Overview

The Oakland Public Library’s Library of Things is a collection of items for loan that expands the boundaries of what have been traditionally defined as library materials. This collection seeks to supplement OPL’s approach to meeting the needs of our patrons and community. This collection will allow Oakland residents who have a valid library card to borrow and use items that might be expensive for a single use, and also allows patrons to try out items before they decide to purchase them. These items expand on Oakland Public Library’s goal to “provide library resources and services to meet the evolving educational, cultural, recreational and informational needs of the community and to encourage lifelong learning”.

Patrons who borrow items from the Oakland Public Library’s Library of Things agree to abide by the lending guidelines listed below:

A valid adult Oakland Public Library card (age 18 and older) in good standing (no outstanding fines/feed or overdue/lost materials) must be used to borrow an item from the Library of Things. Due to the limited nature 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 Circulation desk where the Thing was borrowed. Items may NOT be returned in the book drop or at any other library.

Items are loaned for seven (7) days with no renewals. Late items incur a fee of $2 per day with a maximum fee of $10.

Borrowers must reserve Things through the reservation portal located on the library’s website.

Procurement of Materials

Materials will be added to the Library of Things based on the needs and interests of the community. The library welcomes input from residents concerning the collection, and suggestions of materials to add to the collection may be given to the Director. Donations of Thing are accepted, but residents should be aware that due to limitations of storage some donated materials may not be added to the collection. Each donated item will be reviewed with the same criteria as items considered for purchase.

Proper Use & Liability

Any patron who borrows a Thing from the Oakland Public Library’s Library of Things acknowledges they are solely responsible for the Thing and will be billed for reasonable repair or replacement costs associated with damage or loss of the Thing and/or peripherals due to neglect or abuse. A list of replacement costs of Things is maintained by the library and listed along with each Thing.
The Oakland Public Library is not responsible for any injury, loss, or damage that may occur from use of any Thing.

Borrowers are expected to return each Things with all parts and components in the original library container to the circulation desk. Items must be returned clean and ready for the next user. Patrons are responsible for any damage to a Thing while it is in their possession.