

HALE LIBRARY FIRST FLOOR: THE DAVE AND ELLIE EVERITT LEARNING COMMONS

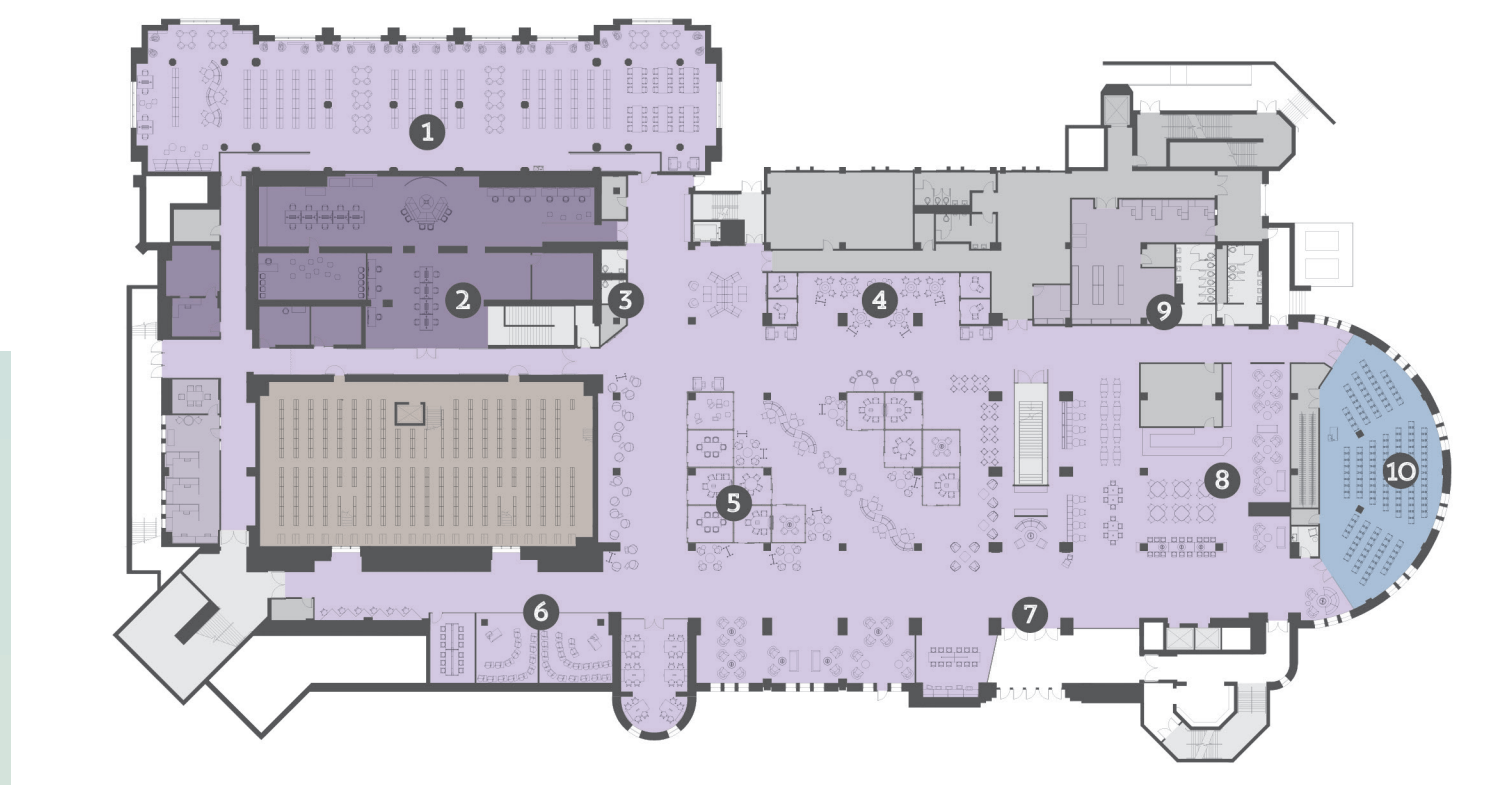


Image acknowledgments: Mike Haddock, K-State Libraries Communications & Marketing, Manhattan Fire Department

Hale Damage

Hale Library at Kansas State University Recovers from a Major Fire

WHAT HAPPENED?

What happened during and immediately after the fire?

On May 22, 2018, the roof of Hale Library caught fire. Firefighters used over 100,000 gallons of water to extinguish the fire. That water, combined with water from the sprinkler system and smoke, caused extensive damage to the five story, 550,000 ft² building.

- Campus servers, stored in the basement of the library, were drenched, causing outages to university systems, including email, website, course management system, registration/student information system, library databases, and more.
- Wet books started molding quickly in the hot, humid weather.
- There was extensive smoke damage to collections and spaces. Building systems like electrical, wireless, air conditioning, and ventilation were damaged or destroyed.

How did you start recovery efforts?

Recovery started quickly. The immediate focus was on information technology and wet books.

- Restored university systems.
- Packed out wet books and stored them in freezers.
- Worked with university officials, insurance companies, and Belfor, a disaster recovery company.
- Consulted with historical preservation experts. The oldest part of the building sustained the most damage.
- Cleaned, cleaned, cleaned—removing wet carpet and destroying technology covered in sticky soot.
- Found alternative office locations for over 100 library and information technology professionals.
- Communicated with library staff and the university community.

How did you communicate?

We are lucky. Our library has its own communication team.

- Communication team created library blog: <http://blogs.k-state.edu/hale/>
- They also documented recovery.
- For internal communication, library all-staff meetings changed from a monthly schedule to a weekly schedule.

Are the books okay?

We lost some books, but they are mostly okay.

- Call numbers S-Z got wet and were heavily damaged.
- Six semi-trailer loads of frozen books were transported to Fort Worth, Texas for freeze drying and cleaning (90 percent were salvageable).
- Remainder of the main collection was smoke damaged and had to be cleaned.
- Special collections and archives had some smoke damage but no water damage.
- The collection is now stored in warehouses.

What about the patrons?

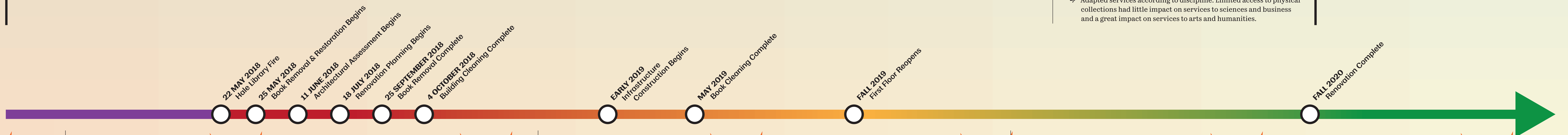
They are all okay. No one was hurt. After disaster recovery was organized for the physical collections and the building, we began restoring patron services. It took most of the summer.

- We reminded university community that we're still here to help.
- Focused on interlibrary loan (important because the collection is inaccessible).
- Reopened service desks in alternative locations (student union, business building, and education building).
- Found alternative study spaces for students.
- Found classrooms for library instruction.
- Found alternative locations for librarians (some programs provided office space for their subject librarians).
- Restored access to databases.
- Adapted services according to discipline. Limited access to physical collections had little impact on services to sciences and business and a great impact on services to arts and humanities.

HOW ARE YOU MOVING FORWARD?

Full speed ahead!

- Prioritizing student study space.
- Library's ground floor will open as a 24-hour study space in Fall 2019.
- Redesigning a very large building in a very short period of time.
- Reducing the print collection footprint.
- Developing new spaces: innovation center, a partner space, a digitization lab.



2018

2019

2020

