

# Case Study

## **ON DEMAND AND ON SITE**

State University



**XTend**  
Mobile High Bay Storage System

## THE CHALLENGE

### *Keeping materials accessible*

Like many large campus libraries, this library has evolved over the years. Initially built in 1981, the building's interior became overcrowded about a decade after it was built. To give patrons rapid access to around 500,000 volumes, decision-makers opted to build an addition and install a Robotic Retrieval System, or RRS, in a large "vault" near the circulation desk.

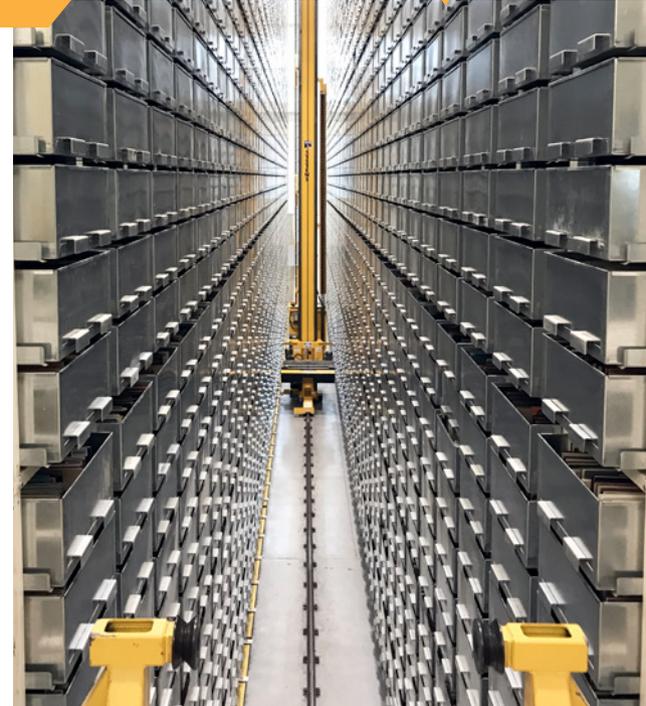
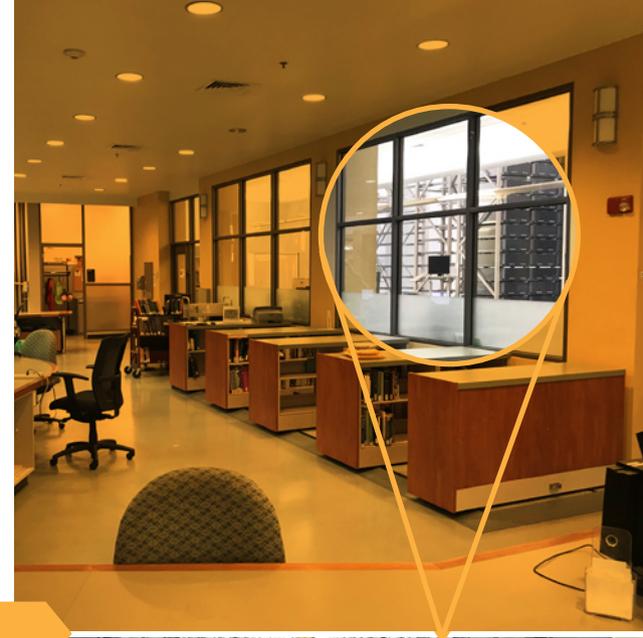
The library was ahead of its time: back in 2006, it was one of the first libraries in the United States to install such a system. The planning and design team thought it would save money on labor costs in the long run.

**The only problem?** The system was obsolete soon after it was installed.

### *An obsolete and expensive robotic retrieval system*

The robotic system's software needed an upgrade soon after it was installed. The software upgrade was expensive, but the system was difficult to use without it. The university invested in the software, only to be informed about ten years later that the software was obsolete again, and the robotic hardware would no longer be supported, either.

The system is still in place today, but it's difficult to use. "It was in the upper high five figures to do that first upgrade," said a librarian. "Now the software is obsolete again, and our robots are also obsolete. So we're in desperate need of an upgrade, but that would be close to a quarter of a million dollars."



## Spacesaver High-Bay Shelving

Decision-makers decided to switch strategies and invest in a proven long-term solution. In 2018 they purchased and installed a Spacesaver XTend® Mobile High-Bay Storage System near the robotic system.

The building was already constructed and in use, so the installation process called for advance planning and complex crane work. The large frames and shelving had to be passed through narrow windows.

Even though the installation process was complex, it went smoothly and more quickly than expected. "The process was shockingly short," said a librarian. "They got most of it done over the holiday break."



*Large frames of shelving had to be passed through these windows!*



*The robotic retrieval system on the left is now obsolete, so the university is incrementally replacing it with the XTend high-bay shelving shown at right.*

## THE RESULT



### *Long-term reliability*

At 100 feet long and 38 feet tall, the Spacesaver shelving system looks similar to the robotic system, but access to it doesn't depend on robotic hardware and software. Trained staff can simply use a lift to retrieve requested materials on demand.

Now library staff can easily store and retrieve stored materials. Materials that are more than around 20 years old are stored on the Spacesaver system, along with newer items that are also available digitally, like the football team's practice tapes. New books, periodicals, and other materials are placed on shelving in public areas around the library.

"We're using the Spacesaver system to clear space on the library's upper levels for more modern scholarship," said one of the librarians. "The shelving is adjustable, so if we ever need to make more of a certain space available, we can."

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### *An investment in quality and reliability*

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