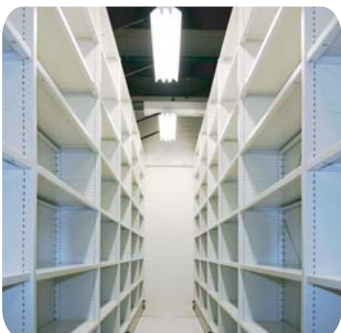


# Compactus Power<sup>3</sup> Mobile Storage System stacks up for The National Library

Finding additional space to house its expanding collection of seven million items is an ongoing issue for the National Library of Australia. The storage stacks grow at a rate of three kilometres annually, requiring that amount of space to be found each year.



Adrian La Palombara, Assistant Manager Stack Services commented on the way the National Library manages its ongoing storage issue.

“Since the mid 1980’s the Library has been installing motorised mobile shelving systems. This is a way of maximising the storage capacity of our onsite storage areas so we can cope with the continuing growth of the collection,” he said.

“Compared to static shelving we’ve found that mobile storage systems can reduce the space requirements by up to half. The big advantage is not having an aisle in between every range.”

Part of the Library’s storage strategy has been to refurbish former plant rooms in the main Library building and to convert them into storage space for the collections.

Dexion Australia recently completed the installation of its new generation Power 3 Mobile Storage System in a portion of the new 4th Floor Stack area.

“These compactus units provide approximately 4,000 linear metres in the plant room. We definitely couldn’t get this amount of static shelving into that same area,” he said.

The new units will be used to house some of the Library’s Asian Collections which include material in Chinese, Japanese, Thai and Korean scripts.

The Library currently houses some of its collection in two offsite facilities which are serviced by a shuttle, retrieval and delivery service with a 90 minute turn around. Ongoing requirements will be addressed when a new offsite storage facility is constructed late next year.