

# CASE STUDY

## Aurora Low Profile Mechanical Assist Mobile

*Northwestern University  
Evanston, IL*

### Library Book Storage Facility

- Number of Carriages: 313
- Pounds of Shelving: 233,740
- Pounds of Carriages: 120,843

Northwestern University's Library was faced with a serious book storage problem. They needed to expand capacity, but could not do so at the main library. They selected a site for book storage that was a former parking garage, 232' long and 70' wide, loaded with support columns.



# Northwestern University



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY

## The Challenges

Northwestern University is located in a constricted urban setting where every bit of space counts. The university library could no longer adequately contain its expanding book collection, so a decision was made to use a former parking garage for book storage. This unusual building posed some challenges.

Intrusive support columns

were only one of the challenges that this site presented. The floor varied 42" from one side to the other and would be difficult to level in preparation for the rails and carriages. In order to maximize storage, the application required several different shelving heights to provide the required filing inches to fit within the confines of the unique structure.



# The Solution

Partnering with our dealer, Ellis Systems, the Aurora Mobile team met with Northwestern staff and the architect to specify a mechanical assist mobile system which included variable shelving heights that started at 85" and ended at 64" high shelving.

Low Profile carriages were used throughout in order to avoid the overhead mechanical systems, and to increase the storage that a standard carriage height might not provide. Over 12,000 pounds of grout were used to level the floor and 75 percent of the installation time was spent on the track and floor.

Dealer Tom Hynes of Ellis Systems mentioned that the carriages arrived on-site totally assembled, making that part of the installation a real time saver. Tom Hynes stated: "Northwestern is very pleased with the project that was completed on time and on budget; it is functioning beautifully."

