

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Dayton Metro Library – Main Branch

New Library Inspires as it Serves High Density Population

CHALLENGE

Dayton Metro Library passed a bond issue to support a \$64 million reconstruction and expansion of its main library in downtown Dayton. The nearly 55-year-old structure was being torn down to its structural core, then rebuilt into an open, airy three-story space. With the majority of the design being done by a firm in California and an architectural collaborative in Ohio, storage considerations for the books, magazines and special collections were imperative.

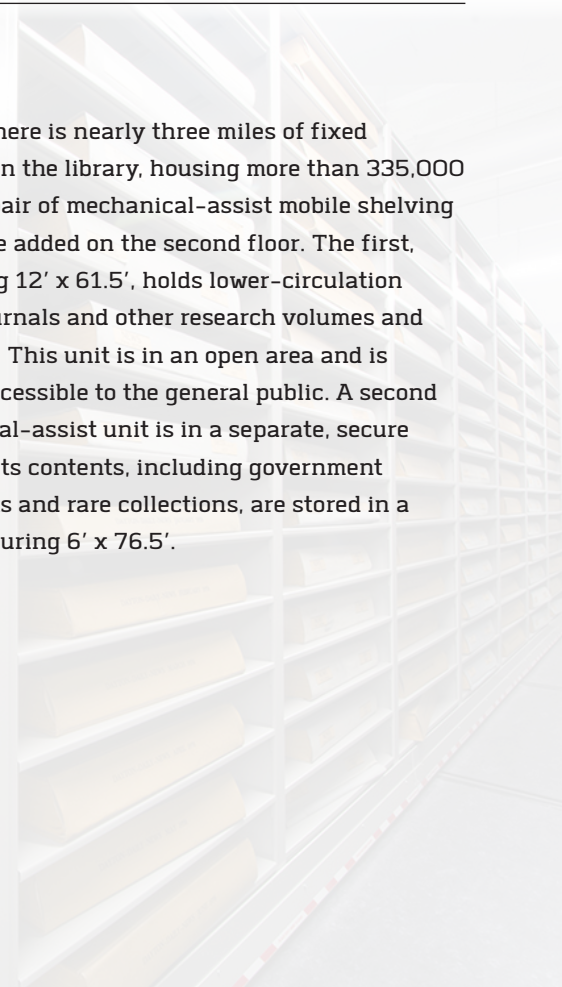
The new space needed to hold more books than it had before. It needed to be showcased in an inviting way. It also needed to provide ample security and ease-of-access for a litany of special collections that required storage in a climate-controlled environment.

SOLUTION

"We were happy to work with all the architectural partners to devise an attractive, workable solution," said Patterson Pope Salesperson Rich Schemenaur.

Static shelving laid out in a zig-zag pattern was utilized on the library's first and second floors. Designed to echo the area's canals, street patterns and even bridges, the shelving also features sloped canopies, adding a dramatic look and a modern feel. Traditional cantilever shelving was installed on the library's third floor – specifically to house an extensive collection of adult fiction and periodicals.

All told, there is nearly three miles of fixed shelving in the library, housing more than 335,000 items. A pair of mechanical-assist mobile shelving units were added on the second floor. The first, measuring 12' x 61.5', holds lower-circulation books, journals and other research volumes and materials. This unit is in an open area and is readily accessible to the general public. A second mechanical-assist unit is in a separate, secure location. Its contents, including government documents and rare collections, are stored in a unit measuring 6' x 76.5'.



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Jayne Klose
Community Engagement Manager
Dayton Metro Library System

ACHIEVEMENT

At the Main Library’s Grand Opening in August 2017, more than 7,500 people came in to browse the stunning new space. At over 224,000 total square feet, it is truly a majestic place.

“The addition of the compact storage has been such a positive change for the collections staff,” said Jayne Klose, the community engagement manager for the Dayton Metro Library System. *“Whereas before they had things stored on standard shelving in the basement, today the items they cherish are stored safely, securely and they’re fully protected against damaging environmental contaminants. As for the shelves out on the floor? The sloped shelving is my and many other’s favorite view in this beautiful building.”*

“Jayne was always ready to listen, and when you’ve developed that kind of communication with a client...it makes everything go so much smoother,” said Schemenaur. *“The results in this case speak for themselves.”*

“It was a pleasure working with Patterson Pope,” added Klose. *“They were responsive and so willing to be collaborative. That meant a lot during the process. And their installation guys were exceptional – patient, thorough, and really ready to go out of their way to do whatever they could to help.”*

While Dayton has had a library of some sort at this Cooper Park location since 1888, they’ve never had one that looks quite like this.

