**Overview**

The Library of Things is a collection of items for loan that expands the boundaries of traditionally defined library materials. A natural evolution of the library’s existing lending model, this collection supplements the library's approach to meeting the needs of our diverse and growing community. It supports the "sharing economy" and Bloomfield's sustainability efforts, as patrons sharing items means less waste. The collection also offers an opportunity to "try before you buy," to save money, and to test out something you might not have come across otherwise. With this collection, the Bloomfield Public Library aims to offer the physical tools needed to support lifelong learning and creativity, and provide new ways for kids and adults to interact and explore. The collection supports the library’s strategic plan to expand access and further establish the library as a community center. Patrons who borrow a Thing agree to abide by the Bloomfield Public Library's Library of Things lending guidelines below.

**Types of Materials Included in Collection**

The purpose of the Library of Things is to provide diverse opportunities for learning and engagement. To further this goal, the Library of Things may include:

* Arts and Crafts, such as a sewing machine and yarn ball winder
* Household Tools, such as a Kill-A-Watt meter and a hotspot (internet service)
* Audiovisual Equipment, such as a portable record player, analog to digital conversion equipment, and Rokus
* Instruments, such as an acoustic guitar and ukulele
* Science and Technology Kits, such as a microscope, telescope, simple robotics, and beginner computer programming kits
* Games such as video games, puzzles, outdoor games,
* Outdoor recreation, such as metal detector and binoculars

The Library of Things is not intended to be comprehensive and the library is limited by a finite amount of storage space for these items. For a full list of items available, visit Bloomfield Public Library of Things

**Borrowing**

A valid adult Bloomfield Public Library Card (age 18 and older) in good standing, i.e., no outstanding fines/fees or overdue material, must be used to borrow an item in the Library of Things. Due to the limited availability of items in the Library of Things, patrons may borrow up to two (2) items at a time per library card. Borrowers are required to check out and return Library of Things items to the Main Desk. Items may not be returned to the book drop or another library.

Unless noted, most items are loaned for seven (7) days with one renewal. Items will not renew if a person is on hold for the item. Items may be put on hold by contacting the Library. Late items incur a fee of $2.00 per day with a max fee of $10.00.

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

**Procurement of Materials**

The library staff will select materials for the Library of Things based on the needs and interests of library patrons. The library welcomes input from the community concerning the collection. A suggestion for purchase procedure enables users to request that a particular item or subject be purchased by the library. All suggestions for purchase are evaluated using the same selection criteria as for other materials and are not automatically added to the collection. The Suggest a Thing for Purchase form is available on our website.

Due to limited storage space and the staff time necessary to evaluate, test and maintain each Thing, the library can accept only a limited number of donations. The library does not accept materials that are not outright gifts, and cannot guarantee the permanence of a gift in the collection. Materials donated to the library are received with the understanding that they are subject to the same selection, evaluation and disposal criteria as material acquired for purchase. To suggest a donation please email director@bloomfield.bccls.org with a description of the Thing and your contact information.

**Proper Use and Liability**

Use care when handling the Thing. The borrower is solely responsible for the Thing and will be billed for reasonable repair or replacement costs associated with damage or loss of Things and/or peripherals due to neglect or abuse. A list of replacement costs of Things is maintained by the Library and is labeled on each item.

The Bloomfield Public Library is not responsible for any injury, loss, or damage that may occur from use of a Thing.

The responsibility to protect against loss is the borrower’s. Staff will inspect Things upon return. Borrowers are expected to return the Thing with all parts and components in the original library container to the Main Desk or the Children’s Department of the library. Patrons will be responsible for any damage to a Thing while in their possession.

**Evaluation of Collections**

The library will use circulation data and community suggestions to guide future selections for the Library of Things collection. Items that are not popular and do not circulate will be withdrawn from library collections according to the Withdrawal of Material portion of the Collection Development Policy.

**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.