

On-site or Off-site: Library Storage Facilities at Stanford University

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With the completion of a second module of Stanford University Libraries' (SUL) high-density storage facilities early last year, the capacity of SUL's off-site storage, known as SAL3, has reached 6 million volumes. Currently it is half full, which leaves much leeway for campus collection re-deployment as the space on central campus is getting ever smaller and print books still account for a majority of the new acquisitions. Because SAL3 is designed for low-use materials, the selection of off-site materials hopes to be driven primarily by data and require minimal attention by subject specialists. Nevertheless, given "both the symbolic and real research value" of the physical collections on campus, it is critical to develop a set of best practices for building balanced core campus collections. Enhanced services at off-site facilities such as e-delivery of journal articles and book chapters will help establish a healthy ecosystem of collection management and services.