

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



## Drawing on Experience

### CHALLENGE

While “too much of a good thing” is a ridiculous notion, “not enough room for too much of a good thing” is very real. Such was the reality faced by the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus. Boasting the world’s largest collection of cartoon and comic art – all donated from private collections – curators

were at a loss as to how to adequately store and showcase their exceptional inventory. An impending renovation of an existing campus building provided an opportunity to move into a new space, but help was needed to determine the best way to plan the space’s optimal utilization.

### SOLUTION

Graduating from a 6,000 sq. ft. space to one boasting 30,000 sq. ft. created plenty of canvas. Ahead of their move, Patterson Pope Sales Representative Eric Martin met with Assistant Curator Susan Liberator to survey the new area, discuss the library/museum’s needs, and together develop a plan that not only accommodated the priceless collection but augmented the visitor experience.

*“Eric’s communication throughout the process was outstanding,” said Liberator. “I had never moved a collection before, but Eric was able to make me – and all of us – feel at ease. He came up with a great plan that’s really worked well for us.”*

That plan included compact shelving, book storage for monographs and serials, and even customized pull-out art displays. *“We have storage for our over-sized items – part of which is in our stacks. We also have storage for our portfolio-sized items, which are larger items that need to be laid flat. We also have storage for our archived material – boxes full of correspondence,”* added Liberator. *“We also have sculptures. We also have art case storage, which is our map case – our flat files. We have 147 total files worth of storage.”*

#### Products Used:

- » Spacesaver Eclipse Powered Mobile Shelving
- » Spacesaver Cantilever and 4-Post Shelving
- » Spacesaver Modular Drawers
- » Customized pull-out art displays from Ideal Environments
- » Mayline Plan Files

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## ACHIEVEMENT

The finished space is now the nation's largest cartoon library and museum. In addition to the storage areas, there is also a reading room, a classroom and multiple galleries.

Liberator has worked with many collections through the years. A long-time fan of comics and cartoon art, she is reticent to pick out a favorite – whether an individual artist, strip or even genre. One thing is for certain. She is a big fan of Patterson Pope and of the newest installation.

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