

Bharzul Depository by Tom Cartos

Background

The depository is one of the oldest structures in the city. It is built directly into the mountainside and extends downwards. How far down it goes is not entirely clear as the number of levels seems to differ depending on the phase of the moon, day of the week and the general need of whoever is browsing.

Aside from the top and bottom levels, each subsequent layer is almost identical to the ones above and below, aside from its contents of course, and with the lack of visible daylight it is possible to get lost within its walls, fully engrossed into whatever you are reading.

The depository is run by Depository Master Davoth Hammerrock, DM Dav for short, a dwarf with an outwardly grumpy disposition but a keen love of knowledge and writing. Many of the tomes within the depository were penned by his own hand, and his speed and quality of penmanship are unmatched. Aside from Davoth, the only other living worker is his half-giant assistant Bobb. Bobb is an incredibly affable fellow and due to his extreme size is affectionately known as 'The Tree' to many of the depository's regular visitors, most of whom are dwarves.

The rest of the daily tasks within the depository are carried out by silent spectres. They move between shelves, sorting inventory and ensuring everything is correctly placed. They mostly ignore visitors aside from the occasional stern glance at anyone who is being too loud. It is commonly believed that the spectres are the essence of those who got a bit too absorbed by the libraries depths and expired while reading. This is likely nonsense but serves as a good reminder to return to the surface to eat, sleep and get some fresh air once in a while.

Grid Information

GRID SIZE – 34x22(300DPI)

VTT SIZE – 4760x3080(140DPI)

RECOMMENDED PRINT SIZE – A1/ANSI D

Design Notes

Depository – Entrance

- **01 - Entrance Hall**
- **02 – Davoth's Study** – Books and parchment are strewn about. It seems chaotic, but all makes perfect sense to Davoth. The bed is frequently used by Davoth, he sleeps here more than in his own home. A second desk is set aside for Bobb, but he prefers to wander the stacks, talking to visitors.
- **03 – Reading Room** – A quiet space to sit and read with natural light

- **04 – Stairs** – The stairs continue all the way down. Most opt to use the elevator even if it is slower.
- **05 – Elevator**
- **06 – Bridge** – These walkways criss-cross the void on every level.
- **07 – Stacks** – Each level of the library is at least 20ft high and the bookshelves span the entire height from floor to ceiling. Intermediate levels can be reached by ladder, but for anything out of reach, the spectral assistants are always close at hand. It is believed there are many secrets hidden within the stacks if you know where to look and how to activate them. The spectres probably know, but they don't care to share the information.

Depository – Mid Levels

- **08 – Stairs**
- **09 – Elevator**
- **10 – Stacks** - Each level of the library is at least 20ft high and the bookshelves span the entire height from floor to ceiling. Intermediate levels can be reached by ladder, but for anything out of reach, the spectral assistants are always close at hand. It is believed there are many secrets hidden within the stacks if you know where to look and how to activate them. The spectres probably know, but they don't care to share.
- **11 – Bridges** - These walkways criss-cross the void on every level.
- **12 – Index** – The index is a single book on a pedestal found on every level of the Depository. It contains a catalogue of every book and many of the items stored and displayed, but you have to have a general idea of what you want to find for it to appear in the tome's pages, as it seems to have some level of sentience and makes decisions on what information it shares and with whom.

Depository – Archive

- **13 – Stairs**
- **14 – Elevator**
- **15 – Index** - The index is a single book on a pedestal found on every level of the Depository. It contains a catalogue of every book and many of the items stored and displayed, but you have to have a general idea of what you want to find for it to appear in the tome's pages, as it seems to have some level of sentience and makes decisions on what information it shares and with whom.
- **16 – Stacks** - Each level of the library is at least 20ft high and the bookshelves span the entire height from floor to ceiling. Intermediate levels can be reached by ladder, but for anything out of reach, the spectral assistants are always close at hand. It is believed there are many secrets hidden within the stacks if you know where to look and how to activate them. The spectres probably know, but they don't care to share.
- **17 – The Archive** – The only section of the Depository that is not open to the general public. Stored here is knowledge and artifacts deemed too dangerous to be handled, but too important to destroy. Usually, permission from the leading council is required to enter the room, but Davoth has final say regardless of the council's

decision. More spectres guard this room, but they are far more aggressive than their counterparts elsewhere.