

## Library users in remote LGAs accessing services and resources equaling those of larger city libraries

Since doubling its number of libraries over the last 6 months, from 17 to 34, this WA Spydus library consortium sees no limitations to its ongoing growth.

**The Regional Western Australia Library Consortium (RWALC) covers huge distances, taking in regions from Albany to Pilbara (1800 km), making it the largest – geographically, group of local government libraries in Australia.**

Starting out as a Spydus library hub in Albany servicing local libraries for a group of local government areas (LGAs) collectively called the Great Southern Region in 2018.

This consortium has expanded beyond the boundaries of this region, now offering regional local government libraries - that don't have the budget or support resources for a comprehensive library platform, all the benefits of becoming a Spydus library.

Library Systems Coordinator, Kimberley Stoney has been working at Albany Library for 14 years and clearly remembers the consortium's early days, which began after the implementation of Spydus.

“Once we were told that our old library management system was an end-of-life product back in 2016, we knew it was time to look for a best-of-breed product with a vendor committed to continuous improvement.”

Kimberley said. “What we didn't realise was how much our old system was holding us back.”



### Learn more:

[Spydus Product Enquiry](#)

### Contact email:

[spydus@civica.com.au](mailto:spydus@civica.com.au)

### Key Outcomes

- 1 Unlimited potential to add more libraries
- 2 Affordable best of breed library management platform
- 3 Proven, easy library data migration process to Spydus

“The main driving force behind libraries joining us is budget, and also inhouse support - which many have never had before.”

**Kimberley Stoney,**  
Library Systems  
Coordinator



## How the consortium model works

Acting like a virtual mother ship, Albany Public Library organises all the contracts with Civica, pays the subscriptions for each consortium library and then divides up the costs.

The invoicing is based on population - creating an equitable solution for everyone. All ongoing communication with Civica and support are handled by Albany Public Library too.

“We also provide all the training for the new library and are onsite during the go-live. After the go-live, we continue to offer all the ongoing support with our own help desk system.”

“There’s no downside to joining our consortium, every library retains its individual brand and identity, while having a separate catalogue and online presence.”

Kimberley Stoney, Library Systems Coordinator

“After going through this process many times, we have got really good at it –knowing exactly the information that we need to give to the new library,” Kimberley said.

## Benefits to borrowers and staff

All borrowers have the ease of going to any library within the consortium and knowing that by simply scanning their card they will automatically become members of that library.

For example, if you are a resident of Albany holidaying in Esperance or taking a trip up to Pilbara, it’s nice to know that your Albany library card will instantly allow you to borrow items from these consortium libraries.

Consortium reservations is another benefit. Similar to inter-library loans, both staff and patrons can search online catalogues across all consortium libraries.

Items requested from other consortium libraries are shipped to the local library and then loaned out to the customer, where later, they can return it.

This service is currently provided at no additional cost to library users. “Our consortium reservations are very popular and have become a significant benefit since WA’s interlibrary loan system - managed by the State Library, transitioned to a new system,” Kimberley said.

“The smaller libraries particularly, are reliant on an inter-library loans-like system to keep their users coming back to them for their reading needs.

## Map of WA libraries



1. Albany Public Library
2. Bindoon Library
3. Bremer Bay Library
4. Broomehill Library
5. Cranbrook Library
6. Denmark Library
7. Dumbleyung Library
8. Esperance Public Library
9. Frankland Library
10. Gingin Library
11. Gnowangerup Library
12. Hopetoun Library
13. Jerramungup Library
14. Katanning Public Library
15. Kojonup Library
16. Kukerin Library
17. Lancelin Library
18. Marble Bar Library
19. Morangup Library
20. Mount Barker Library
21. Murray Library
22. Newman Library
23. Nullagine Library
24. Ongerup Library
25. Onslow Library
26. Pannawonica Library
27. Paraburdoo Public Library
28. Ravensthorpe Library
29. Tambellup Library
30. Tom Price Library
31. Toodyay Public Library
32. Wagin Public Library
33. Wellstead Library
34. Williams Library

## The consortium's growth

Currently the RWALC has 11 LGAs made up of 17 libraries. This year it will add another 9 LGAs with also 17 libraries. "By August next year we'll have 20 LGAs in our consortium," Kimberley reported.

"The reason libraries are joining our consortium is because of the big-ticket items – cost and support."

From the patrons' side it's the convenience of not only being able to reserve and borrow, but also join our other consortium libraries, at no extra cost."

"With Spydus there's no limit to the size the WA Library Consortium can grow to, as long as we continue to strategically build in capacity at our end."

**Kimberley Stoney,**  
Library Systems  
Coordinator



Largest local  
government  
library consortium  
in Australia



Citizens served:  
138,000  
Employees:50



Libraries: 34 and  
counting



Learn more:

[Spydus Product Enquiry](#)

Contact email:

[spydus@civica.com.au](mailto:spydus@civica.com.au)

