

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Clayton State University Library

Re-Designed Spaces Earn High Marks for Creating More Room for Students & Collections

CHALLENGE

The Clayton State University Library first opened its doors in 1980. Over the years, its student population and associated services have grown significantly. For more than 30 years, the library's structure and interior design remained unchanged. What was once state-of-the-art had become dated and over-crowded. In addition to the older equipment and furniture, a lower-level space had been overwhelmed by a testing area and other student services offices. The university's archives – housed in the library – were running out of space, and

there was not nearly enough room for students to study, collaborate or simply rest in a quiet space between classes.

"Our collection had grown along with our enrollment," said Gordon Baker, dean of libraries at the university. "We couldn't weed anything out, so we needed a way to increase our storage space and at the same time create more space for students to gather. We had needed to do something for years, frankly, but the timing just wasn't right... until it was."

SOLUTION

Patterson Pope Sales Representatives Dick Beery and Wilson Pritt worked with Baker and Priti Bhatia, a project manager in planning and design for Clayton State's Facilities Department. Together they settled on a plan that would accomplish all the university's goals.

There were three areas where Patterson Pope assisted: the General Collections, the Archives Collection, and the A/V Collection. In Archives, 90% of the shelving used was repurposed from the Archives' original installation. This meant increased savings for the client.

The static bookcases on the library's second floor were replaced with cantilever shelving on a series of 39-foot long high-density shelves.

Project Outcome:

- » Added approximately 13,000 square feet of space increased student space by approximately 400 seats
- » Interior environment for collaboration, socializing and study enhanced tremendously
- » Visual access to lake and access to daylight achieved
- » Visual access between staff and students created
- » Various function rooms to support diverse learning environment built
- » Modernized high density on roller shelving installed that created more storage capabilities and freed up space for student seating and congregations
- » Archival exhibit event space – new archive space is very feasible to accommodate secured storage with lighting control and humidity control and display area for special exhibit and events



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P2 Talks Library Storage Video

"Working with Patterson Pope was so simple. They'll help you plan... they'll put it in place... and they'll make sure that it works smoothly,"

Gordon Baker
Dean of Libraries
Clayton State University

ACHIEVEMENT

"When we opened the upper level this past January, the students were just amazed," said Baker "We put in nine study rooms on the upper level, a study room downstairs and a student presentation room downstairs. As I said, this whole thing was to create more student-friendly space – even if it meant taking that space away from library faculty and staff."

Today, there is more room for both students and the collection. There is a brighter feel to the space and the expanded seating area has made the library a destination.

Priti Bhatia, Clayton State's project manager for planning and design, said of the renovation, *"Many students, faculty and staff enjoy the*

private, collaborative and social component of the library. You will see many students, faculty and staff members visiting and enjoying the various updated features now available in library. As a designer myself, it gives me great pleasure to see a highly functional space."

In this case, form not only followed function... they worked in tandem to create great results.

"Working with Patterson Pope was so simple. They'll help you plan... they'll put it in place... and they'll make sure that it works smoothly," said Baker. "It's just been a wonderful experience. When you work with Patterson Pope, you're working with family."

