

Peter Lor's library ABC, part 8: VWX

V is for [Vanwyksdorp](#), a small rural village in the scenic [Little Karoo](#), South Africa. During the ostrich feather boom in the early 20th century it was an important local centre, but the boom ended, the railway passed it by, and it declined. Now quaint and tranquil, it has around 500 inhabitants, many of them elderly and/or dependent on social grants. The public library is run by the [Kannaland](#) Local Municipality and is affiliated to the provincial library service of the Western Cape Province. The library is housed in the Community Centre, formerly a school hostel. The Centre is operated by an NGO, [Oasis Community Projects](#), which operates a range of job creation and community development projects. The one-room library has around 5000 books and three PCs serving 202 enrolled members.



W is for [Worcester](#), pronounced "Wooster" after its counterpart in England. With a population of around 100,000, it is the hub of the [Breede River winegrowing region](#). The public library is run by the Breede River Local Municipality and is affiliated to the [library service](#) of the Western Cape Province of South Africa. The current building was opened in 1988 and was at that time designed for 30,000 books, 1,500 A/V media, 4 staff members, and seating for 135. The librarian told me that it is now much too small and needs to be extended, but I thought that it remains attractive and retains a vibrant ambiance. There were a lot of users about, which is great. The circulation desk is perhaps not its most attractive space, but I decided that this year I would provide pictures of the desks of all three of the libraries, so that you can compare.



X is for [Xanten](#), a small city (c. 21,000 inhabitants) in Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany. Xanten has a long history going back to Roman times. Normally I use only photographs taken by myself, but in August I realized that the letter X would be a problem. My colleague Barbara Schleihaugen of the [Deutscher Bibliotheksverband](#) (German library federation) kindly referred me to the City Librarian of Xanten, Frau Anita Rosenberg, who created a new dilemma for me by sending a batch of such beautiful photographs of her public library that it was difficult to choose one. Here is the circulation desk to compare with the other two. But since there were so many other photographs of her library's modern, attractive spaces, I decided to post an extra set of photos of all three [here](#).

