

Ivy League Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Case Study



Location:
New Haven, Connecticut, USA

Challenge:
Protect millions of rare books and manuscripts

Product Solutions:
ANSUL® INERGEN® Clean Agent Fire Suppression System

Application:
125,000 ft² (11,613 m²)

Inside the Ivy League rare book and manuscript library in New Haven, Connecticut, the marble exterior panels of the structure cast a diffused light over the massive collection of rare materials, and a central, glass-encased tower of books rises through the core of the structure.

The library houses hundreds of thousands of volumes and several million manuscripts, including works by Charles Dickens and Benjamin Franklin, as well as a Gutenberg Bible. It is one of the largest buildings in the world devoted to rare books and manuscripts: an indispensable center of research for students, faculty and scholars.

The collection needed to be protected from fire as well as from the potential damage caused by conventional fire suppression agents such as water. The challenge of protecting the collection was multi-faceted, and the ANSUL® INERGEN® Clean Agent Suppression System provided the solutions. First, the INERGEN® system discharge proved so soft that not one paper was displaced during testing. Next, the space limited the type of agents that could be used. Due to the atmospheric density of the INERGEN® agent, the system maintained the minimum design concentration longer than the 10 minutes required per NFPA-2001. Finally, the system had to be located remotely. The INERGEN® agent flows over long distances, providing flexibility in locating the agent storage cylinders.

The INERGEN® system was the obvious choice for protecting this irreplaceable collection. In addition, the environment-friendly INERGEN® agent is non-hazardous, providing multiple levels of protection for the library, its employees and visitors.

Johnson Controls offers a 20-Year Environmental Warranty that covers both the fire suppression system and the agent plus a 20-Year Evergreen Discharge Warranty that covers the cost of the agent.