Room to grow: K-State Libraries Annex

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Since 2007, more than 330,000 low-use K-State Libraries materials have been stored in the Kansas Regents Library Annex, a high-density storage facility in Lawrence. The arrangement had obvious drawbacks. But now, K-State Libraries has room to grow. The K-State Libraries Annex opened near the Manhattan Regional Airport in late 2014. The new building features 2,200 square feet of office and processing space, plus 20,000 square feet of climate-controlled storage that can hold an estimated 1.1 million volumes.

However, unlike most library environments, the volumes are organized by size rather than subject. Each item is barcoded, placed on a pallet and shelved on 13-foot-high units. The staff uses an automated retrieval system to identify each item’s location. The unique organization further maximizes the annex space and unlocks new possibilities for all of K-State Libraries’ locations.

“The new annex allows us to adapt to student needs for space without compromising the size of our research collection.”
— DEAN LORI GOETSCHE