



CASE STUDY:
**UPDATING ELECTRONICS
AT A CITY LIBRARY**



THE CHALLENGE

A stylized map of a city block with a yellow highlighted area representing a library. The map consists of various gray rectangular blocks of different sizes, separated by white lines representing streets. One block on the left side is highlighted in a solid yellow color, indicating the location of the library.

One of the largest public libraries in the United States occupies an entire city block.

Even with all that square footage, compact shelving is essential for optimizing space and accommodating the library's collections.



THE CHALLENGE

Crucial but Aging Infrastructure

The library's fifth floor is home to the government publications department, which is a federal depository that stores state and federal records and the city's archives. Spacesaver's powered compact shelving systems have been there from the beginning: they were installed during the construction process and they've served staff and patrons since the day the library opened in 1991.

The fifth floor Spacesaver system is located in "closed stacks," a secure area that's only accessible to staff. They use it multiple times every day to retrieve materials requested by patrons.

"Compact shelving isn't as 'sexy' an item to spend money on as a maker lab or a new computer lab. But it is so essential."

- Division Chief

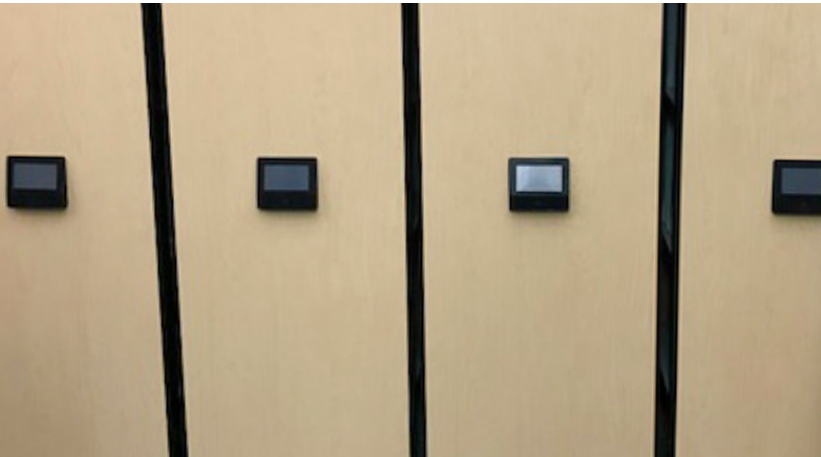
Decades after the library's opening, the powered systems started to falter, similar to the thermostats and other electronic systems in the aging building. The electronic components needed to be replaced because Spacesaver could no longer source the parts needed for repair.

THE SOLUTION

Refreshing the Spacesaver System

Spacesaver and the local distributorship proactively notified library staff that parts would be unavailable and that the electronic system could be updated with minimal disruption. They also informed decision-makers that they could install new lighting and put a modern “skin” on the system by installing new end panels concurrently with the updated electronics.

The library’s administrative team decided to reinvest in the Spacesaver powered mobile systems throughout the building. They determined that compact shelving was essential to the library’s function and an update would create a more pleasant work environment while also extending the useful life of a valuable asset.



THE SOLUTION

The project was completed in phases on multiple floors. The first phase of the update process was completed over the summer of 2020, and additional phases were completed in the months that followed. Factory-certified technicians from the local Spacesaver distributorship worked with the library's staff to create a convenient schedule and workflow. Staff didn't need to remove all the books on the shelving; technicians only needed to access the end panels and the area behind the electronic controls.



THE RESULT

A Transformed Space

The local Spacesaver distributorship was able to refresh not only the system's aging electronic controls, motors, and safety systems, but also its outdated look. The technicians removed the old grey end panels and replaced them with new maple-look laminate panels that brighten the space and give it a modern appearance. They installed new LED lighting, too, which is brighter and more efficient.

The system is also equipped with patent-pending TUSC® wireless technology, which allows staff to use an app on their mobile devices to open and close aisles and check the system's safety status. Technicians can connect via a separate app to diagnose any problems that might arise.

"I'm pleased, and more importantly, staff are pleased. It's brighter and a more pleasant space to work in."

- Division Chief



THE RESULT

The division chief said she was glad the library decided to reinvest in the existing Spacesaver system and bring it up to modern standards. The updated system has transformed the space and improved how staff feel about working in the area. "If you have a space that is dark and unattractive, people don't like going there and spending much time working there. It's much brighter now. The shelves are easier to operate, and staff are taking better care of the whole room."

Best of all, the library is set up for decades more of reliable Spacesaver system operation, day in and day out.

The TUSC® Control app allows you to open and close aisles, browse and search for stored items, and view your system's safety status.



Discover the Power of Reliability

Many Spacesaver powered systems work reliably for 25 years or longer before needing an update. How many of your personal devices or household electronic appliances last that long?

When you're ready to learn more about our powered systems' safety and reliability, contact us to learn more. We can answer your questions and connect with your nearby Spacesaver consultant, who can help update your existing system or design a new system that's a perfect fit for your needs and your space.

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