



THE BLACK CUBE

A CENTRE FOR DIGITALIZATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The new building of the Moravian-Silesian Research Library
in Ostrava, contributory organization



THE MORAVIAN-SILESIA RESEARCH LIBRARY IN OSTRAVA



The Moravian-Silesian Research Library in Ostrava

has been housed in the building of the New Town Hall since its foundation in 1951. Although the premises of the town hall are beautiful, they are also very limiting and do not allow to provide modern services expected by contemporary visitors. The location was planned as temporary, and suitable premises were sought for years.

The first great hope did not come until 2004 when the Moravian-Silesian Region invited tenders for designing an urban, architectural and operational solution for the new library building. A total of 43 proposals were sent, and the winner was **Kuba & Pilař architekti s.r.o.** with the project of an architecturally distinctive building symbolising a solid box of knowledge in the form of a black cube.

The original project has undergone many changes in recent years. The current concept of the new building and its content is aptly characterised by the new name **The Black Cube – a centre for digitalization, research and innovation**, which fulfils the vision of the transformation of the Moravian-Silesian Region "from coal mining to data mining".

The vision of the Moravian-Silesian Research Library in Ostrava

Our vision is a library that will become a centre for knowledge in the 21st century. Our target groups are mainly students, teachers, researchers and the professional public. With regard to these user groups, we build up a collection of professional printed and electronic information resources and provide services that strive to support academic excellence and competitiveness in the Czech and international environments.

TIMELINE



- 2004** • architectural tender
- 2006–2007** • creation of the first Black Cube project
- 2008** • tender for construction contractor (cancelled)
- memorandum between the region and VŠB-TUO on joining the project
- 2010** • was approved, the intention to build a more economical variant of the project
- 2015** • withdrawal from the Black Cube project, creation of a new study on the location of the library in the Dolní Vítkovice area
- 2016** • evaluation study of the Black Cube project and search for the optimal variant
- 2017** • decision of the management of the Moravian-Silesian Region to revive the Black Cube project
- 2018** • the council decided to start preparations for the Black Cube project
- 2019** • new construction study and a new construction program
- 2020** • zoning decision
- 2021** • preliminary feasibility study for the OP Fund for Fair Transformation
- 2022** • building permit
- 2023** • tender for the construction contractor
- 2024** • start of construction
- 2027** • launch of the Black Cube – a centre for digitalization, research and innovation

SMART LIBRARY IN A SMART BUILDING



Smart technologies

Intelligent building control system (automated control of light intensity, temperature, etc.), library system of a new generation, robotic system for collections handling, collections sorter, 5G network, self-service operation (RFID, NFC, self-check), QR codes, recording studio

Makerspace workshop, technical literacy

3D printers, 3D pens, 3D scanner, virtual reality, learning robots, IoT learning sets, laser cutter, plotter, thermopress, collaborative robotic arm, computerized sewing and embroidery machine

Online services, digitalization

Digitization of the region's culture, long-term protection and preservation of digital data, 6 scanners for document digitization (including 3D scanner and robotic book scanner), data visualization, remote access to electronic information sources and databases, fast search in all types of documents

MAIN PILLARS AND GOALS



Digitalization

Digital transformation of the region's culture, creation of a unified portal of the region's culture

Research and innovation

Innovation incubator for librarianship in the field of robotics, digitalization and smart technologies; science and research communications; popularization of science

Education

Retraining programs for digitalization, support for students in writing academic theses, educational programs focused on information, digital and environmental literacy

Green library

Use of rainwater, photovoltaic power plant, heat pumps, LED lighting, paperless copying, etc.; a climate awareness centre and a renewable energy laboratory, environmental education and awareness

Creative culture

Utilization of the cultural, industrial and natural heritage of the region for the creation and production of new estates with industrial value

THE BLACK CUBE IN NUMBERS



Number of floors

2 underground
9 above-ground

Dimensions

36 × 36 m

Number of parking spaces

164
(78 underground,
86 above-ground)

Water area

4,530 m²
depth 5 cm
water volume 227 m³

Total floor area

16,000 m²

Number of volumes

1.2 million library
units

Operation

24 hours per day
7 days a week
365 days a year

Ostrava is the third-largest university city in our country, it has three universities and 45 secondary schools, of which 18 are grammar schools. One-tenth of the population are students who need a modern community and education centre, a creative space for study and leisure. The new building will offer students a public space to meet across universities and degree programs. Visitors will have at their disposal team and individual study rooms, multimedia classrooms, experimental cinema, conference halls, exhibition spaces, a literary café with a night study room and a number of study and relaxation zones throughout the building.

VISUALIZATION: Kuba & Pilař architekti s.r.o. | **TEXTS:** The Department of Culture and Historic Preservation of the Moravian-Silesian Region and the Moravian-Silesian Research Library in Ostrava, contributory organization © The Moravian-Silesian Research Library in Ostrava, contributory organization, 2022