

Kansas State University **LIBRARIES**

**A NEW
CHAPTER**
Dean Lori Goetsch
prepares for retirement
after reopening
Hale Library



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Kansas State University
LIBRARIES

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Dean Lori Goetsch, posing in Hale Library's Great Room, retires this May.

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Dean Lori Goetsch's tenure saw many achievements, including the renovation of Hale Library.

LEAVING A legacy

DEAN OF LIBRARIES LORI GOETSCH REFLECTS ON 17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO K-STATE AND THE COMMUNITY AS HALE LIBRARY RENOVATIONS NEAR COMPLETION

BY CAILIN RILEY

As it goes in life, one story ends, but another begins! This spring, we are saying farewell and good luck to our very own Lori Goetsch, dean of Libraries.

Dean Goetsch spent 17 years leading the Libraries through many changes and challenges, including the 2018 Hale Library fire.

After the fire severely damaged the building, as well as many books and materials, Dean Goetsch helped develop a plan for not only restoring the building and the book collection, but for keeping Libraries services and support available to the community throughout the renovation. After more than 30 months of planning, construction and perseverance, the first through fourth floors of Hale Library opened to the public on Feb. 15, 2021. The building, which includes the beautiful Historic Farrell Library and the Great Room, offers current and future K-Staters more than ever before. Beautiful architecture, functional study and collaborative spaces and soon, advanced technology, come together to provide students with a space that both supports and inspires academic success. Thanks to the many years that Dean Goetsch spent bringing this vision to life, a new chapter is beginning for the Libraries and K-State.



At the 2014 gala, Dean Goetsch celebrates with Anne de Noble, then president of the Friends of the K-State Libraries.

looking back

At the start of her tenure as dean of K-State Libraries 17 years ago, Lori Goetsch said that her leading goal was to make sure the Libraries were organized and positioned in a way to advance its profile on campus.

“We always hear that the library is the heart of the university, but I think my goal was to make sure that we were up to speed on giving people access to library services and support, no matter the challenge,” Dean Goetsch said. “And I think we succeeded in that.”

She’s certainly not the only one who thinks so. As Dean Goetsch’s retirement from the university approaches this May, many members of the K-State community are taking time to reflect on how her leadership inspired their own journeys.

Michael Haddock, associate dean of the Libraries, said that Dean Goetsch served as a mentor and role model as he moved along his career path from librarian to department head to administrator. Haddock said that in addition to elevating the prominence of K-State Libraries on campus and in the local community, Dean Goetsch also has shown a genuine care and empathy for students, staff, faculty and members of the community.

“Over the years, Dean Goetsch often served as a personal sounding board for me, letting me know what I did well and when there were times that I might have benefitted from taking a holistic view of a situation,” Haddock said. “She consistently gave me time, support and the flexibility to pursue my own scholarly interests, even

though they were not typical of most academic librarians.”

Lynn Carlin, special assistant to the provost and executive vice president, said that Dean Goetsch was one of the first members of the community to welcome her when she came to K-State in 2005 after working at the Library of Congress. Over the years, Carlin has worked with the dean in multiple capacities, including serving on the Deans Council and many university-wide initiatives.

“When I think of working with Lori over those years, I think of Lori as a caring boss, a valued colleague, a strategic partner and collaborator, a committed university leader and a friend,” Carlin said.

In addition to serving as a role model for others, Dean Goetsch is a firm believer in professional development and has been highly supportive of Libraries staff having the time and financial support to pursue their career aspirations. She modeled this commitment through her own professional service in the American Library Association and Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), including her time as ACRL president from 2009 to 2012, and as a member of the Greater Western Library Alliance board of directors. Dean Goetsch also devoted significant time over the years as a director on the board of Humanities Kansas, the state’s Council of Deans and Directors of Libraries and the Kansas Council of Academic Deans and Directors.

Dean Goetsch’s deep dedication and strong work ethic truly rose to the occasion in the years following 2018. She worked closely with others over countless hours through the process of restoring the building and transforming it into

a highly innovative facility that the community could be proud of. In addition to her efforts throughout the process of architectural design, construction, collections restoration and equipment decisions, Dean Goetsch also helped ensure continued, high-quality service to Libraries users, even though staff members were spread out across campus in 10 different temporary spaces. Staying positive and resilient through such a challenging event required the mental stamina and patience to see the light at the end of a very long tunnel—a 36 month-long tunnel, in fact.



“Lori has a natural gift for fostering highly positive and long-lasting relationships with donors, which was especially critical during the post-fire recovery. A beautiful, new-generation Hale Library will be a lasting part of her legacy as dean of K-State Libraries.

— MICHAEL HADDOCK,
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE
LIBRARIES

”

“We had many challenges, but in particular, the move from a print-based environment to a digital environment was a big change for the community and our staff to adapt to,” Dean Goetsch said. “I was so amazed at how quickly our staff moved to keep providing their services in new ways and enhancing electronic resources.”

Haddock said that Dean Goetsch also successfully engaged donors to help raise funds to restore Hale Library. The donor community, including the Friends of the Libraries, has been an integral part of the Libraries’ story over the years, and without their support, the Libraries would not be where it is today.

“Lori has a natural gift for fostering highly positive and long-lasting relationships with donors, which was especially critical during the post-fire recovery,” Haddock said. “A beautiful, new-generation Hale Library will be a lasting part of her legacy as dean of K-State Libraries.”

Besides her work with Hale Library, Dean Goetsch also worked to elevate the arts and culture on campus and throughout the community with partnerships with the Beach Museum and McCain Auditorium. She also forged partnerships with a variety of organizations, including the Eisenhower Presidential Library, to advance education, scholarship, civic engagement, diversity and inclusion.

Timothy de Noble, dean of the College of Architecture, Planning and Design, said that Dean Goetsch’s commitment to improving the community is evident through her ability to marshal her resources to create the cultural enhancements that make a community. For example, under her leadership the Libraries have introduced community events such as lecture series, author discussions, a concert series and multiple galas.

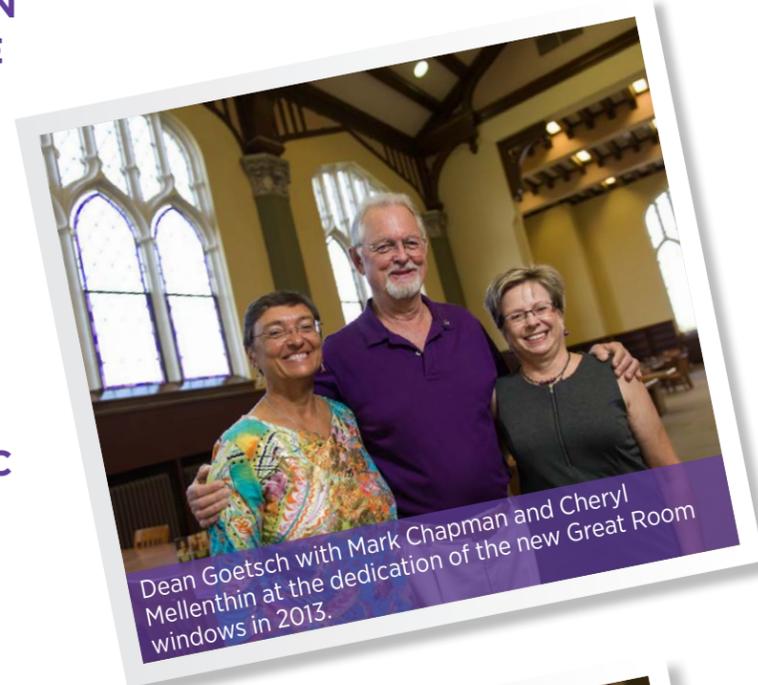
“Dean Goetsch is not only an incredible advocate for the Libraries, but is someone who strives to position the organization in such a way as to be an integral part of the community through programming and events,” de Noble said. “That is often typical of public libraries, but is rarer among academic libraries.”

When asked about what advice she would give to the next dean of K-State Libraries, Dean Goetsch gave some sound advice.

“Don’t have a fire,” she laughed. “But I would tell them to take advantage of their excellent staff and also to enjoy the community that K-State and Manhattan has to offer. It’s important to explore and become a part of this amazing community.”

“DEAN GOETSCH IS NOT ONLY AN INCREDIBLE ADVOCATE FOR THE LIBRARIES, BUT IS SOMEONE WHO STRIVES TO POSITION THE ORGANIZATION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS. THAT IS OFTEN TYPICAL OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES, BUT IS RARER AMONG ACADEMIC LIBRARIES.”

— TIMOTHY DE NOBLE,
DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE,
PLANNING AND DESIGN



Dean Goetsch with Mark Chapman and Cheryl Mellenthin at the dedication of the new Great Room windows in 2013.



In 2012, a new space was dedicated for the Dow Center for Multicultural and Community Studies.



Dean Goetsch and fellow attendees at the Friends of the K-State Libraries 2016 gala.

DEAN GOETSCH FUN FACTS



1981 2001 2021

40 years of service in the library field

17 years as dean of K-State Libraries



Favorite exhibit: The St. John's Bible (pictured) and The Remnant Trust

PROVIDED LEADERSHIP DURING:

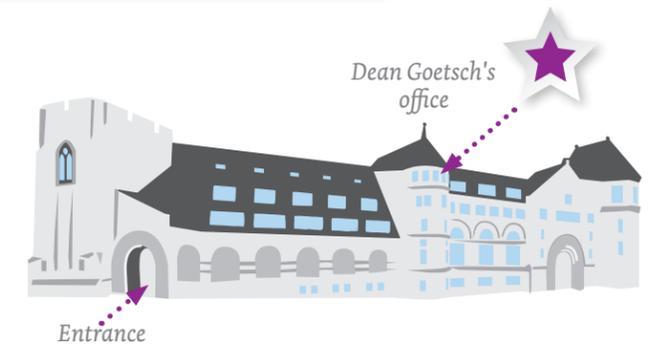


months of renovation and restoration of Hale Library



Favorite event: Earth Harp (pictured) and Friends' galas

22 PUBLICATIONS including books, articles and conference papers



382 STEPS to get from the entrance of Hale Library to her office

five story glory

HALE LIBRARY'S RENOVATION NEARS COMPLETION

Thirty-six months after an accidental fire devastated Hale Library and the K-State community, the five story, well-loved campus behemoth has risen from the ashes.

An enormous amount of effort, labor, skill and patience went into not only renovating the building but also making sure that the Libraries still served the community despite the challenge. In the fall of 2019, the Dave and Ellie Everitt Learning Commons on the first floor was completed. While it was an exciting step forward, progress was challenged the following spring by the pandemic. But construction forged ahead, and this spring, floors one through four of the building officially opened with the fifth floor scheduled to follow shortly after.

"It has been a joy and an honor to work with multiple groups to bring Hale Library back to its full potential," Dean of Libraries Lori Goetsch said. "It's been a long and challenging journey, but seeing the community's overwhelming positive response and having their support has made this moment well worth it."

TIME TO EXPLORE

In addition to familiar, renovated spaces, visitors and K-Staters have a variety of new spaces to explore.

The Everitt Learning Commons provides a multitude of study spaces including several collaboration rooms, large lecture rooms, individual study nooks and lots of soft seating.

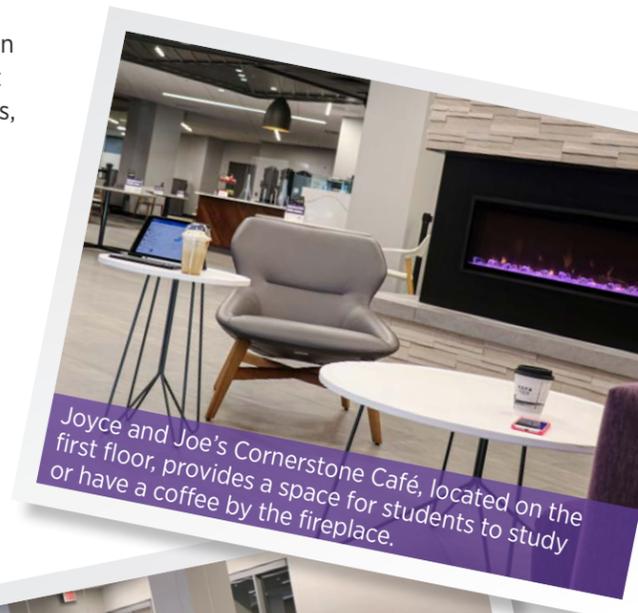
The building was also planned out so that as visitors go further up in the building, each floor gets quieter and quieter for those who prefer quiet to study.

The second floor serves as the new hub for both the Library and IT help desks. Prior to the fire, these help desks were not located in the same space, which could be confusing for students. Having an easily found co-location for both desks makes it easier for patrons to get help.

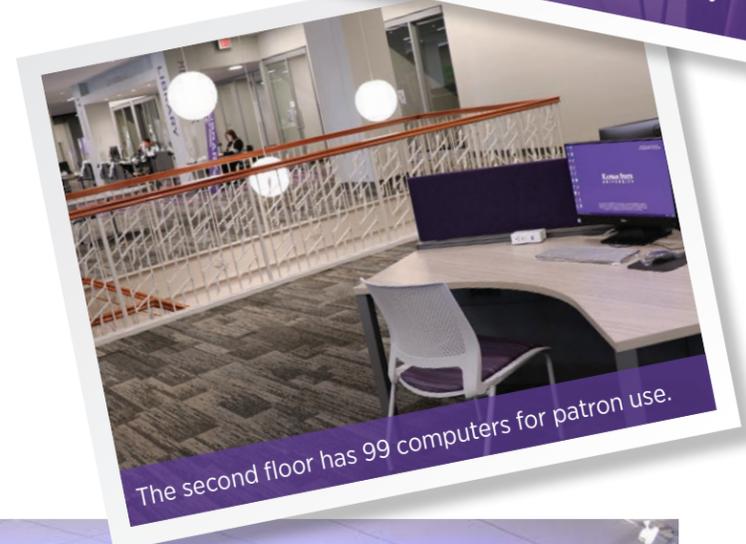
While construction is complete on most of the building, the Sunderland Foundation Innovation Lab, which comprises part of both the first and second floors, remains closed to the public while equipment installation continues. The Innovation Lab will open in phases later this spring and fall.

By implementing the latest technologies and designing spaces to be both beautiful and functional, the Libraries hope that Hale Library will serve as a successful example of a modern, top-tier academic library.

"We truly have a next-generation library on K-State's campus that will help to position our students, instructors and researchers for success," said Richard Myers, president of Kansas State University. "With access to cutting edge technologies, collaborative spaces and staff with a vast amount of expertise, our community is now even more empowered to challenge and prepare themselves for a future filled with opportunities."



Joyce and Joe's Cornerstone Café, located on the first floor, provides a space for students to study or have a coffee by the fireplace.



The second floor has 99 computers for patron use.

"WE TRULY HAVE A NEXT-GENERATION LIBRARY ON K-STATE'S CAMPUS THAT WILL HELP TO POSITION OUR STUDENTS, INSTRUCTORS AND RESEARCHERS FOR SUCCESS."

—RICHARD MYERS, PRESIDENT OF KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY



DAVE MAMES PHOTOGRAPHY

The popular collaboration rooms include large monitors and HDMI hookups for laptops. The space also has multiple charging ports for electronics and white boards for students to use.



Staff at the Library and IT help desks on the second floor are available to help answer questions, check out materials and guide K-Staters to the resources they need.

MAKING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION A PRIORITY

An important goal of the renovation was to create a more inclusive environment and make sure that the new Hale Library meets the needs of our diverse community. Efforts to meet this goal are reflected throughout the library, including the addition of a Wudu foot wash station, family and gender-neutral restrooms, a lactation room for the public and a relocated meditation room.

The foot wash station, located on the third floor, came about in part thanks to input from Muhammad Khan. Khan, a K-State Libraries Student Ambassador at the time who has since graduated, began talks with K-State leadership about the need for Muslim-friendly washrooms. He brought up the idea to Dean Lori Goetsch in one of their monthly ambassador meetings after having success getting a wash station included in the new Morris Family Multicultural Student Center on campus.

“Dean Lori was equally excited to make this idea a reality and suggested we should incorporate the plan into the renovations taking place in Hale, close to the meditation alcove,” said Khan. “I strongly believe that this little change will greatly impact the on-campus experience for both Muslims and other minorities who call K-State their home. It creates a more inclusive environment, giving the message that the differences you bring to K-State are cherished not only in composition but also action.”

A PLACE TO STUDY AND TEACH

The third floor includes graduate study rooms. Amy Plattner, a graduate teaching assistant in the department of English, said she is excited to have this dedicated space.



K-State graduate Muhammad Khan stands in front of the new meditation room on the third floor. Khan played a large role in bringing a Wudu foot wash station to Hale Library.

“I am most excited about the stacks being back and the graduate student study spaces,” said Plattner. “I love spending time amongst the books, and I missed that so much. The graduate study spaces are beautiful and spacious. I can’t wait to spend time exploring.” ♦ [Turn to page 19 for a collections update.](#)

The third floor, which also houses many shelves filled with the beautiful music and art collections, creates a more traditional

library ambiance for students who want to study in a quiet space. In addition, Libraries faculty can make use of the Friends of K-State Libraries Instruction Room. The 60-person room will include desktop computers and allow Libraries faculty to teach research skills to a larger amount of K-State students.

“Today, many research materials and tools for discovering physical sources are online, so library instruction



Academic services librarian Carol Sevin stands in front of the new Friends of the K-State Libraries Instruction Room. The room will provide Libraries faculty a space to teach research skills to students.

requires a computer lab,” said academic services librarian Carol Sevin. “Having desktop computers creates an equitable learning environment and ensures that all students have what they need to access library resources.”

The fourth floor, as the quiet floor, provides study space for those who prefer quiet to concentrate. There are plenty of study nooks as well as more open study areas among the rows of bookshelves. The floor also features the Academic Learning Center, a space for student athletes to receive tutoring support or study between classes. The Libraries have partnered with K-State Athletics for 19 years to provide such a space. The Center saw some of the worst damage but the renovation efforts allowed for a better layout and organization of the space.

The Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections, on the fifth floor, includes an improved reading room layout and the addition of the Kenneth S. Davis Seminar Room. The Davis Seminar Room will provide Special Collections faculty and staff a space to teach using their materials. Before the renovation, this type of instruction could only be conducted in the reading room where other researchers were located.

Students have wasted no time exploring the new spaces to find their favorite study spots.



The Special Collections reading room on the fifth floor offers a new seminar room for instruction.

“Hale Library is so important because of the countless resources it provides to students that can be so, so vital to student success,” said Jarrod Kuckelman, a senior in political science. “Whether it’s a great study spot, the amount of research tools, technology or a librarian who can help answer a question, Hale always has what students need.”

Musah Muntari, a graduate student in animal sciences, said he is looking forward to using the graduate study rooms, a dedicated space for graduate students to work.



historic beauty

1927 PORTION OF HALE LIBRARY RETURNED TO FORMER GLORY

When most K-Staters think of Hale Library, their mind turns to beautiful Historic Farrell Library, which includes the Great Room, also affectionately known by current students as the Harry Potter room. However, there's more to this historic space! The 1927 portion of the library spans three floors, and over the last two years crew members have worked diligently to return the space to its former glory.

Historic Farrell Library was one of the most severely impacted areas of the library during the 2018 fire.

The three floors suffered heavy water damage.

In addition to two holes in the Great Room's roof from the fire itself, water used to douse the fire seeped into the walls, putting the murals at risk and warping the wooden tables throughout the space. The restoration process included removing every piece of the wooden ceiling beams, including the famous acorn finials, restoring each piece by hand and then reinstalling them in the exact same place. Last spring, after the ceiling was completed, crew members repaired all the plaster and

installed new lighting; soon after, the original bookshelves along the walls were repaired and varnished.

Since the third floor opened to the public, the Great Room has been very popular with students as a prime study spot. Before the fire, electrical outlets in the space were scarce and hard to reach. A top request from students was to add more. The renovated room has many more outlets than before, all at ground level for easy access.

RESTORING THE MURALS

Last fall, art conservators from John Canning & Co., a historical preservation and restoration company, worked to fully restore the four Great Room murals to pristine condition—not an easy task after what the art had been through.

Back in 2018, Rachel Gilberti, the lead on the project, and her team came in to perform emergency work on the murals to save them from further damage. They were able to do so, but further restoration could not be done until the thick plaster wall had completely dried. With the walls completely dried last fall and construction on the rest of the room near completion, the team was able to finish the restoration of the murals within a matter of weeks.

"I like to see the transformation, because it's like bringing the building back to its original artistic conception," Gilberti said. "The artist for the murals considered colors and the scheme of the building itself when creating the art. If you look at the Home mural, [David] Overmyer actually reflects the Great Room windows onto the mural—you can see

the diamond pattern of the windows on the mural. That's a level of detail that most people wouldn't notice from the floor."

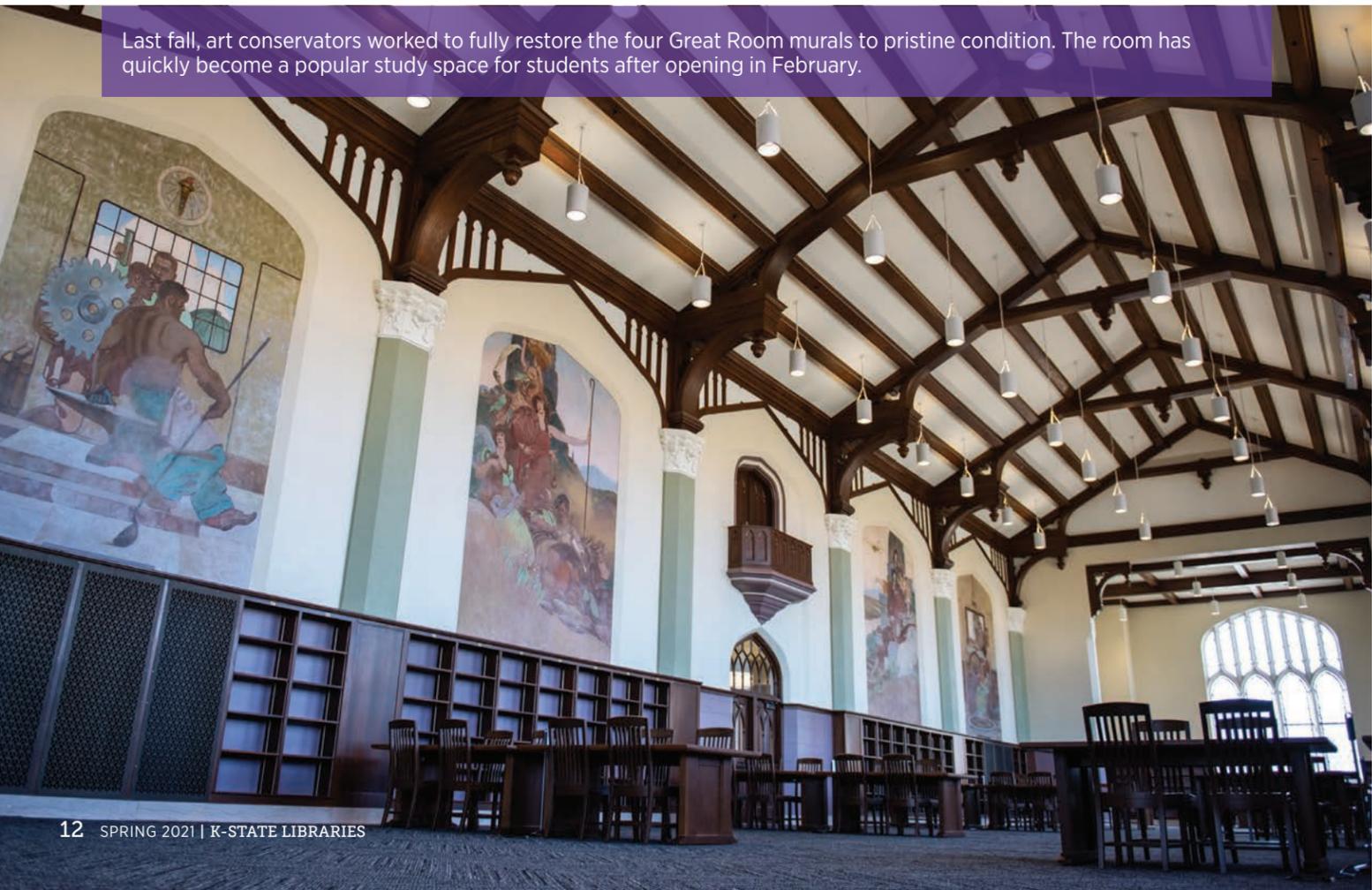
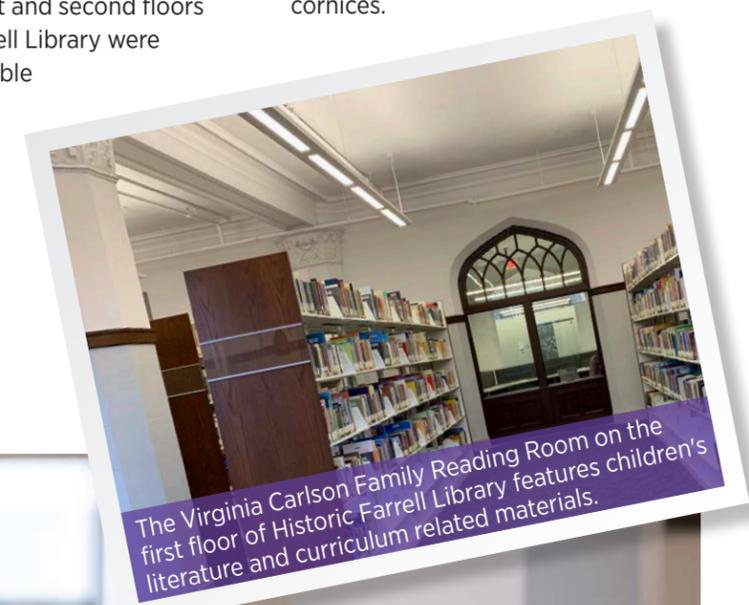
◆ [Learn about the history of the murals on page 16.](#)

BEYOND THE GREAT ROOM

The first and second floors within Historic Farrell Library have been enhanced to create an improved atmosphere for studying and reading. In 2018, the first and second floors of Historic Farrell Library were either inaccessible to students or filled with tall bookshelves that impeded the natural light from the windows and

allowed for very little study space. Deciding that these spaces were too beautiful to stay hidden, Libraries leadership focused on making the spaces more inviting for student study. Now, the spaces are more open, and fewer bookshelves are being used so that there is more natural light and room for seating.

Part of the charm of this section of the building is the floor to ceiling columns with decorative cornices.



The Virginia Carlson Family Reading Room is located on the first floor. It includes study space and houses the juvenile literature and curriculum materials collections. On the second floor of the historic space, a new reading room offers additional study space and houses the current periodicals. At the opposite end of the floor is the new home for the Dow Center for Multicultural and Community Studies.

The Dow Center provides access to a wide range of materials relating to multiculturalism and diversity.

"I'm most excited that we again have a space where students can study, celebrate and build community in a comfortable and safe location on campus," said web services librarian and coordinator for the Dow Center Tara Coleman. "This space is important because it provides folks a space to celebrate their culture and identity while learning more about the culture and identity of others."

RESTORING THE DREAM

The "We Are the Dream" mural on the fourth floor, in what is now the Academic Learning Center, is an important record of the struggle of K-State's underrepresented students to be seen and heard.

"We Are the Dream," which was sponsored by the Black Student Union,



Tara Coleman, coordinator for the Dow Center for Multicultural and Community Studies, stands at the entrance to its new location on the second floor.

Movimiento Estudiantil de Chicanos de Aztlan (MEChA, a Hispanic student group), and the Native American Indian Student Body, was dedicated on October 24, 1980, making it 40 years old. At that time, the fourth

floor space was home to the Minority Resource and Research Center. The fire started on the roof almost directly above the mural. Subsequently, the mural suffered from significant water damage and soiling—it even



Art conservators from John Canning & Co. hung the restored 'We Are the Dream' mural last fall.

"THIS IS A GREAT TIME IN HISTORY TO PUT THIS MURAL BACK ON THE WALL. I THINK STUDENTS WILL REALLY APPRECIATE HAVING SOMETHING THAT STANDS FOR UNITY, PEACE AND DIVERSITY."

—RACHEL GILBERTI,
JOHN CANNING & CO. ART
CONSERVATOR



had mold trapped behind it. The paint created a barrier that inhibited the moisture from escaping, and so to allow the wall to dry out, art conservators had to remove the mural from the wall for cleaning.

Gilberti and her team also worked with the "We Are the Dream" mural and completed the restoration last fall shortly after finishing the Great Room murals.

One of the most obvious differences in the mural to those who had seen it before the fire was how absolutely vivid the colors are. The rich color and mixed artistic styles draws the eye and gives the mostly neutral fourth floor space a burst of personality and purpose.

"It is comfortable and calming, and there are always spaces to sit or stand or work. It is meant to be lived in, not just walked through."

— ZOE THOMPSON, JUNIOR



The heart of campus

HOME SWEET HALE

As students and community members re-explore the building, one thing has become clear: Hale Library retains its importance as the heart of campus.

"I think Hale is important because it's the center of campus, both literally and figuratively. It's like all libraries in that it's a sort of neutral place where anyone can go and feel welcome whether it's to study, have a coffee or spend time with friends," said Zoe Thompson, a junior in anthropology. "It is comfortable and calming, and there are always spaces to sit or stand or work. It is meant to be lived in, not just walked through."

"There is so much symbolism that is representative of a diverse student body here," Gilberti said. "This is a great time in history to put this mural back on the wall. I think students will really appreciate having something that stands for unity, peace and diversity."

Thank you to all our donors for ensuring that Hale Library remains a home for current and future Wildcats. Without your support, Hale Library would not be where it is today. ■

THE GREAT ROOM MURALS

The story of the Great Room murals in Historic Farrell Library is one of endurance and survival. Created in 1934 during the Great Depression, these works of art have made it through water and tar damage from multiple roof leaks, at least one faulty restoration, and—most recently—smoke and water damage from the May 2018 fire at Hale Library. With their return to the public eye this year, we can celebrate their symbolic resilience as a harbinger for facing our own recent challenges.

When the state architect drafted the original library blueprints in 1925, they included the space for these murals on plaster panels measuring about 11 feet wide by 16 feet high. From the building's opening in

1927 until the mural project in 1934, though, these panels remained bare. In the intervening years, the Great Depression gripped the nation in an economic disaster. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt responded with numerous federal New Deal programs. Two of those programs—the Public Works of Art Project and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration—paid the artists who created the murals.

The artists were Kansas natives David Hicks Overmyer and Byron B. Wolfe. Overmyer was nearly 45 years old at the time and was a commercial artist focusing on illustration and design while also specializing in murals, portraits and landscapes. He later created murals at the state capitol in

Topeka and became a widely known Kansas muralist. Wolfe was 30 years old and a commercial illustrator who worked under Overmyer's direction on this project. He later became a commercial art director, western artist and member of the Cowboy Artists of America.

Overmyer and Wolfe completed the mural project between March and September 1934 using scaffolding and materials supplied by K-State. Their process began with sketching a small version of the murals and seeking approval from K-State. Next, Overmyer used something like a magic lantern to project the sketch on the Great Room plaster panel. They created a charcoal outline of the mural and then applied fixatif so

the charcoal did not smudge. Using oil paints directly on the plaster, they painted in from the outlines with base tones and then added other hues. Finally, nearly a year after completing the murals, Overmyer returned to apply varnish that preserved the murals and brought out luster. It was reported that Overmyer often wore dark clothing and a yellow smock while painting, and that he had a "fitting moustache" for his artistic pursuits.

The subjects of the murals were designed to represent core

educational topics of land-grant colleges and universities: agriculture, arts, engineering and the home. Each mural included layers of understanding, leading a local newspaper to report in 1934 that "each day students spend much time in the room looking at the paintings, working out their meaning, and admiring the original work of the Kansas artists." The first mural created focused on the arts, followed by agriculture, the home, and engineering. When completed, they were the largest group of murals in Kansas.

When President Francis David Farrell formally accepted the murals in October of 1934, Overmyer gave a lecture on the history of murals, as well as what influenced his creation of these murals. He said, "A mural painting should be complementary to architecture and should be a part of the walls and breathe the atmosphere of the room or building."



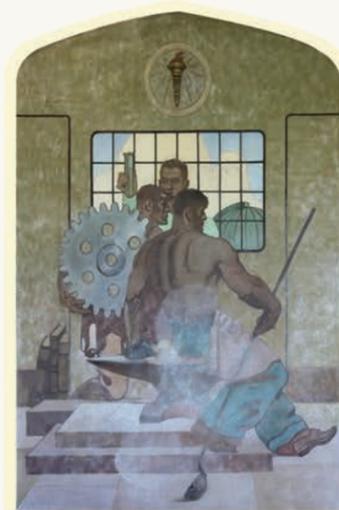
ARTS



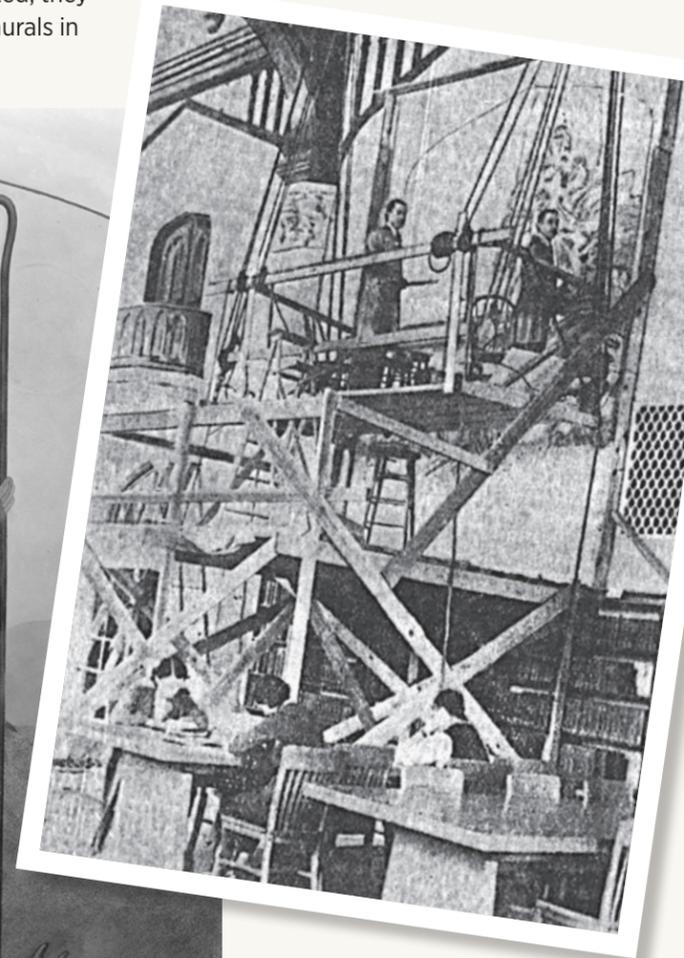
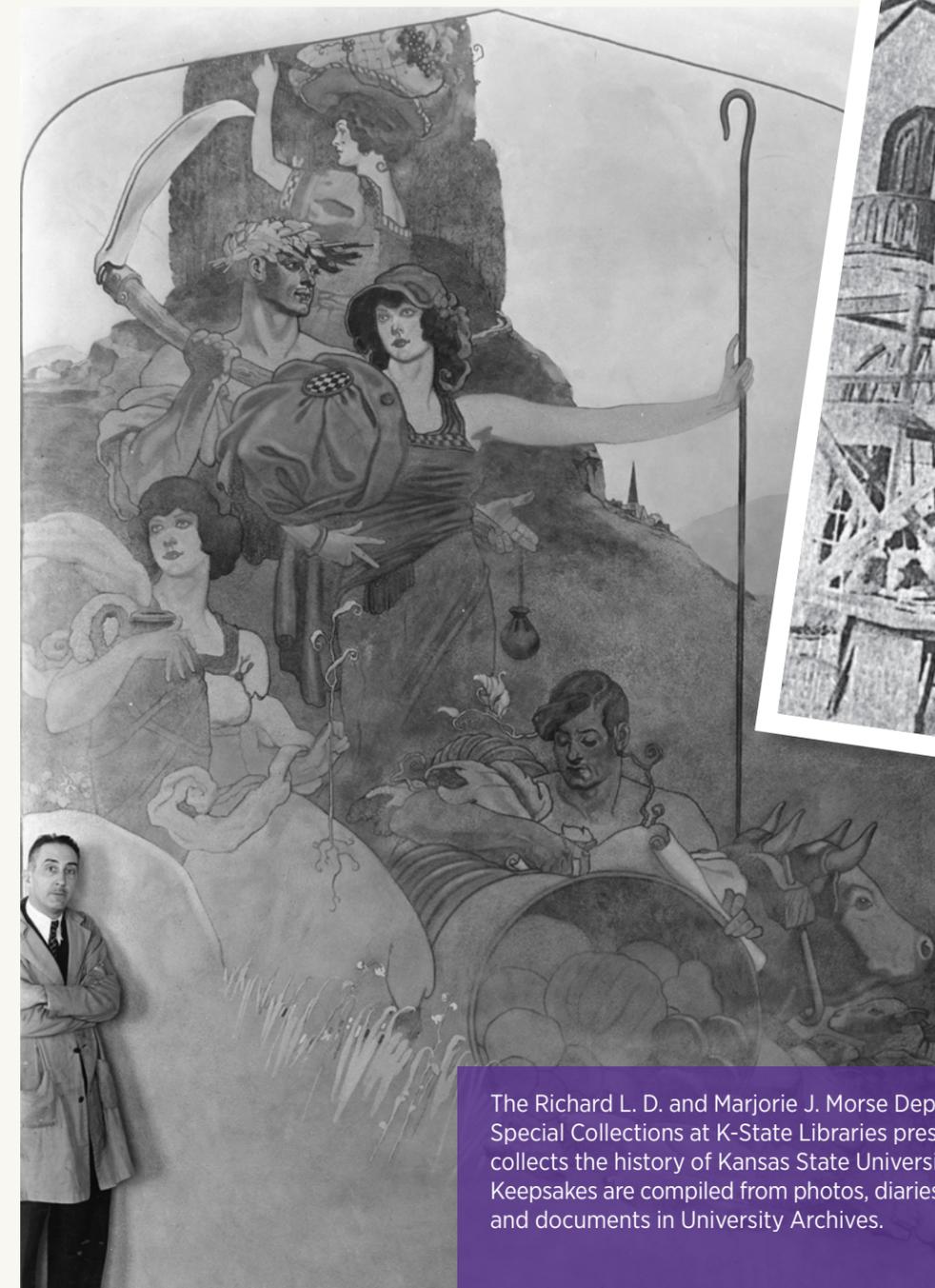
AGRICULTURE



HOME



ENGINEERING



Above: Overmyer (right) and Wolfe (left) using scaffolding and materials supplied by K-State.

Left: Overmyer standing in front of the agriculture mural, ca 1934.

The Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections at K-State Libraries preserves and collects the history of Kansas State University. K-State Keepsakes are compiled from photos, diaries, memorabilia and documents in University Archives.

MAPPING BY LOCATION

BY CAILIN RILEY

\$100,000 IMLS GRANT WILL HELP IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH



When most students and researchers log into a database and begin their research, they typically search by keyword, subject, author or possibly a specific journal title. But now, a new grant-funded project will help create the capability for researchers to search for articles by location or environment.

K-State Libraries academic services librarian Livia Olsen, in partnership with the University of Idaho, was awarded nearly \$100,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to plan for a web application that will offer researchers a flexible way to improve the ability to search and discover agricultural and environmental information.

“Changes to JournalMap, the web application we are developing further, will help improve finding articles by geographic region,” said Olsen. “For example, a researcher could easily find articles that were published in a specific country or region. The tool even allows for searching by type of environment, altitude and biome, among several other classifications.”

K-State Libraries IT staff designed and created the Croplands Research Database, and have maintained it for nearly ten years. Once the new version of JournalMap, along with its application programming interface, has been fleshed out, IT staff will update the Croplands Research Database to include features such

as automated article importation and assignment of a controlled vocabulary using crop system spatial data layers and geotagging.

“The addition of filters like climate and soil type can help searchers find other parts of the world with similar circumstances so the research might also be relevant,” said Olsen. “While the focus is on the ecological literature, location is important to many other disciplines. It basically makes searching for relevant research much easier.”

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums. It advances, supports and empowers America’s museums, libraries and related organizations through grant making, research and policy development. Its vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow IMLS on Facebook and Twitter.



“The tool even allows for searching by type of environment, altitude and biome, among several other classifications.”

— LIVIA OLSEN,
ACADEMIC SERVICES
LIBRARIAN



BACK ON THE SHELVES



BY CAILIN RILEY

The Libraries collections steadily return to Hale Library

After the 2018 fire damaged and displaced Hale Library’s entire physical collection, the challenge of cleaning, reorganizing and curating the collection for the return to Hale Library became an important goal.

Luckily, less than one percent of the collection was damaged beyond repair. The remaining materials which were cleaned and then stored, mostly in caves in Kansas City, have been in the long process of being sorted and slowly moved back into Hale Library by Libraries staff and Belfor, a disaster recovery company. Michelle Turvey-Welch, head of metadata, preservation and acquisitions, said their goal is to make sure the circulating collection is curated so that it best fits the needs of the campus and community. Hale Library’s physical collection includes more than 1.2 million books—that number doesn’t even include the multitude of multimedia, such as DVDs and recordings.

“We’ve faced a unique challenge in that Hale’s collection had not undergone a comprehensive review before, and we’re doing so now as we move books from the caves back to campus and then back into Hale,” Turvey-Welch said.

Throughout 2020, semi-trucks delivered boxes of the cleaned materials to Executive Court, a temporary off-campus location which served as a staging facility. Libraries staff used the collection review decisions to inventory the books before Belfor staff put them in order. The call numbers of each book were then carefully read to double check they were in perfect order. The books were re-packed, delivered to Hale Library, put on the shelves and then checked one last time to make sure they were in the correct order.

Staff and Belfor crew members started reshelving materials in the summer of 2020. Currently, more than 300,000 print items in the general collection from call numbers A through PN are back in Hale Library, completely filling four stack levels. Additionally, the music and art print collections are shelved on the third floor. The juvenile literature and curriculum materials collections are also now housed in the Virginia Carlson Family Reading Room on the first floor.

Wendy A. Matlock, associate professor of English, said that having access to books and materials again is an important part of supporting her research.

“It gives us great joy to see more boxes of books coming back and people starting to browse the shelves again.”

— MICHELLE
TURVEY-WELCH,
HEAD OF METADATA,
PRESERVATION AND
ACQUISITIONS

“Losing access to the Hale Library collection after the 2018 fire affected my literary research much like closing labs during the current pandemic interrupted scientific study,” said Matlock. “I am so excited that the books are coming back, and I once again have immediate

access to the specialized materials humanities scholars rely on university libraries to provide.”

Remaining items to be filled include the rest of the main print collection and multimedia such as DVDs, CDs and microfilm. Turvey-Welch said that even though they are hoping to have the entire collection back in Hale Library by early fall of this year, staff are encouraging patrons to come check out the books that are already on the shelves.

“If it’s on the shelf, it’s available for you to take home,” Turvey-Welch said. “Everything is open for browsing, and we welcome everyone to come visit the stacks. It gives us great joy to see more boxes of books coming back and people starting to browse the shelves again.”

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