore-edge and spine are wiped down with a dry chemical sponge. It takes about 20 minutes to clean one box of 12 to 15 books.

We estimate that all 1.5 million items could be clean by July 2019. Even better news: We anticipate that more than 99 percent of the materials will be saved.

"We'll have to coordinate moving the books back to Hale from all of the storage locations and make sure everything goes back on the shelves in call number order," said Joelle Pitts, head of content development and co-chair of the taskforce charged with returning the books to their homes. "It's hard to convey the enormity of this job. It will be like putting a massive puzzle back together again."

So how are our researchers functioning without access to the Libraries' physical collection? While it's been a challenge, our interlibrary loan department has worked hard to fill the void.

"Interlibrary loans of hard copy materials like books are up almost 80% since the fire, and loans regardless of format are up about 39%," Jason Coleman, head of library user services, said. "Our team has worked tirelessly to make sure K-State's researchers still have access to the materials they need."



Caves created by limestone mining under Kansas City, Mo., are ideal for archival storage. Much of our collection remains there for now.

**HALE MOVE-OUT**

we moved **1105 TONS OF BOOKS**

THE EQUIVALENT OF **7 BLUE WHALES**

**IF YOU MADE ONE STACK**

of all the boxes

IT WOULD BE **HIGHER THAN FIVE MOUNT EVERESTS**

**IF ALL OF** the books were **LAID END-TO-END** they'd stretch **237 MILES** OR FROM HERE to **TULSA**