

How to make your PUBLIC LIBRARY A WINNER



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CLARE FISHER reports on what the Alice Springs Public Library achieved, which led to the 2018 ALIA Northern Territory Recognition Award.

The Alice Springs Public Library (ASPL) team has won the 2018 [ALIA Northern Territory Recognition Award](#). ASPL is an integral meeting, learning and recreational space for the remote community of Alice Springs in central Australia. With 14,000 visitors each month and over 10,000 library members, the enthusiastic and hard-working library staff provide a wide range of services and programs for the community. The library has a comprehensive and fascinating collection and regularly receives great feedback from the community about the range of items that is available for loan.

ASPL has created a number of innovative new programs including STEAM into Alice, Connect to Tech, and the YesterMorph Project.

STEAM into Alice

Taking STEAM robotics to town camps around Alice Springs, the goal of the [STEAM into Alice](#) program is to increase digital literacy in indigenous families through fun and educational weekly sessions. Supported by the Youth Services Innovation Grant from the Northern Territory Government, from October 2017 to January 2018, ASPL has partnered with Tangentyere Council to provide children aged 4–17 years with access to emerging technology. The STEAM into Alice officer has also facilitated a three-month program covering robotics and coding using OzoBots, Spheros, LEGO Mindstorms and WeDots.

Connect to Tech

[Connect to Tech](#) is ASPL's new weekly program for adults wanting to improve their skills in everything from using iPads to Android devices, Internet security to online shopping. Participants have the opportunity to increase their digital literacy in a relaxed and low-pressure environment, while practising new skills at an easy pace. Connect to Tech is delivered in partnership with Be Connected, an Australian Government initiative through the federal Department of Social Services.

YesterMorph Project

The [YesterMorph Project](#) began in the January school holidays thanks to a Youth Vibe Holiday Grant from Territory Families. It linked digital content held in the Alice Springs Historical Photography Collection into digital manipulation apps on an iPad to create a space where young people can tell their story. ASPL recruited two digital artists in residency to explore the Alice Springs Historical Photography Collection and the digital manipulation technology available via library resources. The program then expanded its reach, utilising the library's geek in residence to facilitate access to the program in the youth space of the library. This allowed broader access to the program with more art and stories being generated. The program has the potential to expand further with discussion underway to include creative content in the Partjima Festival and discussion with traditional owner Helen Liddle to record reflection on the photography collection. 📷

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