

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Library Service Center

Two University Libraries Combine for One Awe-Inspiring High-Bay Solution

CHALLENGE

While libraries remain prime real estate on university campuses nationwide, how those spaces are utilized is changing. When two of Atlanta's premier institutions – Emory University and The Georgia Institute of Technology – decided a change was necessary to keep both libraries current for their respective student clientele, they faced certain challenges. Although their needs were different, both aspired to design spaces that provided more useable meeting spaces and more ergonomic storage for their books and media. While The Georgia Institute of Technology wanted to replace most of their stacks, Emory needed to update their

off-site storage library while continuing to open up areas on-campus for student collaboration. As odd as it sounds, modernizing their libraries meant moving books and other items out.

"Libraries today need more meeting space and more connections for electronic devices. In many ways they're becoming the new student union," said Patterson Pope Sales Representative Dick Beery.

Creating this "new vision" at both universities' libraries would entail moving nearly 3 million individual items while devising an innovative system to ensure they remained easily available and accessible to students, faculty and staff.

SOLUTION

The two schools entered into a partnership. They selected a property owned by Emory located between the two campuses in Atlanta's historic Briarcliff neighborhood. Working together, they designed and built the Library Service Center (LSC) to host the joint collections. Inside the building is the "Archive Module," a 30,000 ft² area that is maintained at 50° F and with 30 % relative humidity, allowing for optimal long-term asset preservation.

LSC project managers worked with Spacesaver to acquire XTend® High-Bay Shelving that reaches 32 feet in height and stretches nearly 200 feet long. It boasts a single-piece, welded upright frame and a patented side-shelf support system.

Also provided were book carts, 4-post shelving for the LSC's intake processing area, tray storage and video vault shelving, along with wire shelving for the freezer.

"Together, the two universities have basically doubled their volumes because now each has access to the other's collections," said Nathan Rosser, the LSC's operations manager.

The Georgia Institute of Technology moved nearly 95 percent of its collection there, while Emory moved more than 1.2 million of its own materials to the space, with plans to accession in hundreds of thousands of microform media and government documents.

System statistics:

- » 11 double-sided, 32' tall x 198' L x 78" D / 42 sections per range
- » 2 single sided, 32' tall x 198' L x 36" D / 42 sections per range
- » 2 laser-guided automated "pickers" for easy shelf navigation

“Together, the two universities have basically doubled their volumes because now each has access to the other’s collections.”

Nathan Rosser
Operations Manager
Library Service Center

ACHIEVEMENT

Moving volumes and other important items to the LSC achieved desired outcomes for both universities. Emory had already consolidated its books down and made a sizeable investment in high-density storage in its existing library. The move allowed the university to further repurpose its existing space by eliminating one floor of old high-density shelving and nearly 300 cabinets holding microfilm and microfiche. For The Georgia Institute of Technology, the LSC was a golden opportunity to invest in the convenience and security of high-bay shelving and totally update their main facility into a futuristic model library.

The various solutions provided allowed the universities to combine their collections – both

physically and via a unified electronic system. Students, faculty and staff from both universities have full privileges. Today, both universities are, according to Rosser, “...able to re-purpose their existing library space while saving money on real estate. It allows them to make the libraries what they need to be today, not what they were 40 years ago.”

The ease of working with Patterson Pope – and Spacesaver – made for a pleasant experience during the transition, as well. “We couldn’t be more pleased with the result,” added Rosser.

The LSC is definitely worth “checking out.”

