

Chicago Public Library Chicago, IL

Located in the heart of the Windy City, the Harold Washington Library Center is one of the country's preeminent state of the art libraries and also one of the largest public libraries in the world. Designed by Hammond, Beeby & Babka, the HWLC contains 756,000 square feet of space for 2,337 readers, multipurpose meeting rooms, an auditorium, classrooms, and video theater.

The Thomas Hughes Children's Library on the second floor is over 18,000 square feet, and houses the largest collection of children's books in the city. With over 120,000 volumes to store, the children's library posed a challenge in the variety of media to accommodate. There were tiny picture books, classics, large print books, reference materials for research projects, popular paperbacks, periodicals, a collection on parenting, plus toys and games. The system had to be cost effective and sturdy, yet aesthetically pleasing.

Designers turned to Aurora for the versatile solution Aurora Quik-Lok® Shelving in the company's most popular color, Grey Mist. The powder coat finish would be rugged enough to stand up to the constant use it would see from the tiny little fingerprints deposited on a daily basis.

A variety of different styles and configurations of 4-post shelving were used in the Thomas Hughes Library.

In the stacks the recommendation was to install 6-Tier back-to-back library shelving; in the common areas, 3-Tier units were placed to store reference material. Banks of lower units were outfitted with accessories such as magazine doors to house periodicals, and also with countertops to provide work surfaces for teachers and students.

