

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



## College of Charleston – Addlestone Library

Re-imagined Storage Plan Opens Up Space for Students and Research

### CHALLENGE

In the first decade of its existence (2004–2014), the College of Charleston’s (CofC) Addlestone Library grew in popularity in much the same way as did the overall student population – quickly! What’s more, the South Carolina Historical Society had also decided to move its collection of research documents and other cherished papers to the library, as well. By spring of 2014, the increase in both students

and collections made a re-imagining of the space – without further construction – a necessity.

*“Patterson Pope helped us when the library was new, so we knew we wanted to work with them again during the renovation,”* said Claire Fund, director of administrative services for the CofC’s Addlestone Library.

### SOLUTION

When it was constructed, the Special Collections Library at CofC had two large vaults – one for rare books and one for manuscripts. Accommodating the Historical Society’s collection required the consolidation of the library’s two vaults into one. This was done by a) redesigning the mobile shelving systems in both and b) creating an additional space on the third floor by removing Spacesaver static cantilever shelving and replacing it with a lockable mobile shelving system that today house the college’s and the Historical Society’s overflow.

*“There were different kinds of things that needed to be stored. There were archival boxes, a large number of flat files that we had to provide flat-file cabinets for – which are oversized flat cabinets for storing things like architectural drawings or photographs – and rare books,”* said Patterson Pope Sales Representative Ben McCollum.

*“The biggest challenge fell on the client – determining which areas were the highest priority. The vaults have the most stringent temperature and humidity control requirements, so the most valuable, irreplaceable items were all determined to go into the vault, and then everything else went out into those other areas.”*

Additionally, all the remaining non-compact static shelving on the library’s second and third floors (first purchased in ‘04) was dismantled and re-utilized in a new high-density mobile shelving system. The entire job was completed over the 2014 summer break.

*“The controls are so intuitive; the students have no trouble operating the system,”* said Fund.



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P2 Talks Library Storage Video

"We decided on mobile shelving to help us maximize capacity and open up space, and it's been hugely successful on both fronts. Working with Patterson Pope was wonderful."

Claire Fund  
Director of Administrative Services  
College of Charleston Addlestone Library

## ACHIEVEMENT

As of fall 2016 there are more than 12,000 students at the College of Charleston. The Addlestone Library's increase in collection capacity and socialization space provided by Patterson Pope's work has helped it to become an even more popular campus destination. The project yielded a number of notable changes for the library:

- » Consolidation of entire book collection in one second-floor area
- » Enlarged capacity for the CofC library's unique manuscript and rare book collections
- » Room for an additional 200 seats for students, allowing for easy access to power outlets for computers and other personal devices

"We spent a year planning this renovation," said Fund. "We decided on mobile shelving to help us maximize capacity and open up space, and it's been hugely successful on both fronts. Working with Patterson Pope was wonderful. They operate as such a team, and Ben was phenomenal. They have always been there to help us figure out how to make things better. When changes need to be made, there are never any issues. The planning – and the partnerships – paid off."

For today, there is additional space for students and research materials. For tomorrow, there is room for expansion should it be necessary. It's the sort of positive feedback that gets us excited – and the sort of changes that get even Clyde the Cougar pumped for an infinite number of semesters to come!

