

Module 3: Library of Things

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LIBS 658: Knowledge Resources: Planning Selecting and Managing Collections

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The Collection

Theme - Home Entertainment Devices Without Borders

1. Item: A region Free DVD Player

Target Audience: All ages desiring to access entertainment and learning

Justification: The environment scan showed increasing populations of immigrants, especially from Latin America, east, and south Asia. My library is seeking to increase its collection of videos and DVDs in Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Indian languages. At the same time, people seeking entertainment in these languages receive it from relatives back home or from shops within their communities. But these DVDs require specialized DVD players because DVDs are produced with embedded codes that 'lock' them to specific regions. For example, the US and its territories are region 1; southeast Asia and east Asia are region 3; Mexico, Central, South America and the Caribbean are in Region 4; the Indian subcontinent, Africa and former Soviet Union are region 5; and China region 6. In order to be able to play discs from other countries, a "Region-Free" or "Code-Free" DVD Player is needed as this allows people to watch all films, regardless of the language they are in or the country they are from.

2. Item: A Multisystem VCR Player

Target Audience: All ages desiring to access entertainment and learning through world video formats

Justification: Many of people's memories are captured and remain on video cassettes. In addition, for immigrants from different countries, content for their recreational, entertainment and learning can be obtained through relatives back home or from shops within their communities. However, finding suitable devices for playing these video cassettes sourced in other parts of the world can be a problem due to the different recording standards. For example, video cassette recordings from India and China adhere to PAL (Phase Alternating Line) and SECAM (Sequential Couleur Avec Memoire or Sequential Colour with Memory) standards and are non-conforming to the NTSC (National Television System Committee) standard found in the US. As a result, video cassettes recorded in these countries will not play on devices made for the NTSC formatted US market. A multisystem player is needed for that.

Theme - Preserving Family Memories

3. Film Memories Capture Kit

Items: Cordless Flatbed Scanner, film to Digital JPG Converter

Target Audience: Adults and the elderly who may own photographs or written records in older media, and want to preserve them digitally.

Justification: 32 percent of Fairfax County's population consists of immigrants. When people immigrate, they tend to bring along treasured memories – documents, photographs, and the like. Immigrant and nonimmigrant library patrons alike with memories on old media such as 35mm, 126, 110, and Super 8, wanting to archive their own memories digitally could do so with the help of the items in this kit. Making these available would be

an enormous convenience and would spare low income patrons the expense of spending approximately \$300 to purchase these items for which use would be limited.

4. Voice Memories Capture Kit

Items: Digital Voice Recorder, cassette to MP3 Converter

Target Audience: Young adults, teens, adults

Justification: For people with limited English language skills, the opportunity to record and repeatedly playback conversations and transmitted information will facilitate strengthening English speaking and comprehension skills.

5. Book Binding Kit

Items: Bone folders, cutting boards, awls, sponge brushes, *Book Arts: Beautiful Bindings for Handmade Books* by Mary Kay Seckler

Target Audience: Children, teens and adults looking to try and use a kinetic creative activity – binding to make notebooks, sketchbooks, or journals - as a means of preserving culture.

Justification: This kit could serve to facilitate intergenerational sharing and capture of memories in immigrant families. The kit would be used by children, youth, teens, and the elderly, especially in immigrant families to tell stories and make books in their own language, reflecting their own culture. This would meaningfully engage elderly people with limited English language skills in documenting and preserving their culture.

Theme - Mend it Myself

6. Item: Sewing machine

Target Audience: Young adults, teens, and adults needing to fabricate ethnic or culture-specific clothing not available in stores. Young adults and teens with an interest in costuming, crafting, or alternative fashion. Adults who find it more economical to alter or mend torn clothing, and other textiles rather than replace them.

Justification: Owning a sewing machine for occasional use would not be a high priority for a low income family. When clothing and other items tear, having the use of a sewing machine is a cost-effective alternative to replacement. When the need arises for culture specific clothing that is not available locally, a sewing machine comes in handy. As such uses would be occasional, the ability to borrow a sewing machine would be helpful.

Theme - Play Music

7. Items: Vintage Records Record Player, Karaoke setup

Target Audience: Adults and teens with interest in experiencing and preserving listening music or audio technology. Adults/teens hosting parties. Children who are taking music classes.

Justification: Vinyl records are making a comeback among teens, but record players are not widely available. Moreover, people of a certain age still possess treasured vinyl album collections whether of big band music from

the 1940s, folk music from the 1960, or old records containing music of significance to specific ethnic or cultural communities. With 50 percent of the families frequenting the Tysons-Pimmit library speaking a language other than English at home, making available devices for playing and enjoying this music will contribute to cultural preservation and recreation.

Theme - A month of Sundays

8. Item: *History in your Backyard Kit*

Passes to the following: (a) Mt Vernon George Washington Birthplace (b) C & O Canal National Park (c) Harpers Ferry National Park (d) Wolftrap Performing Arts Center

Target Audience: Families, young adults, children

Justification: Although Fairfax county is relatively wealthy with median income of approximately \$130K annually, there are clusters of working poor in the vicinity of the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library for whom the entry fees at local public attractions are a barrier to entry. These passes would facilitate inclusion and access for all, to learning and recreation, consistent with the library's mission.

Theme - Misc

9. Item: Wi-Fi Hotspot

Target Audience: Adults, students, or low-income families who may not have access to reliable internet

Justification: This would facilitate inclusion and access for people without reliable internet service. It will allow users to connect to wi-fi enabled devices such as laptops, smartphones to the internet.

Reflection

The Library of Things I have proposed is grounded in the changing demographics of Fairfax county and the area served by the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library. In this regard, an important feature of the doubling of the county's population over the past ten years is that the share of population who are Latinx, Asians, and people of other mixed and racial backgrounds accounted for all of the net population growth. This is composed overwhelmingly of immigrants from Latin America, east Asia, and the Indian subcontinent. The Tysons-Pimmit community mirrors these county-wide trends. A 2016 community engagement survey found that close to 50 percent of the families frequenting Tysons-Pimmit speak a language other than English at home with Spanish as the most common. Measures the library has undertaken to serve the needs of its clientele include the "citizenship corner"; the juvenile and adult materials it carries in Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese; and the children's books in Urdu, Arabic, Chinese and Tamil. An analysis of the current collection indicates that there is room for enhancing the collection with a greater variety of formats in these languages. The three-year improvement plan I proposed in the earlier module is designed to begin to address these gaps by focusing on three areas, one of which is making available more non-English language materials in alternative formats such as CDs, DVDs, and on-line in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Hindi, and Urdu.

A challenge I faced was deciding whether or not to include a relevant how-to book— *Book Arts: Beautiful Bindings for Handmade Books* by Mary Kaye Seckler— in the collection's bookbinding kit. I was indecisive because this is for a library— should I not assume that the library's book collection could be utilized alongside the Library of Things? I decided that including the book as part of the kit would be most accessible and convenient for patrons. The book is not only relevant to the theme of the kit, but even essential, especially for patrons trying the activity for the first time.

The rationale for the items in this Library of Things is to support the three year improvement plan by enhancing access via making available a set of curated items. The selection criteria I have used for curation are items that:

- a. Facilitate preserving memories for the diverse immigrant population
- b. Facilitate the entertainment and learning needs of the diverse immigrant population
- c. Facilitate a multiplication and extension of access for clients of diverse cultures and ethnicities, and with limited English language skills
- d. Recognize the diverse economic status of the population being served
- e. Are of interest and useful to teens and young adults
- f. Are needed for periodic use for specific projects but are expensive to own or difficult to store in limited living quarters

<i>Items/Kit</i>	<i>Selection Criteria</i>
Region-free DVD player	b: Facilitate the entertainment and learning needs of the diverse immigrant population c: Facilitate a multiplication and extension of access for clients of diverse cultures and ethnicities, and with limited English language skills
Multisystem VCR	b: Facilitate the entertainment and learning needs of the diverse immigrant population c: Facilitate a multiplication and extension of access for clients of diverse cultures and ethnicities, and with limited English language skills d: Recognize the diverse economic status of the population being served
Flatbed Scanner, JPG Converter	a: Facilitate preserving memories for the diverse immigrant population e: Are of interest and useful to teens and young adults
Voice Recorder, Cassette to MP3 Converter	a: Facilitate preserving memories for the diverse immigrant population
Bookbinding Kit	a: Facilitate preserving memories for the diverse immigrant population e: Are of interest and useful to teens and young adults f: Are needed for periodic use for specific projects but are expensive to own or difficult to store in limited living quarters
Sewing Machine	d: Recognize the diverse economic status of the population being served e: Are of interest and useful to teens and young adults f: Are needed for periodic use for specific projects but are expensive to own or difficult to store in limited living quarters
Play Music Kit	b: Facilitate the entertainment and learning needs of the diverse immigrant population e: Are of interest and useful to teens and young

	<p>adults</p> <p>f: Are needed for periodic use for specific projects but are expensive to own or difficult to store in limited living quarters</p>
A Month of Sundays History in your Backyard	<p>b: Facilitate the entertainment and learning needs of the diverse immigrant population</p> <p>d: Recognize the diverse economic status of the population being served</p> <p>e: Are of interest and useful to teens and young adults</p>
Wifi Hotspot	<p>b: Facilitate the entertainment and learning needs of the diverse immigrant population</p> <p>c: Facilitate a multiplication and extension of access for clients of diverse cultures and ethnicities, and with limited English language skills</p> <p>d: Recognize the diverse economic status of the population being served</p> <p>e: Are of interest and useful to teens and young adults</p>