AUTOMATED LIBRARY STORAGE SYSTEM

The HK Automated Library Storage System (ALSS) utilizes an automated storage and retrieval machine, and a special integrated software control system to provide fully automated high density media archival. Additionally, the ALSS can operate in a controlled environment that has the proper humidity, temperature and is free of dust and other contaminates to preserve Library's holdings.

HOW IT WORKS

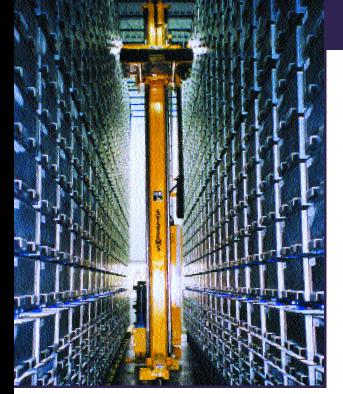Returned items are collected at a Library check-in location. The Library's system will determine if the items should be sent back to the shelves or returned to the Automated Library Storage System. Items to be returned to the ALSS have their barcodes scanned at ALSS workstations and the correct bin is automatically positioned in front of the operator for placement of the item in the bin. The bin is then automatically returned to its position in the ALSS.

To request an item in the ALSS, a patron simply uses the Library's ordering system. The Library's system will automatically request items held by the ALSS. In most instances, the item will be waiting for the patron at the designated circulation desk in the time it takes the patron to walk to the desk.

The ALSS has the ability to assign items to random locations, maximizing space utilization. A computer system developed by HK Systems records all items' locations for rapid retrieval. Additionally, collections, valuable items, items requiring restoration, restricted holdings, etc. can be assigned by the ALSS to dedicated locations. When items are returned, the ALSS will scan their barcode and return them to their proper location.

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In a typical Library system, the ALSS can store 450,000 volumes in an area that would take seven times the volume of conventional shelving at one-fifth the cost. On a 25-year lifecycle cost basis, the ALSS solution is conservatively one-half the cost of a conventional solution.

EXPERIENCE

HK Systems has been installing systems utilizing this technology for the past forty years. Automated Library Storage Systems have been installed at Libraries throughout the United States.

HK Systems is the leading supplier of Automated Material Handling Equipment and Supply Chain Software solutions. The company specializes in the design, installation and aftermarket service of automated material handling systems for industries throughout the world.

The ALSS has extensive management and reporting capabilities. User ID's and passwords allow the Library's administration to restrict access to specific items and to ALSS system commands and reports.

FEATURE

- 1/7 of space needed for conventional shelving
- Compact modular design
- State-of-the-art computer design
- Retrieval in minutes versus days for off-site storage
- Automated operation
- 99+% inventory and tracking accuracy
- Secure control of archived and popular items
- Heavy duty bins
- Environmentally controlled
- Ergonomically designed workstations
- Completely integrated

BENEFIT

- Reduced construction costs
- Most efficient cube utilization of space available
- Redundant computers assure high availability
- Improved patron service
- Reduced man-power requirements
- Reduces lost items
- Access to all holdings is controlled and tracked
- Reduced product damage
- Elimination of dust, moisture and temperature damage
- Reduces operator lifting and stress
- Transparent to the patron, communicates with existing Library circulation systems

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