Circulating Non-Traditional Items: One library’s success story
HELLO!

I am Dan Mickelson

Director, Springville Public Library

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Population: 34,000
Operating budget: $1.1 million
670,000 annual circulation
1 hr south of SLC, Utah
16 FTE
Discussion Overview

- The what and why of discovery kits
- What’s included in a discovery kit
- Money (and time) matters
- Challenges
- Successes!
What types of items are a part of your library’s collection?
What types of items are a part of your library’s collection?

Books
eBooks
Movies
Audiobooks on CD
eAudiobooks
Music
Large Print books
Magazines
As we recognized that our collection changes over time and exists to meet the needs of the community, broadening our scope of what we circulated felt natural.
A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Cordless phone

Horseless carriage
What’s in a name? We’ve landed on “Discovery Kits”

» Reinforces the idea of the library as a place for finding something new

» Encourages users to be participants

» Avoids library jargon
The discovery kit concept has been around for a while but seems to be gaining more and more interest lately.

I first heard about it at a library conference about 10 years ago. The idea stuck with me.
Examples of Discovery Kits?

Let’s hear some examples of items that you’ve seen or hear about libraries circulating that falls in this category.
Our Discovery Kit Start

Technology
- Drone, cameras, energy conservation

Maker, Learn a skill
- Sewing machines, juggling, music instruments

Physical Activities
- Snowshoes, games and puzzles
Make a splash!

get the word out via social media, word of mouth, news outlets, etc.
2.5 years and hundreds of checkouts later...
## Discovery Kits

- African Drum
- Anatomy
- Beginner's Photography
- Bike Repair
- Birds & Bugs
- Board Games (5)
- Chess (2)
- Disc Golf
- Drone
- Energy Conservation
- Go Pro Camera (2)
- Juggling
- Kid's Photography
- Hammock
- Microscope (2)
- Musical Instruments

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Nintendo Classic</th>
<th>Outdoor Games</th>
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<tr>
<td>Piano</td>
<td>Podcast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puzzles</td>
<td>Sewing &amp; Quilting Machine (3)</td>
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<td>Snowshoes (2)</td>
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<td>Video Projector</td>
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<td>Weaving</td>
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### What is a discovery kit?

Discovery kits are non-traditional library items, such as ukuleles or telescopes, which enhance the learning experience and provide a spark for further discovery.

Each kit comes with a folder with instructions, books or recommended reading lists.

Discovery kits are provided by a grant from Utah State Library.

Kits check out for one week, and overdue fines are $1 per day.

User accepts full responsibility for missing or broken parts. Adult supervision is suggested.

Kits can be placed on hold through our catalog.

Ask a librarian if you have any questions!
Contents of Discovery Kits

- Duffel Bag
- Item
- Books
- Guidebook
Android Project

Place your screenshot here
Comments or Questions?
Money Matters

Contents
- Bags & tags
- Items
- Books
- Guidebook

Maintenance
- Repairs
- Adding new items to keep collection fresh

Staff Time
- Initial Preparation
- Ongoing repairs
- Check-in and Check-out daily
Cost averages

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<td>Guide</td>
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$150 per item
## Cost Averages

**Maintenance**

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<tr>
<td>Repairs</td>
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<td>New Items</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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$1050 annually
## Time Averages

### Staff Time

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<tr>
<td>Initial Prep</td>
<td>60 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ongoing Management</td>
<td>2 hours per week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily check-in and check-out</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total for year 1</td>
<td>200 hours</td>
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**Total for year 1:** 200 hours
Helpful numbers for making a pitch

Year 1
$4000
200 hours

Year 2
$1050
140 hours

Year 3
$1050
140 hours
Possible Funding Sources:

- Operating budget
- LSTA or other technology grants
- Friends of the Library
- Library board
- City council
Liability

Sanitation

Damage &
theft

Consumable
materials

Size
restrictions

Staff time
Comments or Questions?
SUCCESSES!

» High circulating collection
» Local business support and partnerships
» Offering access to technologies beyond the reach of many
» Excited patrons = positive advocacy
» Preparing future leaders of tomorrow
High demand and high circulation

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Excited Patrons

@springvilletlibrary

scondie This is such an amazing gift to our community!!

dailyheraldutah Great post! Would you mind if we shared it with attribution in the Beehive Buzz section of our print Sunday paper?

springvilletlibrary @dailyheraldutah Thank you! Of course.

stgeorgenypl Wow awesome!

mamalovesstyle Awesome! We will come check it out!

wilkeyhomes Wow, I had no idea! So cool.

technolibraries So cool!!!
Feedback

“This is amazing, I can’t wait to try it”

“We love love love all the kits available”

“Whoa, This sounds like something I want to do”

“Wait I need this!!!”

“No way! Awesome!”
Supporting Local Business & Forming Partnerships

» Ukulele club

» Rocky Mtn music store

» Ukulele festival this summer
Access to technology

» Try it before you buy it

» $300 VR goggles out of the reach of many

» Bridging the digital divide
Positive Advocacy

» People tag friends, share via word of mouth

» Helps connect to other resources we offer
Keeping up with tech trends and community interest

Our Newest Kits:

» Podcast
» Sphero robot
» Mobile hotspot
» Sous vide
» Pickleball
Slides Carnival icons are editable shapes. This means that you can:

- Resize them without losing quality.
- Change fill color and opacity.
- Change line color, width and style.

Isn't that nice? :)

Examples:
Thank You!

Comments or Questions?
Resources

Springville Library: [https://www.springville.org/library/](https://www.springville.org/library/)

https://www.facebook.com/SpringvilleLibrary/

@springvillelibrary

dmickelson@Springville.org
Resources

Supplies for the kits:

Bags: [https://www.4imprint.com/product/1103-S/Classic-Cargo-Duffel-Large-Screen](https://www.4imprint.com/product/1103-S/Classic-Cargo-Duffel-Large-Screen)


Protective and storage tubs: [https://www.amazon.com/IRIS-Quart-Stack-Pull-Pack/dp/B00CQGTGZQ/ref=sr_1_6?keywords=clear+storage+box&qid=1582147293&sr=8-6](https://www.amazon.com/IRIS-Quart-Stack-Pull-Pack/dp/B00CQGTGZQ/ref=sr_1_6?keywords=clear+storage+box&qid=1582147293&sr=8-6)
Resources

Ideas for discovery kits from other libraries:

Article about 8 libraries and their collections:

Sacramento, CA
https://saclibrary.myturn.com/library/inventory/browse?

Beaverton, OR
https://www.beavertonlibrary.org/377/Library-of-Things
Resources

In the news:


Lis News - https://lisnews.org/node/45209

