



TAB Case Study: University of Washington

TAB goes the distance installing three miles of shelving to increase storage capacity by 91%

TAB Northwest in Seattle, Washington, began the process of working with the University of Washington on a multi-phased project including a large static shelving job back in the 1990's. The University was committed to using storage to maximize the capacity of its 35,000 square foot offsite archival storage facility for their library's inactive books and special collections.

The University took one third of the area and added 571 sections of static shelving in 2000. This shelving area was eventually incorporated into the new mobile configuration. In 2003 the area went out to bid for pre-construction design evaluation.

Developing the Design

TAB worked with the winning architect to create design considerations and review the weight load of the high-density storage solution, as it would effect this location. It was determined that mobile would work in the building and was sent to capital projects for funding.

In 2006, the University of Washington went to bid for architectural services for the project and they ended up selecting a different architect than the original architect who had performed the initial site survey. TAB started working with the new architect to create a design that would meet the floor loading requirements and maximize the workflow in the building to include egress and multiple storage concerns.

A Winning Project

The floor ended up having many issues regarding long-term deflection that had to be addressed before the final design layout could be approved. This included the location of the track and quantity of penetrations in the floor.

TAB worked with the structural engineers to design a system, which included an anti-drift brake that met the floor load limitations of the building. The mobile portion of the project was approved and funded in 2007 and in February 2008, a purchase order was awarded to TAB to perform the work. TAB kicked off the installation in June 2008 and the project was completed in October 2008.



"We are all deeply appreciative of TAB's willingness to 'go with the flow.' It seemed like we had a change every week and TAB responded affirmatively every time. We could not have done it without TAB's excellent cooperation and hard work."

-Charles Chamberlin, Senior Associate Dean of University Libraries



TAB met with the University's architects and library administrators many times, and with his expertise in storage, ensured that the final design was workable, efficient and included appropriate shelf configurations required for both books and materials in the University's special collections. The books were taken down and moved to allow for construction. They were then moved a second time to allow for installation of the new mobile system, high-density mobile carriages and shelving were installed, and then the collections were reshelfed as part of the service provided.

TAB's Complete Solution

TAB Northwest provided a complete solution for this very large project. The resulting solution included over three miles of shelving and increased the storage capacity of the facility by 91%!

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