

BPL Library of Things Collection Development Policy

The Collection Development Policy for the BPL Library of Things adheres to the intent and spirit of the primary BPL Collection Development Policy. This policy serves as a guide in the selection of materials and as statement of the selection principles.

Library of Things

The Library of Things (LOT) is a special collection of non-traditional, non-book items that BPL patrons can check out. The scope of the collection is less defined than the traditional print and digital collections.

The Library of Things includes gadgets, tools, games, devices, and more to be used by library users to pursue their interests, further their education, and provide entertainment.

Library of Things Collection Goals

1. Save library users money by lending items people infrequently use
2. Encourage experimentation, curiosity, and learning
3. Offer opportunities for self-directed recreation and discovery
4. Reduce redundancy and waste in the BPL service area – environmental impact.

Materials Selection Criteria

Items will be added to the Library of Things collection using the following criteria:

1. The item fulfills at least two of the Goals for the Library of Things.
2. The item is requested by library users or the staff determine there is a needed in the community.
3. Adequate storage space is available in the library for the item.
4. The item is easily transportable.
5. The maintenance expenses associated with the item are reasonable.
6. Instructions for using the item are readily available or can be easily created by the staff.
7. Patrons can reasonably use the item without extensive or specialized training.

Donations

To be economical and sustainable, the Library of Things will rely on donations to develop and maintain the collection.

Donations are accepted with the understanding that ownership passes to the Library. The Library reserves the right to discard or recycle materials as necessary. Funds generated by the sale of donated items will be used to directly benefit the BPL Library of Things.

Donations will only be accepted if the item

- is in like-new or very good condition
- can reasonably be expected to circulate for a year
- is clean (and rust-free)
- has all of its required parts and accessories
- is less than 5 years old (exceptions at the discretion of the Library Director)

Items cannot be accepted without prior approval by the Library Director.