

## New Visionary Library supplied with Shelving Systems from Qubiqa



**When the new Library of Birmingham opens to the public in 2013, Qubiqa will have fulfilled the most prestigious, complex library and archive storage system in its history.**

**The shelving system is for the city's new library, which will be physically connected to the Birmingham Repertory Theatre (The REP) has been identified by many as one of the most visionary culture projects of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

The Qubiqa solution comprises static and electronic archive and library storage systems, including a 2-Tier system with unique features. Qubiqa's solid customer list and the ability to provide a selection of unique, functional systems has been the prime reason for securing this prestigious UK order. The project covers the library and archive collections, including shelves and racks for the public floors.

"The general public will have open access to material on motorized mobile shelving. This is a proven technology as in UK University libraries for many years, students have been using Qubiqa mobile shelving on a daily basis," says CEO Axel M. Jepsen from Qubiqa.

Work started on site in 2010 and the new library in Birmingham is scheduled to open in September 2013 – the facade of this landmark building consists of glass wrapped with a filigree metal design, inspired by the gasometer, tunnels, canals and viaducts of Birmingham's industrial heritage.



Behind the striking architecture are Dutch architects, Mecanoo. The innovative new library will have 10 floors, with nine above ground and one lower ground floor. The building will accommodate a foyer, mezzanine, public library, access to internationally significant archives, a new flexible studio theatre, a British Film Institute Mediatheque with free access to the national film archive and outdoor gardens, terraces and an amphitheatre. Visitors will travel between floors on travelators and escalators. The top floor will have room for reinstatement of the Shakespeare Memorial Room, which was originally built for the city library in 1882.

Described by its architect Francine Houben as a 'people's palace', the Library of Birmingham will be highly accessible and family-friendly. It will deliver excellent services through collaboration between the library, The REP, partners and communities. It will provide a dynamic mix of events, activities and performance together with outstanding resources, exhibitions and access to expert help for learning, information and culture. As a centre of excellence for literacy, research, study, skills development, entrepreneurship, creative expression, health information and much more, the Library of Birmingham will change people's lives.

*More information about the Library of Birmingham at:*

*<http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/libraryofbirmingham>*

*More information about Qubiqa – please contact: Axel M. Jepsen (Denmark) or Richard Tong (UK)*

# Facts about Qubiq'a' storage solutions for the Library of Birmingham

The main objectives of the systems chosen are to:

- Maximise storage capacity in each area
- Provide easy access for all users
- Ensure end user safety during operation of the systems

## System and features

Qubiq'a E9000 electronic mobile systems feature:

- ✓ Extensive built-in safety features, plus a wide range of functionality provided to meet current and potential future requirements.
- ✓ Integral lighting (on both floor levels for 2Tier solutions), which will activate above the aisle that is open – truly a 'green' feature.
- ✓ Stylish appearance.
- ✓ The Qubiq'a units are operated using a simple touchscreen and glide on rails in a cascade fashion with a soft start/stop

## Compliance

The Qubiq'a E9000 mobile systems specified for this project comply with the provisions of British Standards for Archival Storage and Special Library Collections. They also meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) as the motorized system is easy to operate even for people with physical disabilities, which is especially important in the Public Access areas.

## Installation

The Qubiq'a E9000 mobile systems will be installed on the Lower Ground, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor levels to house the Legacy Collections and the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Floor levels to house the Library of Birmingham Archives and Heritage Collections. A system on Level 7 is for staff use only.

## Suitable for storing delicate items

The Qubiq'a E9000 mobile system has proved increasingly popular in historical archives, offering many features which are sympathetic with this type of environment. Delicate items will be stored safely on the smooth running carriages, which will not jolt suddenly when starting and come to a gradual halt, without bumping into the next bays. The Electronic system has a 'soft' start, the units then move in 'cascade' fashion and then talk to each other so they know when they are going to stop and decelerate gradually, finally stopping without bumping into the adjacent unit. The Library of Birmingham can therefore rest assured that their collections will receive the best possible care by using Qubiq'a Storage.

## Record Management System

The Qubiq'a E9000 mobile system is much more than purely storage. It is more of a Record Management System with the capability of a PC link to a software database allowing tracking of stored media, registration of media movements, retrieving and returning of media including pre-selecting routes, plus automatic opening and closing of aisles.

## Light structure maximising storage capacity

The Qubiq'a 2Tier system for the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Archives offers the optimal storage solution for an area with a ceiling height in excess of 4.2 m. It maximises storage capacity at a lower cost per linear metre compared to a traditional mezzanine. Furthermore the requirement for structural steelwork and supporting columns is reduced – leaving more capacity for storage in the same space.

## Climate controlled and large items storage

The Library of Birmingham has an extensive collection of flat and rolled maps, paintings, framed prints and large oversize objects. This part of the Collection will all be accommodated within the 6<sup>th</sup> floor archives. This floor is also divided into a number of climate controlled archive rooms with different temperatures suitable for the optimum storage of photo media, audio/video material, glass negatives and other special collections material. To aid climate control the units automatically separate with even gaps when not in use, to allow air to flow freely between the units using the 'Auto Air Circulation' feature.

### **User friendly and safety**

The Qubiqa E9000 mobile systems comply with the requirement for a safe and easy access to the Legacy collection in an open environment for the people of Birmingham. They also meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) as the electronic system is easy to operate even for people with physical disabilities. This system is totally non-discriminating – requiring the user to simply press a touchscreen. All units, however heavily laden, will move at once, if required. The touchscreen can be placed at virtually any height, enabling easy use by wheelchair users. The E9000 system has seven safety features and this system will be installed on the Lower Ground, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Floors of the Library of Birmingham.

### **Delivery**

The Library of Birmingham is scheduled to open in 2013 and Qubiqa has designed the systems and already started work on site. It is expected that the archive and storage systems will be delivered to the site using approximately 50 articulated lorries.

### **Qubiqa Storage Division – and references**

Qubiqa has a proven track record of very prestigious archive and library storage systems worldwide which includes cultural institutions and universities, e.g.:

- The Borthwick Institute Archive
- Cumbria Archives
- Preston Hall Museum (inc. Stockton Archives)
- Archives of the Swedish Land Law Administration
- University of St Andrews
- University of Strathclyde
- University of East Anglia
- University of Warwick
- Canterbury Christ Church University
- Danish Tax Administration
- Lund University, Sweden
- Danish Royal Library
- The National Railway Museum in York
- Glasgow School of Art
- Wolverhampton Archive
- Millennium Library, Norwich
- Regional Archives of Funen, Denmark

### **Qubiqa A/S**

The Danish based international company provides system solutions, patented products and concepts via their network of offices and dealers worldwide. Building on 30 years of expertise in the field of archive, storage, logistics and automation, the Qubiqa Group is formed from firms such as Nordplan, Univeyor, Jokan, QLS and Seelen.

The Qubiqa Group consists of a Storage Division in Vipperød, a Logistics Division in Arden and Industry Division in Esbjerg. The company also has production in Poland and Denmark - and sales offices / representations around the world.

Qubiqa Ltd is based in West Sussex and has been trading for over 25 years in the UK supplying mobile and static storage solutions throughout the UK.

[www.qubiqa.com](http://www.qubiqa.com)

## **About the Library of Birmingham**

The Library of Birmingham will be a major new cultural destination, rewriting the book for 21st century public libraries. It opens in 2013.

The Library of Birmingham will provide a showcase for the city's internationally important collections of archives, photography and rare books. New facilities including state-of-the-art gallery space and new website will open up public access to the collections. It will also be home to a BFI Mediatheque, providing free access to the National Film Archive. Other facilities will include a new flexible studio theatre, an outdoor amphitheatre and other informal performance spaces, a recording studio, and dedicated spaces for children and teenagers. By harnessing new technology, everyone from Birmingham to Beijing, Bangalore and beyond will be able to access the Library of Birmingham's world-class

resources. More than three million visitors are expected each year, and millions more online.

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