

QUARANTINE



# Building of spines

Created by Kate Daley

A book is in the  
library and a library  
is in the book.

[qtine.com/work/building-of-spines](https://qtine.com/work/building-of-spines)

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# About

**Building of spines** unfolds over 7 days in a library. To offer an insight into these unique civic spaces, Quarantine begins with the people who use them – whether for borrowing, for sitting, for quiet or for a sense of community. The project ponders the politics of public space through personal encounter.

An artist and writer take up residency in the library, presenting a micro exhibition of bookbinding materials. Over the course of the residency, people in the library are invited to respond to a series of questions based on the Dewey Decimal Classification system.

Their responses form the basis for a collective work of fiction, which is then edited, printed and bound on site.

On the last day, the finished book is handed over to the library to be processed, categorised and entered into their collection, becoming available for future readers in the reference section.

A beautiful object, carefully made, the book is an offering to the people who shaped it, an alternative portrait of the library and the knowledge it holds.

**Building of spines** invites us to reflect on our personal histories, in and amongst the context of traditional repositories of knowledge.

As with much of Quarantine's work, the project uses conversation as a starting point. As well as shared spaces, **Building of spines** also thinks about books – and asks some obvious questions about them. What makes a good one? How does it start? Where will it end? What's inside?



Excerpts from the first publication of **Building of Spines**, created in collaboration with writer Ella Otomewo at Manchester Central Library, 2024.

# Touring Information

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## What happens?

**Initial conversation:** discuss the process, agree fee and timeline, contract arrangements and map a project timeline together.

**Exchange with partner & hosts:** meet with Kate Daley, the project's Lead Artist, to talk through the concept, context and how it has worked in the past.

**Practical arrangements:** partner to find and confirm library (can be in liaison with Quarantine) and decide to work with either local writer or a writer appointed by Quarantine. Longer term residencies in multiple libraries across a location are also possible. When working with a local writer, two more days are needed to introduce them to the project. A site visit to the chosen library is ideal here to get a sense of the space.

**Check-in:** (the week before) a chance for any final questions.

**Event happens** over 7 days in the library.

**Review:** a conversation ideally with the library staff and programming partner to review how it went.

## Staffing and materials

We provide the table and bookbinding materials displayed in the library. No additional staffing or technical support is required, however there are opportunities for volunteers to support project delivery.

## Communications

The project looks to create a sort of portrait of the library and the knowledge it holds. As such, the project's primary audience is the day-to-day library visitors.

## Documentation

Documentation should be sensitive to the intimate nature of the conversations with library users and not intrude, focusing instead on the bookbinding process.

## Partner's responsibilities

Provide a contract and cover fees for artist and writer, plus the bookbinding costs. Liaise with the library/libraries on any practical arrangements.

## Quarantine can provide:

- Advanced images for communications
- Suggested copy (for print, website, socials etc)
- Sample press release
- Design template for printed/digital assets
- Signage to display in the library during the residency

**Interested in programming Building of spines? Get in touch! Please contact Kevin Jamieson, Executive Director at [Kevin@qtine.com](mailto:Kevin@qtine.com).**