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Kansas State University **LIBRARIES**

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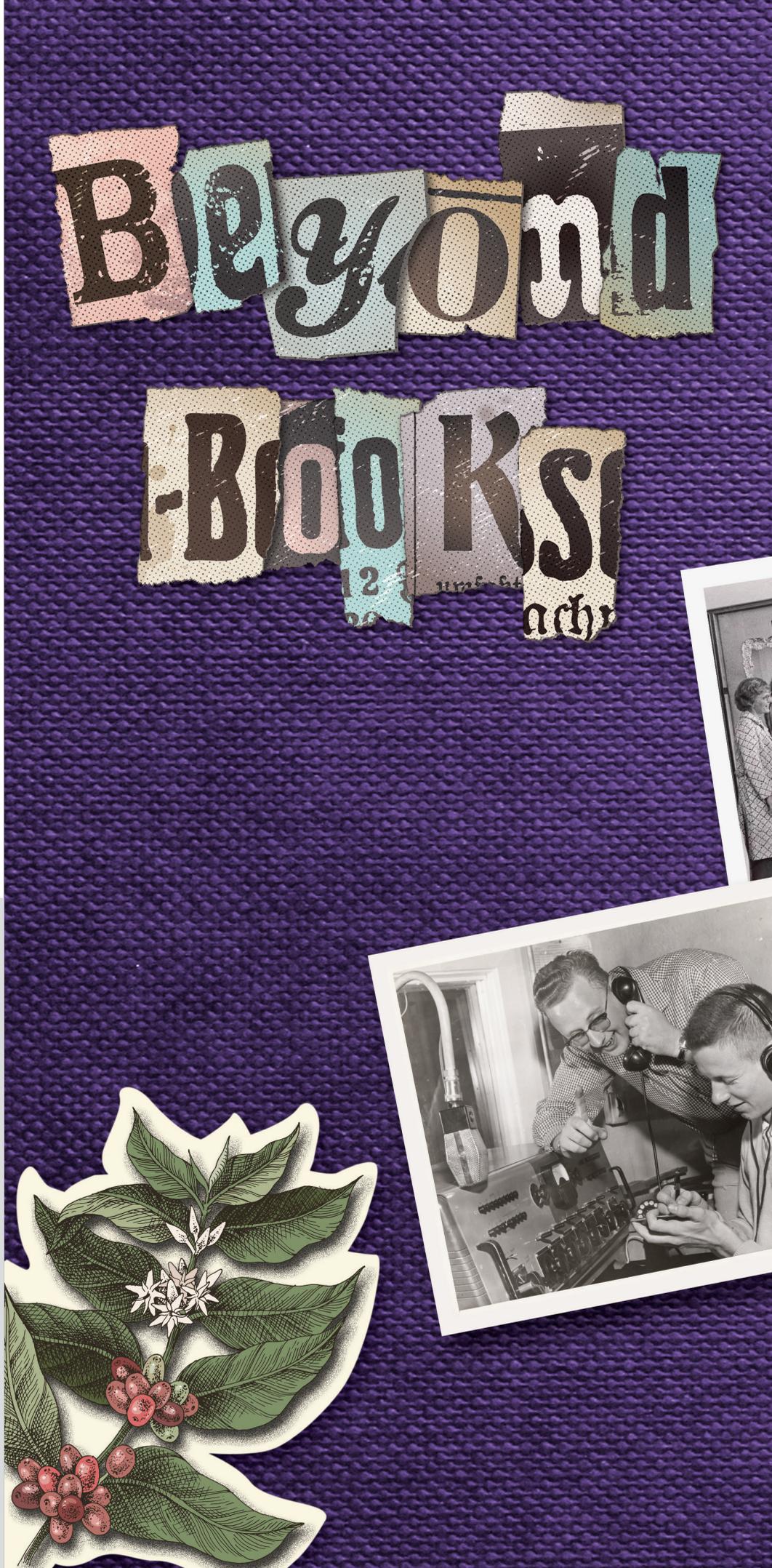
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Library exhibits provide a different form of storytelling

BY ASHLEY NIETFELD

Library exhibits advance the academic mission of the university and enrich the communities we serve. These curated displays highlight our diverse collections and abundant history. They strengthen connections with our community and enhance the Libraries' role as a hub for collaboration and learning.

While some exhibits highlight specific books, archives or photographs, encouraging users to explore and utilize the Libraries' offerings, others are formed through partnerships with national organizations to bring new opportunities for engagement to the university.

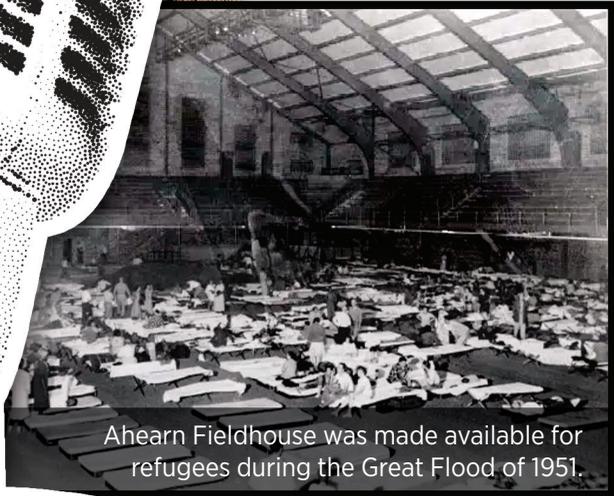
Partnering with national organizations

Such partnerships have led to Hale Library hosting three traveling exhibits in the past year. "Disasters: Stories We Share" showcased how community and media-based narratives of disasters affect community and civic responses. The exhibit, supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, allowed exhibit hosts to create a custom panel documenting a local disaster. Organizers from K-State Libraries chose to focus on the Great Flood of 1951, one of the most devastating and costly floods in Kansas history.

Two additional exhibits were produced by the National Library of Medicine. "Outside/Inside: Immigration, Migration and Healthcare in the United States" traced the history of ideas concerning immigrant and migrant health, along with their experiences with U.S. healthcare since the late 1800s.

The multi-panel exhibit explained that prior to the late 20th century, many immigrant and migrant communities were excluded from receiving healthcare. They began building their own hospitals and clinics and created campaigns pushing back on exclusionary practices. These initiatives helped promote the idea that healthcare should be available to everyone, regardless of nationality or citizenship.

"Fire and Freedom: Food and Enslavement in Early America" explored the relationship between food and power dating back to the colonial era. Curated by historian, author and educator Psyche Williams-Forsen, the exhibit focused on the history of European settlers, who relied on indentured servants, Native Americans and enslaved Africans to survive. Without the labor and farming knowledge of these populations, the Europeans suffered from poor nutrition and illnesses.



Ahearn Fieldhouse was made available for refugees during the Great Flood of 1951.



Library exhibits are often incorporated into coursework, providing additional learning opportunities. Pictured left, librarian Cindy Logan hosts a tour of the Fire and Freedom exhibit for students.



These exhibits from the National Library of Medicine were incorporated into coursework within several departments on campus. Coordinated by Cindy Logan, academic services librarian and associate professor, students in related courses completed tours of the exhibits and participated in question-and-answer sessions that explored the panel topics more deeply.

“By hosting these exhibits, we emphasize the importance of understanding historical contexts to better appreciate the diverse contributions to our current healthcare and food systems,” said Logan. “I appreciate the faculty who brought their students to these exhibits. Their commitment to integrating these historical narratives into their coursework enriches our students’ learning experiences and fosters a deeper understanding of our collective past.”

materials from Archives and Special Collections. “Sabores de Casa: Latin American Cuisines” showcases cookbooks from nearly every country in Latin America and is curated from the department’s cookery collection, the largest collection of its kind available at a public university. The cookery collection includes more than 38,000 volumes dating back to 1487, as well as hundreds of manuscript cookbooks representing nearly every country or region.

This exhibit features manuscripts and printed cookbooks from Central America, South America and the Caribbean, and visitors will have the opportunity to learn more about how Latin American cuisine developed. The exhibit contains new and old materials, including a Mexican manuscript cookbook that is nearly 300 years old.

Interested in learning more about these topics?
Visit the exhibit websites.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Disasters: disasterexhibit.org



U.S. National Library of Medicine

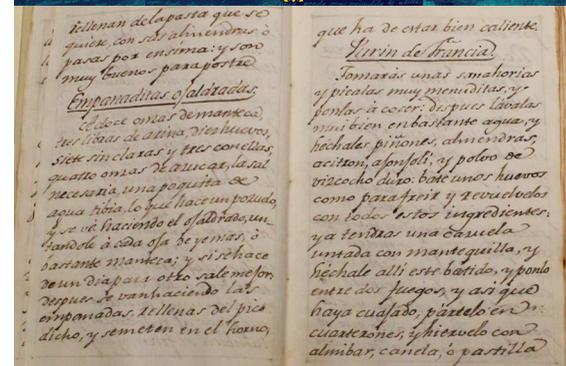
Outside/Inside:
nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/outsideinside

Fire and Freedom:
nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/fireandfreedom

Connecting nations and traditions across the table

If you visit the fifth floor of Hale Library at any time during the year, you’ll be able to explore one of the exhibits curated by the Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Archives and Special Collections.

Currently, the fifth-floor gallery hosts two different exhibits featuring





A century of sound

The second exhibit, “K-State Radio Centennial: A Century of Sound” coincides with the 100-year anniversary of K-State’s radio station. It features a rich collection of records and equipment from K-State’s archives, including unique items from the university’s radio community.



Visitors will discover the storied history of radio on campus and across Kansas through vintage recording gear and photos capturing stations in action. It also spotlights the K-State Amateur Radio Club, their projects and their lasting impact on the world of amateur radio.

Materials for this exhibit were pulled from the department’s university archives collection, which includes documentation of the history of K-State from the 1870s to the present, including records pertaining to student organizations, student life and culture, faculty contributions and other affiliated organizations.

“Creating engaging exhibits is about bringing the past to life for current generations,” said Ryan Leimkuehler, university archivist and associate professor. “It’s about selecting artifacts, photos and documents

“Creating engaging exhibits is about bringing the past to life for current generations... By weaving together history and narrative, we make the archives a living resource, sparking curiosity, reflection and pride.”

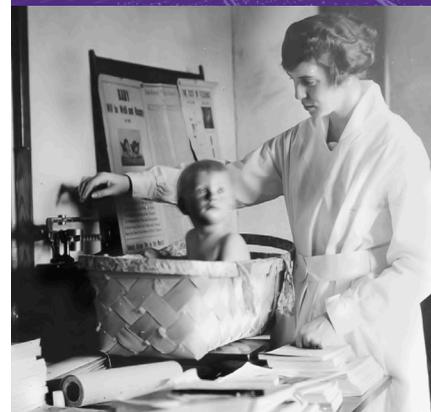
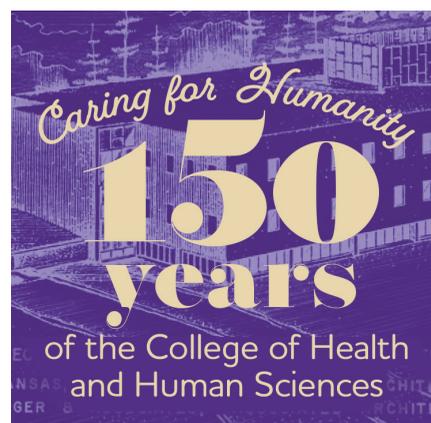
— RYAN LEIMKUEHLER, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST

that tell the rich, multifaceted story of the university in a way that resonates with students, alumni and the community. By weaving together history and narrative, we make the archives a living resource, sparking curiosity, reflection and pride.”

You can find more stories about the history of K-State’s radio station on page 16.

Caring for humanity

In 2023, the Libraries partnered with K-State’s College of Health and Human Sciences on a nine-month exhibit celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the college. It featured books, photographs and artifacts from various collections within the college and Archives and Special Collections that showcased the rich history of the seven departments that currently make up the college.



Thousands of students have graduated from Health and Human Sciences, which was once referred to as “home economics.” An international leader in several program areas, students now have a variety of majors to choose from, including personal financial planning, fashion, kinesiology, child development and food studies.

The exhibit was a collaborative effort, and the joint planning committee spent several months determining how best to represent each of the departments of study, the history of Justin Hall and individuals who played a role in the college’s success.

Plan a trip to visit Hale Library

All K-State Libraries exhibits are open to the public, and we would love to have visitors see the interesting materials and information we have curated.

“Sabores de Casa”

Available until March 7, 2025

“K-State Radio Centennial”

Available until March 9, 2025

Check our website for information about new exhibits as they become available at lib.k-state.edu/exhibits.

