

**Welcome...** to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Spydus Library Solutions newsletter. The first quarter of 2003 has been very busy with implementations now complete at Frankston in Victoria and Murray Bridge in South Australia. The Spydus Version 6.5 upgrade schedule is also well underway and a number of libraries across Australia are now running live on 6.5.

Congratulations go to Adelaide Hills Library as they launch SMS notices this month and we also look at Vision Australia's Web OPAC Accessibility.

The feedback on our inaugural issue has been very positive and many new Library personnel have joined our newsletter distribution list. If you have any comments or suggestions for content please speak with your Account Manager.

## Adelaide Hills live with SMS Notices

Adelaide Hills Library Service in South Australia launched SMS Notices last week becoming the first Public Library in Australia to offer this service. Congratulations to Adelaide Hills on their initiative. If you are interested in the new SMS interface for your library please contact your Account Manager.

### **Txt mania@your library: a first for Public Libraries in Australia!**

Imagine answering your mobile phone - to see the following message 'Library Notice. Please pick up reservation for.....'

*The Adelaide Hills Library Service can now notify customers of their reserved items using SMS text messages to mobile phones. This exciting new service expands on the library's current email notification service allowing a speedy and convenient way for the library to keep in touch with customers.*

*Initially this will be available to customers who have both an email address and a mobile phone number, but as the library software is upgraded will be available to customers who only have a mobile phone.*

*Reproduced: Adelaide Hills Community Newspaper*

## New Customers

In February implementations at Frankston Library Service and Murray Bridge Public Library were completed, with both libraries now running live on Spydus. Congratulations to the staff of both sites on a smooth and timely implementation!

Three new OPAC's from New Zealand are now available via the web.

Porirua Public Library  
<http://www.pcc.govt.nz> (Click on Arts & Culture)  
 Hastings District Libraries  
<http://www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/libraries>  
 Napier Public Library  
<http://www.napier.govt.nz/inlib.php>

The Porirua Public Library OPAC will ultimately include three additional databases within the Spydus Catalogue. These new databases, namely their Maori, Pacific and Local History databases will be converted to Spydus and will allow patrons to search across all information using the one interface.

According to Peter Van der Burg, Database Systems Administrator at Porirua Public Library the OPAC has been well received by patrons.

"It is all working well and we plan to have the library referenced by its own unique URL as opposed to existing on councils URL, which will make access even easier for patrons."

## Services

The Spydus services team is very busy with Verison 6.5 upgrades and many of our customers are scheduled for this upgrade. The following libraries are now live on Version 6.5:

- ◆ ACT Department of Justice and Community Safety
- ◆ ACT Law Courts
- ◆ Art Gallery NSW
- ◆ Australian Industrial Registry
- ◆ City of Cockburn
- ◆ City of Port Phillip Library
- ◆ Frankston Library Service
- ◆ Maribyrnong Library Service
- ◆ Murray Bridge Public Library
- ◆ Pymble Ladies College
- ◆ Toowoomba Public Library

## User Group Meetings

Spydus User Groups throughout Australia are meeting in March the schedule is as follows:

- ◆ Queensland User Group Meeting Wednesday 12 March Hosted by Civica
- ◆ Victorian User Group Meeting Friday 14 March Hosted by Moreland Library
- ◆ NSW User Group Meeting Friday 21 March Hosted by Ryde Library & Information Services
- ◆ ACT User Group Meeting Monday 24 March Hosted by University of Canberra

## Spydus and OPAC accessibility

As the Web OPAC becomes the primary tool for patrons to access library resources and services, the importance of accessibility is becoming a key issue. It is imperative that access to the web OPAC is available to all regardless of disability.

The Vision Australia Library, which provides services to the sight impaired, recently completed a formal assessment of its catalogue for accessibility. At the time of the assessment, Vision Australia was using the standard release Spydus search request pages. The final report discusses the Accessibility Conformance Rankings outlined by the W3C Web Accessibility Guidelines and indicates how non-conformance can be rectified. Three levels of conformance are outlined:

- Priority 1 Web content developer must satisfy these checkpoints
- Priority 2 Web content developer should satisfy these checkpoints
- Priority 3 Web content developer may address these checkpoints

There were only two issues within the Vision Australia website ranked at the priority 1 level.

1. Some non-text elements i.e. images, on the search request pages did not have text equivalents.
2. Marking up changes in the natural language of the displayed documents.

Civica is currently re-designing the standard Spydus search pages to comply with accessibility standards and we recommend that libraries with customised pages also embrace the accessibility issues in future web page design.

The issue of natural language is difficult to resolve due to the reliance on the MARC record, which does not allow mark up of language. For example, the ability to cope

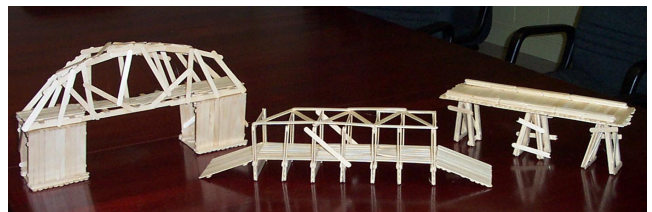
with a French word being used in an English language title. Overall the report indicates that the information on the Vision Australia website is accessible. We strive for continual improvement however, and Civica will address the issues outlined in the report as part of its ongoing development process.

## How will a change in ISBN format affect Spydus?

The Spydus development environment and underlying database system is based on variable repeating fields and not on fixed length allocation of space. Therefore the database does **not** have to be re-configured to comply with the change in the ISBN.

The only controls in Spydus relating to length, are built into the screen design, which involves minimal change. The check digit routine that validates the ISBN during data entry will need to be altered, however again this is a minor change. Civica will keep informed of any changes to the ISBN structure and will alter Spydus to conform to the changes.

**"Building a Bridge to our Customers"** was the theme when the Spydus team created these bridges in a recent team building exercise. Information Technology is definitely our forte!



## Upcoming Events

- ◆ CPLA July 2-4 Tweed Heads.
- ◆ Civica is pleased to be a silver sponsor of the 2003 LIANZA conference, hosted by Hastings District Libraries and Napier Public Library. For further details on LIANZA please visit [www.confer.co.nz/lianza2003](http://www.confer.co.nz/lianza2003). We look forward to catching up with our many NZ customers at this event.



## Coming soon...

- ....All about Spydus 8....
- ....Something for Kids....