



CASE STUDY

BUILDING AUTOMATION CONTRACTORS

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The New York Public Library

Preserving Collections for Posterity

Libraries are the memory of humankind, irreplaceable repositories of documents of human thought and action. The New York Public Library is such a memory bank par excellence, one of the great knowledge institutions of the world, its myriad collections ranking with those of the British Library, the Library of Congress, and the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Virtually all of the Library's

ship. The research collections (for reference only, and organized as The Research Libraries, with four major centers) resemble the holdings of the great national and university libraries, and the community circulating libraries (organized as The Branch Libraries) resemble classic American municipal libraries. All these features, taken together, make The New York Public Library a unique and complex institution, wonderful to use but not

always easy to grasp. A useful way to understand the Library is to consider its beginnings and subsequent evolution. It has been very much a creature of time and place, bearing the imprint of its origins but always, like any living organism, coping with struggles and problems while adapting to an ever changing environment.



Preserving collections for posterity

The New York Public Library is one of the world's richest libraries, both for the quantity and diversity of its material, and for the unique importance of its rare and early works. Over the years, specialized conservation initiatives have become more and more essential. These are provided by library's workshops and laboratories as well a large number of external associates - T.E.C. Systems Inc. being one of the more instrumental partners.

Since its inception in 1983, T.E.C. Systems has been collaborating with the venerable institution to upgrade and maintain its facilities. A relationship anchored by T.E.C. Systems' fundamental belief that conservation is not only a matter of restoring, reproducing and pro-

many collections and services are freely available to all comers. In fact, the Library has but one criterion for admission: curiosity.

The New York Public Library comprises simultaneously a set of scholarly research collections and a network of community libraries, and its intellectual and cultural range is both global and local, while singularly attuned to New York City. That combination lends to the Library an extraordinary richness. It is special also in being historically a privately managed, nonprofit corporation with a public mission, operating with both private and public financing in a century-old, still evolving private-public partner-

Project Team

Owner & Developer: The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations, NYC

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Key Benefits

- Maximized efficiency of equipment and ensure control of environments.
- Optimized the delivery of air of moderate cleanliness, temperature, and humidity.
- Improved operator productivity and response time due to centralized control.



tecting documents: it also, and especially, means thinking ahead to prevent their deterioration. Preventive conservation is undoubtedly the most effective means of maintaining collections in a satisfactory condition.

T.E.C. Systems has had the distinct responsibility for analyzing and monitoring temperature and humidity in the various stockrooms and exhibitions areas within the many branches of the New York Public Library. Premises covering some thousands of square feet have been converted and fitted out to provide appropriate physical and environmental conditions for document storage. Over the last few years the collections exhibited at the New York Public Library have become more diversified and invaluable: in addition to periodicals and microfilm the library now accommodates audio-visual material acquired through copyright deposit as well as donations or purchases.

One of those priceless collections included the *Dead Sea Scrolls*, exhibited in 1993 at the library's Gottesman Hall. Considered by many throughout the world to be the single most important literature in existence, T.E.C. Systems was charged with the ambitious task of facilitating a complementary sustainable controlled environment for the exhibition of the two thousand year old discovery. As a circumstance of its age, the fragile documents required optimal levels of space temperature and humidity. Recognizing the significance of such an archeological marvel, T.E.C. Systems embrace and responded to the challenge with the design, and installation of a Direct Digital Control (DDC) system configured to American Auto-Matrix's Building Automation Systems control platform.

Recently T.E.C. Systems completed an upgrade to the South Court and Penthouse Quarters within the

library's main branch in New York City, mirroring most of its previous engagements by the institution, with specificity to the installation of Air Handling Units (AHU), Fan Coil Units, Hot Water (Reheat) Systems. Continuously, T.E.C. Systems maintains service agreements with several of the branches within the New York Public Library encompassing preventive maintenance, remote monitoring, emergency service, repair and replacement of worn out parts as well as training for facility management staff.

One of the clear advantages of contracting with a private sector company, like T.E.C. Systems is the depth of corporate resources to which the New York Library gains access. For example, T.E.C. Systems provides centralized Project Management and Systems for critical areas such as Facility Management. In addition, T.E.C. Systems features resident experts in Life Safety and Security Systems that provides support and assistance in all areas of performance. Contracting with T.E.C. Systems guarantees Library officials a simple way to maximize protection of its treasured collections while minimizing conservation concerns.

This partnership is a key component to the New York Public Library. Undoubtedly one has a limited amount of time, resources and money to conduct their public works campaign. Designating and pairing with T.E.C. Systems has help the New York Public Library create and implement their community based initiatives, by contributing to the protection of irreplaceable archives, community members are afforded the opportunity to satisfy their "curiosity," and to do so within a physically comfortable environment.

· Adopted from the New York Public Library's website.

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