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From Orange to the world: Library takes local collections global

Central West Libraries is part of a new partnership that will bring local oral history collections out of the archives and to the world.

The Central West joins Wagga Wagga Libraries, Ryde Library Service, and Wollongong Libraries as the first public libraries in Australia to use the State Library's innovative online tool called *Amplify*, which allows anyone to search, listen to and transcribe these local audio collections.

State Librarian Dr John Vallance said *Amplify* would give communities unparalleled access to their local histories.

"Over 400 hours of oral histories that document the lives and experiences of local people and events across history, including our recent history, are just waiting to be explored and transcribed," he said.

"Many of the oral histories held in these public library collections have never been made available online before."

Orange Mayor Reg Kidd said some of the first local audio collections available on *Amplify* included interviews with workers from a WWII small arms factory in Orange.

"I am personally looking forward to listening to these unique recordings," he said.

"I am thrilled we can share these with the rest of the world."

With plans to extend the program across all NSW public libraries in future, the State Library hopes to make more local stories like these available to more communities across the state.

Jan Richards, Manager, Central West Libraries, said locals could get involved by joining digital volunteers from around the world in the important task of transcribing these oral histories so that more people could discover the amazing stories our communities hold.

To start exploring, visit amplify.sl.nsw.gov.au

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