

# CASE STUDY



## BRINGING A LIBRARY BACK TO LIFE

Benedictine University is an inclusive academic community dedicated to teaching and learning. Located on the University's Lisle, IL campus is the Benedictine University Library, home to thousands of pieces of text, historic literature and a variety of resources relied on by many students.

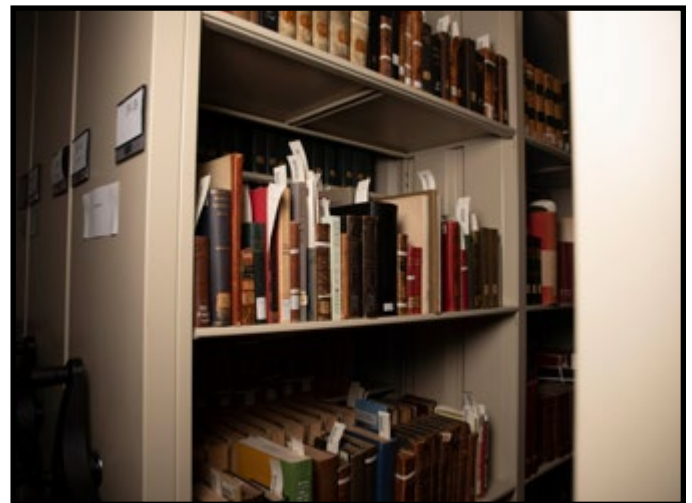
Since the founding of Benedictine University, the library has been pivotal to the school's progress. However, more recently, the library had needed to be renovated to meet the changing needs of the students.

This is where Ellis System's Ken Pahlke, and Aurora Storage Systems shelving solutions come in – to custom fit a storage system that would secure the school's existing standard of academic excellence.

### THE SOLUTION

Upon planning for the renovation, the Benedictine University Library had books spread out across four floors. To make better use of the space, it was determined that all the books should be moved to the lower levels so that the two upper floors could be converted to computer access, research, and study areas for the students.

There was already high-density mobile shelving provided by a competitor on the upper floors, but their electrical system had become unreliable long ago, and the school wanted to replace it with mechanical assist.



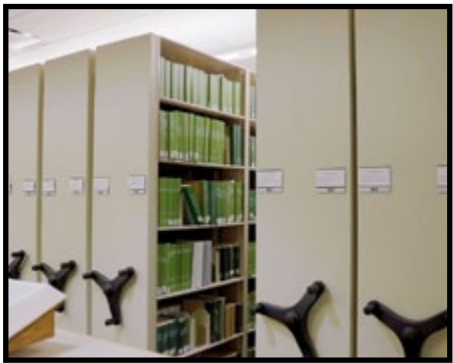
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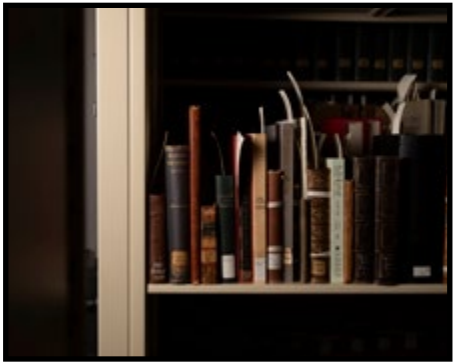
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Benedictine University called on Ken Pahlke to help them make better use of the space in the school's library. Working with Benedictine and the factory, Ken determined that moving the usable parts of their ten existing mobile shelving systems and combining them into one big system in the lower levels was the first course of action.

The Ellis Systems team was able to identify and reuse the existing shelving, replace the outdated electrical system with a new mechanical assist system, remove and replace storage unit tracks, replace the carriages and add new shelving. They were even able to match the color of their new materials with the existing, sun-faded system so that the final look was seamless.



In addition, the library's Rare Book Archive was moved to a special, temperature-controlled room in the basement level of the library with 4-post library shelving to help keep these books preserved for generations to come.

Through collective knowledge and expertise, the project was completed within a summer. Today, the lower level houses the library's circulating collection of books and other resources for students, special collections, a quiet zone, private study areas, four new classrooms and a computer lab. While the upper levels are now individual and group study spaces, research support, and computer access areas.



With the library's storage remodel, Benedictine University will have the capacity to continue offering the great resources and rich history for students and faculty for years to come.



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