



CASE STUDY:
UINTAH COUNTY LIBRARY

Vernal, Utah



Storage Solved®



Uintah County connecting with the community

In constructing a new and much larger building, the Uintah County Library is able to accommodate more traffic on a daily basis, offer a better patron experience as well as facilitate a greater community involvement.

The Uintah County Library opened August 2012 and since then it has had a huge positive impact on the community. Located in the northeastern part of Utah, Uintah County has grown considerably due to the benefits of the oil industry. Sam Passey, the director of the library, was determined to get a new library for the Uintah community. Through many years of fundraising along with money saved by the county government, Passey was able to get grants to fund the new construction.



Opportunities for a new building

Passey and the rest of the staff started the project by hiring architects and telling them exactly what they wanted and needed throughout the library. Staff members including Melinda Barlow, the program coordinator, had wished for the opportunity to get a new library for a long time.

"I've been here 15 years," Barlow said, "And I have a theory that thoughts become things."





Shelves that carry their weight and then some

It was important for the new library to have enough room for all of their books and then some because although there is an increase of digital reader or e-book use, the library collection continues to grow. The first steps of designing the new library was determining what they didn't like about the old one.



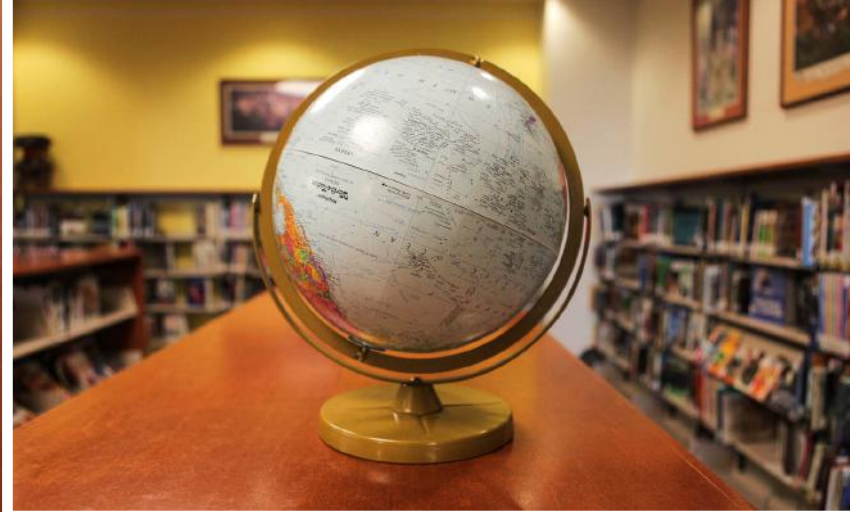
"[We] Used to have large oak shelves, that would bow under the weight of the books." Barlow said, " So, we would constantly have to switch the shelves around to try and straighten them out."

With only 9,000 square feet in the old library, the traditional wood shelves caused the entire space to

feel cramped and uncomfortable for patrons to even look for books. A major part of design and planning for the library space was what worked best for them, something that wasn't traditional storage. Spacesaver was able to come in during the planning process and work with the architects to create a space that could provide exactly what they needed.



Now the library has more than doubled their space with 22,000 square feet and help serve over 800 patrons a day, which is more than triple the amount they would see before. The library is open and airy and every section has enough room that visitors can take their time walking through the aisles search at ease.



Adaptable shelving that fits its medium

“You need to have that living pace for people to feel comfortable, you need to have that feeling in a library. That they can come in and find what they want, and that’s what this library does.”

*-Melinda Barlow,
Program Coordinator, Uintah County Library*

Using Spacesaver cantilever shelving and 4-post throughout the library allows the staff to reconfigure and change the book displays whenever they feel the need to. Every collection is organized so well that the library is also able to provide children and teen programs right within the library space.



Storage that fits on every level

The children's section of the library is located on the first floor, which makes it easy for parents to bring their children in and look for books or enjoy a daily program such as story time. The shelving bins are specifically designed on the Spacesaver shelving units for children to be able to grab books themselves and place them back wherever, with no exact alphabetical ordering system. The library sees about two to four hundred children for each major event that they host.

"It's so kid friendly, the amount of children that come in, mothers with strollers, can just walk around and find what they're looking for," Barlow said.

"It's absolutely my favorite part."





The Uintah County Library was also able to install a high-density mobile system for their office storage needs. It stores program and office supplies and is one of the staff's favorite features because even two years after the new library opened they still have plenty of room.

Overall the Uintah County Library has been able to help provide a place where members of the community can come together and enjoy a common space. With the help of Spacesaver storage systems, the library can continue to grow and help positively impact the community for many years to come.

*Less-accessed materials stored
in half the usual space*



"It's amazing how much stuff you can get in that shelving system. We couldn't have all of this stuff—that we might usually throw out—without the mobile system."

*-Melinda Barlow,
Program Coordinator, Uintah County Library*



Spacesaver Corporation
1450 Janesville Avenue
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-2798
1-800-492-3434
www.spacesaver.com

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KI
1330 Bellevue Street
P.O. Box 8100
Green Bay, WI 54302-8100
1-800-424-2432
www.ki.com