



AUSTRALIAN
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ALLIANCE



Australian Library and
Information Association

10 ways that libraries power Smart Cities

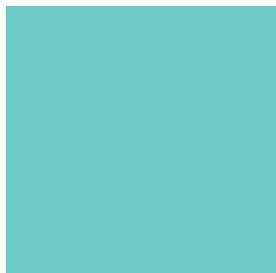
AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

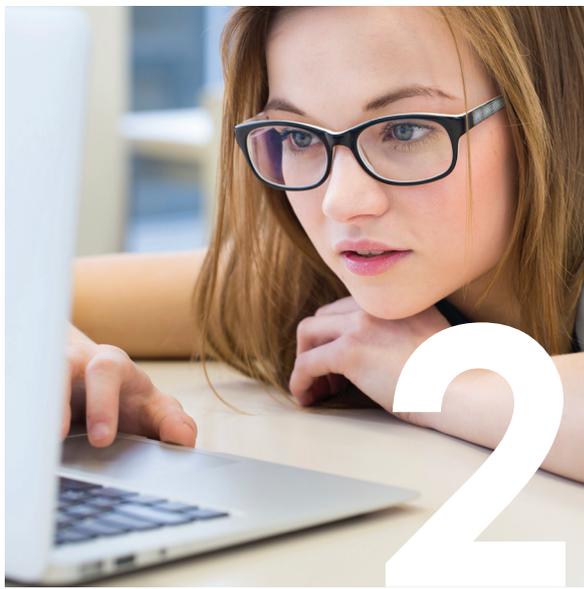
The 1,664 public libraries in Australia range from flagship civic buildings through to much loved mobile libraries. There are 9.3 million registered library members and many more use the service, resulting in more than 114 million visits in a non-COVID year. All this at a cost of \$50 per capita and with a return of \$2.90-worth of community benefits for every dollar invested.



AWARD-WINNING DESIGNS

Public libraries are often the physical manifestation of a city's ambition to be a smart city. They provide both an architectural focal point and engaging experiences that help create a strong sense of community.





TECHNOLOGY HOTSPOTS

Libraries offer high speed broadband internet connection in a safe, friendly community space. There are more than 14,000 public access PC terminals, tablets and other devices (including technology petting zoos), together with spaces for exploring innovative digital technologies. Training courses in the library and informal help from staff enable people to develop the skills they need to engage with government's digital transformation. Public libraries support cybersafe online experiences for all ages, including through the eSmart Libraries, Tech Savvy Seniors and Be Connected programs.

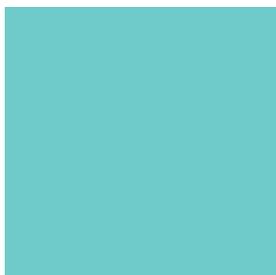
ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Public libraries attract job seekers — drawn by free newspapers and internet access — and people interested in starting up their own businesses. Libraries also provide facilities for teleworkers needing work space outside the home; small businesses seeking affordable web conferencing facilities and meeting rooms, and independent consultants conducting research for clients through library databases.



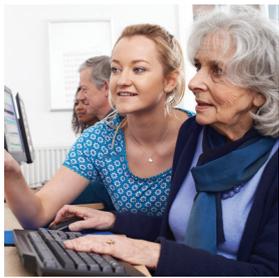
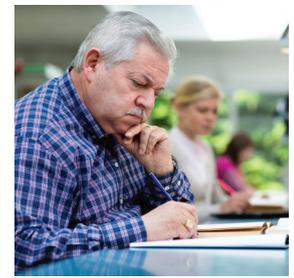
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Australian libraries provide valuable support for creators and publishers. We buy more than \$128 million-worth of books, ebooks and other materials every year. We introduce authors to book buyers (people who borrow books are also book buyers) and help people discover and rediscover the joy of reading, creating new audiences. Author talks in libraries are a useful source of income for writers and a good way to promote their work, and writers and illustrators use library collections as the source for their stories and drawings.



LITERATE NATION

Public libraries support reading from birth. Annually, some 121,000 storytime and rhymetime sessions attract 3.1 million participants, and there are 141 million loans of books, ebooks and other items. As well as reading and writing, libraries support digital, financial and information literacies.

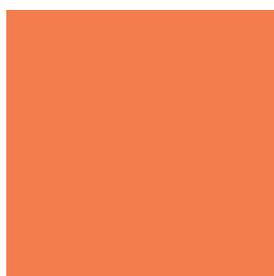
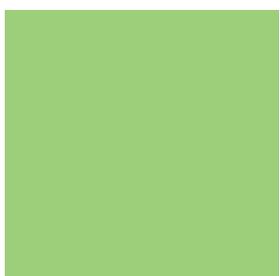


INFORMAL LEARNING

From storytime for babies and toddlers, through to IT courses for seniors, public libraries take a cradle to grave approach to lifelong learning. People of all ages can find free training in the library to update their skills and explore new interests. Coding and robotics are the latest additions to a growing range of topics.

FORMAL EDUCATION

Public libraries support formal education from primary school through to tertiary, from homework clubs for teens, through to partnerships with distance education providers, where students use public libraries as local meeting and study spaces.





DIGITAL ACCESS

Libraries create valuable and engaging digital content using items from their historical collections, and they share this through the National Library of Australia's Trove platform. They also enable library users to create new works using the materials and technology in their collections. Students, entrepreneurs, humanities researchers, historians, writers and others benefit from access to millions of books, manuscripts, images, maps and other materials.

EQUALITY

Public libraries reach out to all members of their communities and provide special services for people who are housebound. Ebook technology has improved the range of reading material available to people with print disabilities. Pre-loaded tablets provide access to content and the ability to increase text size and activate audio as needed.



ENGAGING NEW MIGRANTS

The public library is one of the first points of contact for new arrivals. There are newspapers, magazines and books in first language, and English classes for those who need them. Library staff help migrants find out about government services and the support that is available to help them find work or study opportunities.

