UNIVERSITY OF **LIMERICK**
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Leabharlann Glucksman
Glucksman Library

ARC (Automated Reserve Collection)

UL's ARC (Automated Reserve Collection)

Total no. of bins

Capacity of items

3,780

500,000

UL's ARC is an Automated Storage & Retrieval System (ASRS) which is a highly efficient way of storing library books and other materials, is made up of thousands of metal bins measuring different heights and stacked on top of each other.

Benefits:

Because the ASRS (product by Dematic) has such high capacity while taking up a relatively small amount of space, the key benefit is that far more library space is available for student study and seating than would have been available using traditional or compact shelving. The technology provides an opportunity for a radical shift away from providing space for collections to providing new innovative learning spaces for library users.

In addition, the ASRS ensures that all of the library's collections are held on-site and provides storage space for collections to grow for decades to come.

How it works:

A student requests a book in the catalogue, the mechanical crane moves into action, finds the right bin and brings it to the staff workstation at the base of the vault. The staff member then retrieves the correct book, sends the bin back, leaves the book at the reserve shelf and the user gets an email to say the book is ready for collection. The whole process takes approximately 10mins.

The ASRS at UL is the first of its kind in a European library and draws many visitors from libraries in Europe who are planning a library building and are dealing with the challenge of how much space to give to the collections and user spaces.

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