

A LIBRARY WITHIN A LIBRARY FOR BOOKS BY CHILDREN, FOR CHILDREN



Welcome! Book Cubbies in Western Australia and Victoria are in constant use.



By children, for children: Books can be handmade or published – complete with an ISBN.

A child-friendly portable library, in which books made by children for children are displayed and celebrated, is harnessing the power of books and publishing to connect children, families and their communities.

The Book Cubby is an innovation developed by Kids' Own Publishing, the world's first dedicated publisher of books by children for children. There are currently 13 Book Cubbies in metropolitan and regional libraries across Victoria and Western Australia and this number is growing steadily.

Inside each cubby, shelves hold both published books (with ISBNs), books made by hand and photocopied, and now also books created by children using a specially designed digital publishing app called WePublish that allows children to write, illustrate and print out their own eight-page book.

Each cubby's timber surrounds create a special place where children can read stories written by other children and discover worlds through another child's eyes. All children

involved in publishing workshops are invited to leave a copy of their newly created book on the shelf.

Children leave their newly published book in the cubby, knowing that it could be read by anyone, anywhere.

The State Library of Western Australia (SLWA) has built three Book Cubbies, now in constant use. One is in the SLWA building in Perth's Cultural Centre's dedicated children and family space; two others travel to the state's metropolitan and regional libraries and affiliated community events on request. The City of Armadale recently partnered with Bunnings and a local Men's Shed to build a book cubby.

The City of Wanneroo are installing a cubby in their new Banksia Grove Family Centre in the northern suburbs of Perth. Their newly developed program, It's All About Play, will integrate community publishing with family activity at the centre.

Libraries are using the cubbies to showcase collections of community published books, profile the works of local communities and artists, and act as a creative hub and stimulus for community publishing activities, emphasising the important and active role children can play in their own reading, writing and learning journey.

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