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Kansas State University
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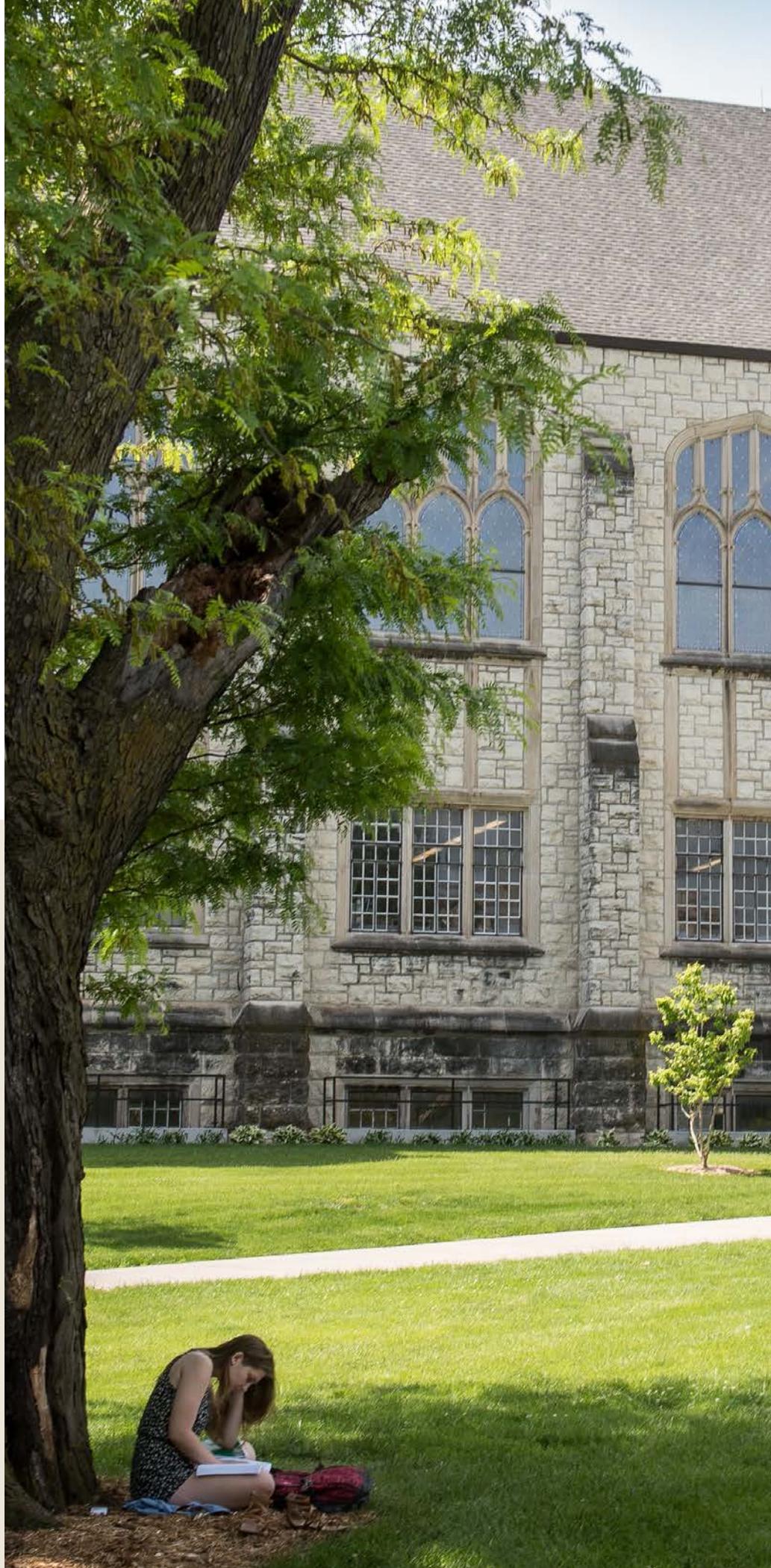
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Historic Farrell Library has anchored multiple expansions over the past nine decades.

Then & Now

TWO OF THE MOST ICONIC SPACES ON CAMPUS CELEBRATE MILESTONES

BY SARAH HOYT

Happy birthday!

In 2017, Farrell Library turns 90 and Hale Library turns 20—along with about 3,000 K-State sophomores.

Twenty years might seem young, but a lot has changed since Hale Library and those infant Wildcats were brand new. Back in 1997, many Gen-Xers and Baby Boomers were logging on to the world wide web for the first time. Now, two decades later, we all text and FaceTime and tweet constantly.

Technology has changed university classrooms and assignments, too. It can seem like science fiction to the generations who wrote college papers on a typewriter.

Some things haven't changed, though. When students, faculty and researchers have a need, the K-State Libraries respond. We adapt and improve our spaces and services, just as we have for more than a century.

So in honor of nine decades of Farrell Library and two decades of Hale Library, we present a look at the evolution of K-State Libraries' flagship building, past and present.



Farrell Library was dedicated in 1927.



Hale Library was dedicated in 1997.

In 1863,

when Kansas State Agricultural College (KSAC) was founded as the first land grant university in the United States, it inherited more than 2,700 volumes from its precursor, Bluemont Central College.

But the fledgling campus didn't have a free-standing library, so the books

were shunted from building to building. By the 1890s, KSAC had amassed more than 80,000 volumes. Finally, the university erected Library and Agricultural Science Hall (now known as Fairchild Hall) to house the growing collection.

Unfortunately, that building's 12 rooms of shelves and 300 study seats were mixed in with lab spaces. By the 1920s, it became clear that the

growing student population needed more room and that the lab spaces put library materials in danger of fire and water damage.

These concerns motivated construction of the first free-standing library, which was dedicated in 1927. The iconic building with its collegiate gothic architecture became the anchor to which later additions were connected.

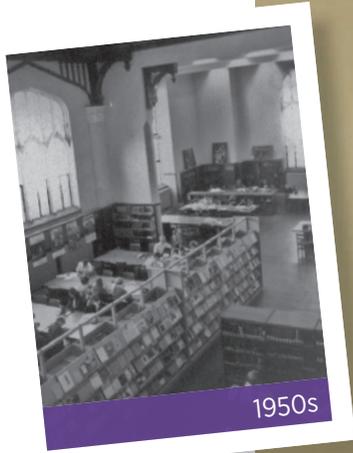


Now... Our most valuable, scarce and fragile resources are available in the Richard L.D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections. Researchers are drawn to a rich array of materials that include a renowned cookery collection, extensive Kansas agricultural records and the university archives that preserve K-State history. More than one million items—manuscripts, rare and unique books, photographs, maps—are sustained in a climate-controlled environment. The collections serve the diverse needs of scholars, casual visitors and K-State learning communities.



By the early 1950s, the Libraries' collection had mushroomed: Books were sitting in corridors, uncataloged and unshelved for lack of space. A new, utilitarian concrete and steel "library stacks" addition was constructed for storage. Strikingly, several levels featured glass floors, an energy-saving measure that allowed light to shine through to the stack below.

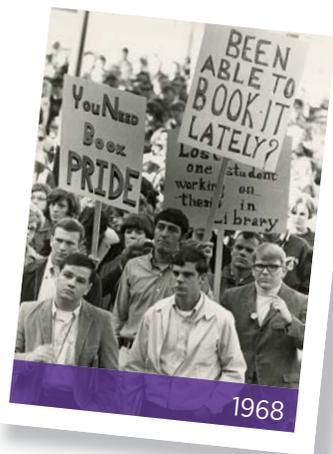
On October 5, 1955, the newly expanded library was dedicated in honor of Francis David Farrell, the eighth president of Kansas State College.



Now... No longer desperate for shelving, the Libraries forge partnerships with other campus organizations. We hold librarian-led classes and host meetings and special events while accommodating tutoring and group study. Additionally, the Academic Learning Center for K-State Athletics is housed on the fourth floor, and the Writing Center holds regular hours at a satellite location on the first floor.



The post-WWII university enrollment boom continued throughout the 1960s, and soon K-State's population demanded a larger building and more materials to fill gaps in the collection. In 1965, a report ranked K-State's library the worst of 10 state universities in the region, so in 1968, students staged a rally "to radically improve the present library situation."



The resulting six-story 1970 addition featured a ground-level 300-person study hall, group study rooms and a seminar room. In a leap forward, computers were used to check out books for the first time. Not everything was "modern" by today's standards, though: The main corridors of the old library were converted to smoking lounges.



“NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN THE LIBRARY, YOU CAN PULL UP A WHITE BOARD. USING THEM TO LAY OUT A LOT OF INFORMATION ALL IN ONE PLACE MAKES STUDYING MORE EFFECTIVE AND INTERACTIVE— BOTH FOR INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS.”

— TIFFANY BOWERS, JUNIOR
Pictured at top left

Now... Collaboration spaces are even more important today. Walk through the building and you'll find students clustered around white boards packed with equations, drawings of cellular structures or languages from around the world.



The smoking lounges? They're long gone.

By the early 1990s, plans were afoot to address issues that stemmed from 70 years of expansion: The building had poor circulation, and the three phases of construction from 1927, 1955 and 1970 didn't mesh cohesively. In fact, the floors didn't match up in many places, and some of the doorways that connected the original

building and the 1955 stacks were only four feet high.

K-State's students pushed for improvements, just as they have throughout the university's history. They even levied a fee on themselves that eventually raised \$5 million of the necessary funds.

Hale Library was dedicated on October 5, 1997.

At the time, a *Collegian* article reported that the project included a provision to install electronic and data lines that could "become necessary due to an increasing dependence on computer technology."

LIBRARIES TIMELINE



1877

The growing collection was moved into Farm Machinery Hall.



1879

The books were relocated again, this time to Anderson Hall.



1894

The collection was moved to the new Library and Agricultural Sciences Hall (now known as Fairchild Hall).



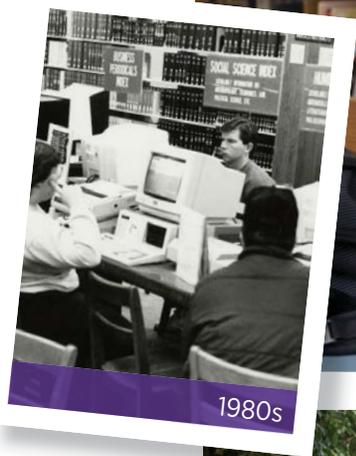
1927

K-State's first free-standing library was dedicated.

Brice Hobrock, who was dean of K-State Libraries from 1982 to 2004, told a reporter in June 1992 that the library expansion was expected to fill the university's needs until about the year 2020.

"Our consultants predict the quantity of information produced in printed form will hold steady until 2020. After that, there will be a decline in printed form substituted by electronic forms," Hobrock said.

Who would have thought that the pace of technology-driven change would be even more intense than Dean Hobrock's experts suggested?



1980s



Now... Of course, it would be an understatement to say that the learning environment is more electronically oriented! And the *Collegian* wasn't far off when they reported in 1997 that "the familiar pencil and three-by-five notecards used at the library to record research ... may eventually be replaced by a pocketbook computer."

Our faculty and students access journals via databases; we are constantly digitizing hard-copy collections; and we regularly upgrade our wireless signal because our community's demand for bandwidth is voracious.

On the other hand, the Libraries no longer struggle to find new spaces to house physical volumes.

Yet despite decades of change, one thing remains constant: We're here for our community. K-State Libraries evolve to meet the needs of students, faculty and researchers.

When our population outgrew the building and collection growth outpaced shelf space, we worked to expand. When collections began to move online and students demanded more and better technology, we made upgrades and improved access.

We look forward to seeing what the next 90 years will bring.

Then and now and tomorrow—K-State Libraries will be there.

HISTORICAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MORSE DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



1934

David Hicks Overmyer painted the murals in the Great Room.



1955

A new "stacks" addition was constructed on the south side of the 1927 building.



1970

An expansion on the east side of Farrell Library added multiple floors of study space, offices and book storage.



1997

Hale Library was dedicated.