History in your
a mobile application

The Grove Community History library situated within the prestigious Grove Library located in Perth, is jointly owned and managed by the neighbouring councils of Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove, and Mosman Park. It is a relatively new library, having just celebrated its first birthday and has a reputation as a leader in sustainability and innovation. In its efforts to exploit new technology to increase services to the community, the library has recently built a mobile application entitled *The Grove History…history in your pocket,* which showcases some of the items contained within the collection. The app is available for download from the Android market place and is currently being assessed for the Apple market place. To download to your Smartphone simply type **grovehistory.mobapp.at** into your mobile browser or scan the QR code.

The Grove Community History collection consists of photographs, oral history interviews, newspaper articles, ephemera, and a small collection of monographs pertinent to the history of the area. The Grove Library has a digital strategy to ensure it maximises new technology and forward thinking. In order for the Grove Community History library to comply with this strategy, we strive to collect digital content wherever possible.

Digitising the collection paved the way for us to use the readily available free software, Conduit Mobile, to develop a community history mobile application showcasing a small selection of our collection to the mobile community.
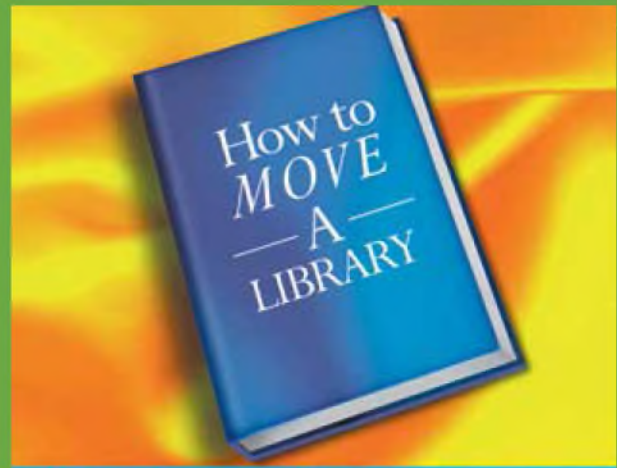
> "CONDUIT MOBILE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO ENABLE LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS TO CREATE MOBILE APPLICATIONS WITHOUT THE NEED TO LEARN COMPLICATED CODING AND PROGRAMMING."

Historically, it has been necessary to build separate applications for each mobile platform. Conduit Mobile, (**www.conduit.com**) has removed this burden and features 'one build fits all' software. The site is simple to use. There is no coding or programming necessary as the application simply links with other free cloud-based technology to harvest content. Prebuilt modules of programming allow the developer to select appropriate templates to house content. There is also the facility to use a custom module which can be adapted for more specific needs.

The Community History Library decided to use five modules, designed to: detail the purpose of the library, display a selection of historic images, upload a selection of themed audio grabs taken from oral history interviews, link to other web based content pertinent to the library, and relate the opening hours, location, and contact details of the library.

Conduit mobile has the potential to enable library professionals to create mobile applications without the need to learn complicated coding and programming. Prebuilt modules of programming provide easy integration of web based content to create a dynamic presence within the Smartphone community.

Although there are some limitations with regard to customisation and content, Conduit has offered a valuable, low-cost gateway into mobile application development.

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THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE INDUSTRY

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