

Curating Your Unusual Collections - Resources

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Packaging solutions:

- [Janway media pouches](#)
- [Really Useful Boxes](#)
- Snapware boxes ([Amazon](#))
- Universal travel case ([Amazon](#))

Sample policies and borrowing guidelines:

- [Collection Development and Circulation Policy \(Cary Memorial Library, MA\)](#)
- [FAQ and Lending Guidelines \(Robbins Library, MA\)](#)
- [Guidelines for Borrowing and Use \(Cary Memorial Library, MA\)](#)
- [Lending Guidelines and Agreement \(Capital Area District Libraries, MI\)](#)
- [Lending Guidelines and Agreement \(Sacramento Public Library, CA\)](#)
- [Rules and Regulations \(East Lansing Public Library, MI\)](#)

Sample Library of Things webpages:

Some libraries divide their Things into categories (see: Hillsboro; Reading), while others list all of their Things alphabetically (see: Brookline; CADL). Most use a combination of text descriptions, images, and links to their library catalog.

- [Capital Area District Libraries \(MI\)](#)
- [Cary Memorial Library \(MA\)](#)
- [Hillsboro Public Library \(OR\)](#)
 - Make sure to check out Hillsboro Public Library's [YouTube videos](#) showing creative uses of their Things!
- [Public Library of Brookline \(MA\)](#)
- [Reading Public Library \(MA\)](#)
- [Sacramento Public Library \(CA\)](#)
- [Wellesley Public Library \(MA\)](#)

Here are some public libraries with specific nontraditional collections:

- [Book-A-Bike - Athens County Public Libraries \(OH\)](#)
- [Seed Library - Gaylord Memorial Library \(MA\)](#)
- [Tool Library - East Lansing Public Library \(MI\)](#)

Nontraditional libraries and makerspaces may also lend equipment, tools, and other resources. In contrast to most public libraries, these lending libraries are typically supported through paid memberships — but members gain access to an exciting inventory of Things!

Here are some examples:

- [Fiber Arts Boston Resource and Innovation Center \(MA\)](#)
- [SHARE \(England\)](#)
- [Minneapolis Art Lending Library \(MN\)](#)

Libraries of Things in the news:

- ['Library of Things': Sewing machines, chocolate fountain among items available in Northlake \(Chicago Tribune, November 27, 2017\)](#)
- ['The library of things' now lends a lot more than just books \(Mother Nature Network, February 5, 2016\)](#)
- [11 things you can borrow from libraries besides books \(Mental Floss, February 6, 2015\)](#)
- [Books, shmooks: Your library card can get you a drone, violin or sewing machine \(The Orange County Register, March 30, 2018\)](#)
- [How libraries — yes, libraries — are helping people ditch stuff they don't need \(HuffPost, April 29, 2016\)](#)
- [How to start a Library of Things \(Shareable, August 15, 2016\)](#)
- [Is the Library of Things an answer to our peak stuff problem? \(The Guardian, August 23, 2016\)](#)
- [Libraries: Beyond the books \(WBEZ Chicago, July 24, 2013\)](#)
- [Libraries offer weird things to draw new borrowers \(USA Today, March 6, 2013\)](#)
- [Libraries of Things: Creating a real "sharing economy" for the digital age \(99% Invisible, September 19, 2016\)](#)
- [The Library of Things: 8 spaces changing how we think about stuff \(Shareable, June 15, 2016\)](#)
- [Seeking tools to spiff up your garden? Look no further than your local library \(The Sacramento Bee, March 26, 2018\)](#)
- [Surviving a potential do-it-yourself disaster \(Kitchener Post, March 26, 2018\)](#)
- [These public libraries are for snowshoes and ukuleles \(The New York Times, September 14, 2015\)](#)

Additional resources and reading:

- [Library of Things \(Wikipedia\)](#)
- [Library of Things LibGuide \(Massachusetts Library System\)](#)

What are libraries and information professionals saying about Libraries of Things?

- [The future of stuff: Designing the future \(Library Journal, October 4, 2016\)](#)
- [The Library of Things poster \(American Libraries Magazine, June 1, 2017\)](#)
- [Library of Things shapes dialogue on library collections \(Public Libraries Online, May 12, 2015\)](#)
- [Non-traditional circulating materials \(Articles collected by the Public Library Association\)](#)
- [They lend what??? The magical world of unique lending libraries \(INALJ, September 26, 2013\)](#)