



CASE STUDY:
PRESERVING THE PAST AND
PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas



Storage Solved®



The rising STAR of Texas

Growing Enrollment, Growing Collections

Located between Austin and San Antonio, Texas State University has been growing rapidly over the past decade. As enrollment climbed toward 40,000 students, space at the Alkek Library, the main library on campus, was growing increasingly tight. "Roughly five years ago, space was becoming an issue," said Joan Heath, Associate Vice President and University Librarian. "That was not only because we needed to support more students and faculty on campus, but also because our collections were growing."





Although the library's print collections were gradually transitioning to digital, the university was still acquiring print material and planned to continue doing so. At the same time, the university's special collections, which consist of the university's archives and The Wittliff Collections, were growing steadily. The Wittliff Collections comprise literary, photography, and music collections centering around Texas and the Southwest, and the materials in the collections had varying needs for optimal preservation.

In addition to space pressures from enrollment growth and collections storage, the library system's leadership recognized that students and faculty expect libraries to provide modern amenities. "Aside from more space, we knew we needed to have new kinds of spaces in the library, whether it was for group work, collaborative work, or new technology spaces," Heath said.



A Phased Approach

The university partnered with Perry Dean Moore Architects out of Boston to develop a feasibility study, which was a conceptual plan and a cost estimate for a phased approach to achieving the library's goals.



A key component to the entire project was the Archives and Research Center, a new off-site facility just a few miles from campus. "An important step in the overall renovation plan was to build the Archives and Research Center fairly early in the process," Heath said. "Rather than adding a floor or extending out the Alkek Library or expanding in some other way, the decision was made to build the facility and move a significant part of the collections."

The planning and design team visited similar facilities at the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M, and Spacesaver was selected as the shelving and storage supplier.



Establishing Three Environments

Because the off-site facility houses different kinds of materials, the facility was designed to maintain separate preservation environments in addition to comfortable workspaces for staff. Spacesaver's engineers and project management teams worked with the architect and the local Spacesaver consultant to design a variety of storage systems to accommodate the collections, comply with building codes, and optimize space throughout the facility.

Arts and Artifact Room

This room houses three-dimensional objects from the university archives in Spacesaver compact shelving, as well as oversized photographs hung on Spacesaver art racks. The room is kept at 65 degrees and 45% humidity.

High Pile Room

This massive room is kept at 50 degrees and 30% relative humidity. It stores books, journals, and other materials on a Spacesaver High-Bay Shelving System, and an additional Spacesaver shelving unit houses boxed materials from the university archives.

Study Rooms and Administration Areas

The facility features a study area, offices, and material processing areas, which are kept at comfortable temperatures and humidity levels for the people working there.



Another Library

The facility opened in late 2017 and offers a variety of services. Patrons on campus can request scans or volumes, and staff make daily deliveries to campus. Patrons can also visit the facility to do research and view or collect checked out items from any University Libraries facility.

"Our attitude is that this is another library for the university. We don't view this as just a storage space. The intention is for people to feel that they can choose to come out here and do their work."

*-Joan Heath,
Associate Vice President
and University Librarian*



Ready to learn more?

Spacesaver's XTend® specialists can help with all aspects of planning and implementing a high-bay shelving system. Our in-house engineering and project management teams, paired with our network of local distributors, offer years of experience and unparalleled expertise in high-bay library design. We look forward to meeting you and working with you on your project.

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