CLAIMS

1. An article storage facility comprising:

an article storage rack including storage section for storing articles with the storage sections being arranged along a rack vertical direction;

a front side transport device provided in front of the article storage rack in a rack fore and aft direction for carrying in and out articles to and from the storage sections;

a back side transport device which can support and transport an article between an outside location located rearward of a back face of the article storage rack along the rack fore and aft direction and an inside location located forwardly of the back face of the article storage rack along the rack fore and aft direction and an inside location located forwardly of the back face of the article storage rack along the rack fore and aft direction;

wherein the inside location is defined between the storage sections arranged along the rack vertical direction by replacing one of the storage sections arranged along the rack vertical direction with the back side transport device and the inside location, and

wherein the front side transport device is configured to be capable of transporting an article between the inside location and the storage sections,

characterized in that

the back side transport device includes a receiving support portion for receiving and supporting an article, and an actuating operation portion for actuating the receiving support portion in order to move an article to the inside location and to the outside location;

wherein the actuating operation portion is provided rearward of articles stored in the storage sections along the rack fore and aft direction.

2. The article storage facility as defined in claim 1, characterized in that

the receiving support portion includes a receiving member for receiving and supporting an article and movable along the rack fore and aft direction, and an operatively connecting portion for operatively connecting the receiving member and the actuating operation portion to move the receiving member along the rack fore and aft direction when actuated by the actuating operation portion,

wherein the operatively connecting portion is connected to a rear portion, along the rack fore and aft direction, of the receiving member, and is provided rearward of articles stored in the storage sections along the rack fore and aft direction.

3. The article storage facility as defined in claim 2, characterized in that

the operatively connecting portion consists of a bar-shaped link whose proximal end portion is connected to the actuating operation portion and whose distal end portion is connected to the rear portion of the receiving member,

wherein the actuating operation portion is configured to move the receiving member along the rack fore and aft direction by rocking the link, and is provided at an intermediate position in a moving range, along the rack fore and aft direction, of the distal end portion of the link.

4. The article storage facility as defined in one of claims 1-3, characterized in that

the article storage rack includes the storage sections with the storage sections being arranged along a rack lateral direction,

wherein the inside location is defined between the storage sections arranged along the rack lateral direction, and

wherein the width, along the rack lateral direction, of the back side transport device is formed to be narrower than the width, along the rack lateral direction, of an article.

5. The article storage facility as defined in one of claims 1-4, characterized in that

a ceiling transport vehicle is provided which is capable of traveling along a travel rail while guided and supported by the travel rail installed to a ceiling, and which includes a support body for supporting an article such that the support body can be vertically moved,

wherein the travel rail is provided so as to extend above the outside location, and

wherein the ceiling transport vehicle is configured to vertically move the support body to transfer an article to and from the outside location.