

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Off-Site Library Storage Reaches New Heights

CHALLENGE

The Z. Smith Reynolds Library on the campus of Wake Forest University (WFU) holds more than 1.9 million volumes. There are over 100,000 items circulated each year – and that number is growing. In addition to the material stored on campus, there is also a sizeable collection of volumes and journals stored off-site. Initially, those volumes – some dating to 1850 – were stored in a commercial facility.

The commercial vendor charged not only for linear feet rented, but also added fees for

volume retrieval, delivery to the university, and for restocking. *“It was cost-prohibitive for us,”* said Mary Beth Lock, director of access services at the library. *“That, and the fact that we didn’t have as much control over the collection as we would have liked, just made it an unsustainable model. Plus, at the time, we were actively looking for ways to clear out space in the library.”*

The library staff needed to regain control of its collateral and at the same time create additional storage space for its valuable collection.

SOLUTION

To accommodate storage for not only the library but a number of other departments as well – and control the inventory themselves – the university purchased an off-campus warehouse in 2008. Inside was an area with a 54-foot ceiling. This feature led WFU to contact Patterson Pope to see if there might be a creative way to utilize the dramatic height.

“Once we saw the space, it became readily apparent that the XTend® High-Bay System from Spacesaver would be an ideal solution,” said Bobby Davis, the Patterson Pope sales representative on the project. Designed to fit the space, the system measures 54 ft. L x 35 ft. W x 40 ft. H. Davis and the client worked with Matt Takacs from ESPA Architects and Planners to tailor the area. It was the first “mobile” high-bay system designed specifically for books. Special considerations included:

- » New structural slab poured on top of existing slab to accommodate heavier load
- » Temperature/humidity controls to help maintain paper integrity
- » Additional lighting
- » Integrated Guide Wire for picker vehicle safety and automated retrieval

The picker vehicle is used to let warehouse attendants access the items on higher shelves. *“You are retrieving books from above 30 or 35 feet, so safety was a primary concern,”* said Takacs. On each row of shelving, books and other items are barcoded and categorized by height inside aligned “trays.”

The system was ordered in three phases, allowing WFU to expand as their budget allowed.

Quick Facts About The High Bay System

- » 30 tiers of shelves
- » Currently storing 155,000 volumes
- » Projected capacity is 300,000 volumes
- » One-touch powered system
- » Photo Sweep System and Aisle Entry Sensors for safety of people and materials



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P2 Talks High Bay Storage Video

"Libraries are more dynamic and social now. The days when libraries were just places to store and retrieve books has passed. Patterson Pope made this an easy, educational and rewarding experience."

Jim Alty
Associate Vice President of Facilities
Wake Forest University

ACHIEVEMENT

The new system has helped Wake Forest on a number of levels. They own the warehouse, which has eliminated costly rental/stocking fees. They have increased capacity by thousands of volumes. They have also created a more functional (or multi-use) space in the on-campus library by moving some of that inventory to the warehouse.

"Libraries are more dynamic and social now. The days when libraries were just places to store and retrieve books has passed," said Jim Alty, associate vice president of facilities at Wake Forest University. *"Patterson Pope made this an easy, educational and rewarding experience."*

Not only is the system itself expandable, but the XTend High Bay's flexibility brings potential for other campus partners to make a few changes, as well. *"It's an example for the people on our campus. We can say to them, 'Look, you can do something like this as well,'"* added Lock.

An educational experience, the installation of the XTend High Bay mobile shelving system has augmented the Z. Smith Reynolds Library's already impressive capabilities. That bodes well for the entire WFU community.

