



# Custom Shelving Showcases History

Spacesaver Cantilever Shelving Supports Thoughtful Design at the Richland County Library - Eastover



## THE CHALLENGE

The Richland County Library branch, in Eastover, SC, has been around since 1930, but didn't take up its permanent residence until 1985. In the decades that followed, the needs of library patrons significantly evolved, as did the need to expand and renovate.

"The 2,500 square foot space wasn't set up to function like a modern day library," said Steve Sullivan, facility manager for the Richland Library System.

Space for computers was at a premium. The shelving was old and peaked at 90" tall, which created a cramped and claustrophobic feeling when people browsed the aisles.

The library was offered a Grant from the USDA, along with funds from the County, and they eagerly began planning a new library that would incorporate modern elements, new services and help revitalize the community through its design.

## THE SOLUTION

The Richland Library had been a long-time client of Patterson Pope, the Authorized Spacesaver Representative in South Carolina, when the project started. In addition, Spacesaver product is listed on the South Carolina State Contract, which meant the procurement process would be easy for the library system. These two factors led the library to work with Ben McCollum, the sales representative with Patterson Pope, on the shelving solution for the new space.

During the two-year planning process, the team at Patterson Pope worked closely with the architect, designer and library staff to create a shelving solution that would increase collection capacity, open up the library for other functions, and highlight the community's local history with a unique end panel concept.

It took a collaboration between four vendors, and the expertise of the Patterson Pope team, to provide the library with the shelving they had envisioned.

Historic photos, some over eighty years old, were chosen by the local community and printed onto 3Form acrylic panels, which were then mounted onto laminate end panels provided by Wood Design, a fabricator in Fort Atkinson, WI. Mounting the translucent





Historical images were printed onto 3Form acrylic sheets and then mounted to laminate end panels installed on the Spacesaver cantilever shelving.



Shelving is installed against the wall to leave the children's area open and airy.



3Form sheets with custom imagery onto the laminate end panels was done to ensure that they were clearly visible, instead of viewing metal shelving through the translucent material.

"All the photos were mounted by Patterson Pope onto the Spacesaver shelving and the effect is very dramatic," said Sullivan.

An additional acrylic panel, provided by a local acrylic company, was installed on top of the shelving to allow more light to flow through the space. It also prevents patrons from feeling cramped as they did amongst the old 90" high shelving systems.

#### STORAGE SOLVED

The expanded and renovated library is now 5,200 square feet, which is more than double the size of the old space. The shelving provided for the library is 60" high, which is easier for patrons and staff to access and lets more light flow through the building. The Children's shelving was intentionally installed along the perimeter of the wall to leave the central area open and airy.

"There is no longer a dark stack area," said Sullivan.

They have a classroom-style room for computer access and help with job services. Laptops and iPads are now available for patrons to check out and use in the library, and there is even an outdoor garden with benches and wi-fi access.

The custom end panels are a truly unique element that brings a sense of community and togetherness to the space, and people have responded positively to that feature. Images of World War II fighter planes and a local National Park are among just a few of the old photos that are now featured throughout the library.

"People were pointing and saying, 'that's my Grandma,'" said Sullivan.

Sullivan also indicated that they are going after LEED® Silver Certification for the building, with features like a ground source heat pump, and an abundance of daylighting and views in every space.

The new library has become a center of community pride and can now accommodate the needs and wants of modern day library patrons.

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Steve Sullivan, facility manager

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