

Storage

FOR LIBRARIES

HALE LIBRARY AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY UTILIZES MORE THAN 25 MILES OF SPACESAVER COMPACT AND STATIONARY SHELVING

Kansas State University (KSU), located in the beautiful Flint Hills of Manhattan, Kansas, recently completed its fourth expansion project of the Hale Library, which was originally built in 1927. The latest renovation, an award-winning design reminiscent of the Romanesque style, added 400,000 square feet. It featured a new outer shell and façade that merged several past renovation projects into one cohesive design and transformed the library into a campus icon.

During the renovation, the architect researched interior paint colors and wood stains to stay true to the original period. All five floors of the public spaces were outfitted with Spacesaver cantilever shelving featuring custom wood raised end panels to match the décor and provide a warm, rich environment.

Shortly after the renovation was complete, KSU Libraries staff realized they had a storage crisis. The collection was growing more rapidly than ever and building a new facility was not an option. The space crisis had to be solved within the confines of the new building.

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— Jean Darbyshire
Director of Administrative Services

Jean Darbyshire, director of administrative services, along with the management team determined that high-density shelving would get them the space they needed. “The library has more funding now, thanks to university administrators, and the collection is growing at a faster rate than anticipated,” she said. “We knew that we couldn’t live in this building forever given the growth of the collection. We decided to phase in the compact shelving to add capacity as we needed it.”

As mobile carriages are installed, the existing Spacesaver shelving is incorporated and additional shelving is procured to complete the system. This phase-in process allows the library to expand at a manageable rate, while



Spacesaver stationary and mobile shelving stores more than 1.6 million books throughout five floors of the Hale Library and at a remote book storage facility.

Solved



Custom wood end panels are used throughout the library to match the interior décor.

avoiding disruption to the patrons. "We calculated that we nearly double our area capacity on every system we add," said Darbyshire. "We plan on eventually completing four out of the five floors with compact shelving."

Aaron Reynolds of Automated Business Systems worked with the university to provide a viable book storage solution as well as value engineering. In the older sections of the building the floors were not level and installation team had to do onsite leveling to ensure stability. Also, Spacesaver provided a turnkey project by incorporating the collection mapping and moving services through Spacesaver's alliance with American Library Consultants.

"Safety and ADA requirements were very important and the Spacesaver systems satisfy both concerns."

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Wood panels were provided by Spacesaver's wood panel alliance company, Wood Designs, Inc. "I can't say enough about Aaron and his staff," said Darbyshire. "They were very attentive and the installation was transparent."

More than 25 linear miles of Spacesaver mobile and stationary shelving store the growing collection of more than 1.6 million books. Spacesaver systems are also used for Special Collections in a locked administrative area and at an off-site remote storage location to house the overflow, inactive collections.

Safety was also a primary concern. The library offers open access to all book stacks from 8am to 2am each day, and stacks are generally unstaffed. The powered compact shelving offers passive safety features and automatic controls to provide a safe environment for the students accessing the collections. "Safety and ADA requirements were very important and the Spacesaver systems satisfy both concerns," concluded Darbyshire.

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