Libraries That Lend “Things”

What we’ll cover:

- Where to start
- AADL’s current collections
- Audience
- Collaboration with community organizations
- How to start an unusual collection at your library

Where to start.
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But we’re already lending things!

Books were once unusual objects.

Why lend other things?
A natural extension of the core mission of libraries:
- reduce barriers to access
- increase access to rare and hard-to-find objects

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What are other libraries lending?

Institute of Making at University College London
The Materials Library — that contains over 1,500 of the most extraordinary materials on earth.

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Human Library in Copenhagen, Denmark

Libraryfarm
Cicero, New York

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you can start small.

Where we started:

Energy Meters (2005)
aadl.org/hometools

Art Prints (40+ years)
aadl.org/artprints

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Telescopes

aadl’s current collections

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Art Tools
aadl.org/arttools

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Home Tools
aadl.org/hometools

Games
aadl.org/games

Audience

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Your audience is your community.

Start a conversation.

- email
- social media
- contact us forms
- at the reference desk
- at events
- contact organizations in your community with similar interests

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Start small to test the audience interest.

Progression from general collections (accessible to all) to tools requiring specialized knowledge.
Patron Uses:

Dave Menzo

Musician Dave Menzo explored an exciting concept for his new album "Shhh...". Every instrument played on the album came from AADL's Studio Tools collection! This unusual collection allows Library cardholders to check out drum machines, synthesizers, guitar pedals, and other instruments.

Events:

Mini art party courtesy of AADL tools.

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Electronic Music Production with Mike Huckaby
(weekly workshops at aadl)

Telescope Modifications Event

Telescope Launch Event

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Mini Maker Faire

Collaborations with community organizations

Telescopes

Started in 2009 with a dozen.
Now circulating 30.

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Music tools in the classroom

Collaboration with Tappan Middle School’s music program and orchestra teacher Joe DeMarsh

Summer Day Camp Kits

Ann Arbor Film Festival’s Expanding Frames

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How to start a collection at your library?

Planning
- Selection?
- Policy?
- Budget?
- Where will the collection live?
- Cataloging?
- How to handle circulation?
- Maintenance?
- Repairs?
- Staff time?

Nontraditional Selection Trifecta:
- Short-Term Use
- Infrequent Need
- Relatively Expensive
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Budget = Shelving

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Thank You!

Have more questions? Please feel free to contact us.

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