

Library of Things Policy

The Library of Things is a collection of non-traditional library items that complement the New Ulm Public Library's mission to "share as a community a haven for learning, imagination, discovery." The purpose of the Library of Things is to provide diverse opportunities for learning and engagement and may include items like home and assistive devices, audiovisual equipment, science and technology, video and board games, musical instruments, sporting equipment, and learning toys.

The Library of Things collection is developed and managed to meet the cultural, informational, educational, and recreational needs of library patrons of all ages in the City of New Ulm, MN.

The Library's professional staff will select materials based on the needs of library patrons and welcome input from the community concerning the collection. All suggestions for purchase are evaluated using the same selection criteria as outlined in the Library's Collection Development Plan and are not automatically added to the collection. The Library will use circulation data and community suggestions to guide future selections for the Library of things. Items that are not popular and do not circulate will be withdrawn from library collections according to established procedures.

The Library can only accept a limited number of donations due to restricted storage space and the staff time necessary to evaluate, test and maintain each thing. Materials donated to the Library of Things collection are subject to the terms outlined in the Library's Donations and Memorials Policy.

Not all library materials may be suitable for all members of the community. Responsibility for the minor's use of library materials, regardless of format or content, lies with the parent or guardian, not with the Library.

Due to the nature of the items contained in the Library of Things, these items will not be shared via delivery with the other libraries in the Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative. All Library of Things items must be returned to the main service desk at the New Ulm Public Library. The lending period is one week and Things cannot be renewed.

The Library reserves the right to take a Thing out of circulation temporarily to use for library purposes or to repair a damaged item.

Patrons who borrow a Thing agree to abide by the New Ulm Public Library's Library of Things Lending Guidelines, Agreement and Informed Consent Form for Equipment.

Checkout procedure:

- A patron must present his/her library card at the Service Center and complete a Library of Things Lending Guidelines, Agreement and Informed Consent Form for Equipment at the time of checkout. Once a Thing is checked out to a patron, it becomes the responsibility of that patron.
- The patron is responsible for theft, loss, or damage. If there are technical difficulties, return the Thing immediately to the library.
- Never return a Thing in the book drop. The patron will be held responsible for damage to the Thing if it is returned in the book drop.
- The patron will be fined \$5 per day that the Thing is returned late. The patron is responsible for full replacement cost if the Thing or any parts are lost, stolen, damaged, or otherwise not returned.