

Case Study

Number 16 - Research Library

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The Customer

Waddell & Reed, Inc.
Research Library
Kansas City, MO

What Was Found...

Back in 1983, Waddell & Reed's Investment Management Division Research Library of was in a bind and space was at a premium. With over 2500 employees in the field and home office, space and its wise utilization really counted.

Betty Howerton, then Head Librarian, had a dilemma. Their existing system, Tab Products Unit Spacefinder "buckets" weren't getting the job done. Because of the fixed four inch width of each box, if a file was only two inches thick, and the next file was three inches, both would not fit in the same four inch box. To stay in sequence she would "skip to the next box, thus wasting two inches of filing space." As this occurred repeatedly, it added up to "a lot of wasted space" in the system. Adding to the system was the only viable solution, but the space simply wasn't there to add housing for more hanging boxes stated Betty. A change was called for.

What Was Done...

Although it was initially considered that the existing TAB system could be expanded, this proved impossible because of space limitations. Several alternative filing systems were



considered, including a similar "hanging box" system which was judged to be inferior even to the existing filing. A solution was needed which would not only accommodate their existing materials more space efficiently, but also allow for future growth.

Peterson Business Systems of Kansas City were called in to help with the problem. Sales rep Bill Davis suggested the Oblique hanging file system on a Spacesaver Mechanical Assist mobile shelving as an effective solution.

Over 7,000 Oblique legal and oversized v-base hanging files were installed in the 900 square foot library, plus two 12' x 5' storage areas. The mixed sized compartments were used to house newspapers, magazines, annual reports, hard backs, micro fiche and investment and finance related publications.

The Oblique/Spacesaver system has saved 35-40% in usable space, enough to add a reading room with a 4 foot round table, chairs and two nine foot book shelves. According to Betty, "the Oblique folders are fantastic for newspapers versus stacking....the Spacesaver mobile shelving, coupled with the Oblique compartments,

has been a space saver for us."

Oblique has made filing at Waddell & Reed more convenient and easier to deal with. Betty says the greatest advantage of the Oblique system is, "the ability to adjust the system for files to be inserted in alphabetical order, the movability of the folders on the rails, versus manually moving files to make space in other systems."

It was almost twenty years ago that this case study was first published. Back then, as today, the unique combination of Oblique and Spacesaver provided greater access, improved flexibility, and "fantastic space savings" over all competitive systems.

Today, the system is still in use and providing Waddell & Reed with continued benefits and savings every time they access information. With Oblique's ten year manufacturer's warranty ensuring year after year of durable use, and Spacesaver's superior engineering and product quality, both products have paid for themselves many times over.

In today's "here today, redundant tomorrow" high tech business environment, how many information storage technology products will be able to make the same claim twenty years from now?

