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Forsyth Library at FHS 'On The Move'

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Forsyth Library at Fort Hays State College is "literally" on the move as contents of the 41-year-old building are being transferred across the street to a new $11/2 million structure.

Moving is expected to be completed by the time summer session enrollment begins Monday. Library space will be more than tripled in the new building, which will keep the name Forsyth Library. Dr. W. A. Lewis, former president of FHS, named the library for George Alexander Forsyth, aide-de-camp to Gen. Phil Sheridan, for whom Sheridan Coliseum is named.

Old Forsyth cost $150,000 to construct in 1926 and plans are being made to remodel the building to accommodate administrative offices and classroom space.

In preparing for the move, head librarian Marc Campbell studied books on library moving and several methods are being used for the material transfer.

Boxes are packed and labeled with different colors to indicate their future positions. An outside elevator carries the boxes to the ground and waiting fork-lift tractors transport the boxes across the street to an indoor elevator in the new building. Library employees then carry the boxes to their indicated places and reassemble the materials on the new shelves.

A collection of 14,000 volumes, 200 magazines and several bound newspapers were moved into old Forsyth in 1926. This move involves ten times as many books, 2,500 periodicals and several cabinets of microfilms, which have replaced the newspaper.

The library will provide about 350 individual study spaces for students, and features open stacks. A check system for all materials leaving the building will be initiated and typing rooms also will be available for students.

The new building is a two-story structure of native limestone. Future plans for the new library call for the addition of a third floor and completion of the basement.