

Library of Things Collection Development Policy

A. About the Library of Things

The Library of Things is Rosemary Garfoot Public Library's (RGPL) circulating collection of non-traditional library items. [See more information about using the Library of Things.](#)

The Library of Things is a special collection which falls under RGPL's [Collection Development Policy](#). These guidelines are not intended to change or alter that policy, merely to clarify some specifics concerning how it applies to the Library of Things.

B. Objectives

RGPL provides this collection of occasional use items in order to:

1. Encourage experimentation, curiosity, and life-long learning.
2. Reduce waste and support sustainability in the Cross Plains community.
3. Provide access to resources patrons might not normally have contact with.
4. Generate more awareness about new and emerging technologies and ideas.
5. Create better informed consumers and support local businesses by giving patrons a chance to try out something before deciding to purchase.
6. Create connections within our community by exploring shared interests and collaborating.

C. Collection Scope

To further the collection goals, the Library of Things may include:

- Arts & Crafts
- Electronics
- Kitchen
- Outdoor Recreation
- Home Improvement
- Science
- Health
- Musical Instruments
- Toys & Games

The Library of Things is not intended to be comprehensive, and the Library is limited by a finite amount of storage space and funds for these items.

Things may be located in the Children's or Adult collections based on the intended use and safety requirements of the Thing. Things may be standalone items, or kits of related items, such as books, toys, and equipment. Certain things require the borrower to be 18 years or older, as specified in RGPL's [Equipment Use Policy](#).

D. Criteria for Selection and Evaluation

In addition to the Criteria for Selection and Evaluation established in the [Collection Development Policy](#), Things will be added to the collection using following criteria:

1. The item meets at least two of the four stated goals of the collection.
2. There is patron demand or demonstrated community need for the item.
3. There is adequate space to store the item.
4. The item doesn't require unsustainable maintenance or replacement of consumable elements.
5. There is funding for the item.
6. Instructions for using the item are available or can be created easily by library staff.
7. It is reasonable to assume that patrons can use the item without extensive specialized training.

E. Gifts and Donations

Donated items will be considered based on the materials selection criteria above, the [Collection Development Policy](#), and the [Materials Donation Guidelines](#). Donations of Things will only be accepted if the item is in usable condition with a reasonable expectation it can circulate for at least one year after acquisition. To donate items, contact the library director. Items will not be accepted without prior authorization from library administration.

F. Patron Suggestions

All library collections should be of interest and use to the Rosemary Garfoot community. Patrons are encouraged to submit suggestions for new items.

G. Collection Maintenance

Things will be routinely evaluated. Items that are not popular and do not circulate will be withdrawn from library collections according to the Collection Maintenance portion of the [Collection Development Policy](#). Popular Things that are removed because of wear and tear will be replaced when budget and space allow.

H. Library's Use of Things

The Library reserves the right to take a Thing out of circulation temporarily to use for library purposes (workshops, demonstrations, or other programs), or to repair a damaged item.

Due to the nature of the items contained in the Library of Things, these items are not available for Interlibrary Loan.

Exceptions to this policy can be made by the Director.

Approved by the Library Board on 10/15/2024