

Show: Tech Bytes

Host: Todd Miller

Guest:

Overview: Tech Bytes is a technology podcast, produced by the Digital Services department at Niles-Maine District Library about technology news and useful technology tips.

Episode: Tech Bytes #42 - Library of Things

Episode Description: In this episode, we discuss the Library's newly rebranded Library of Things.

[Music - Tech Bytes theme]

Hi, and welcome back to Tech Bytes. I'm your host, Todd, and today we're talking about the Library of Things at Niles-Maine District Library. Here at the library, lending technology and crafting equipment is not a new service. But recently, you may have noticed a new display in the Commons area which is meant to better help library patrons know the scope of everything that is available to borrow from this collection.

In a moment, we'll be back to discuss some of the tried and tested favorite items in the collection as well as some of the newest additions. We'll be right back.

[Music - Tech Bytes theme]

Like I mentioned before the break, we're talking about the Library of Things at Niles-Maine District Library. You may already be a frequent borrower of mobile hotspots, sewing machines, and any of the other items available to check out. Or you may be thinking, "what's a library of things?"

Simply put, a library of things is a collection of items that are not traditional books, movies or music. So, what do we have in this collection? Well, there are too many to list, but we have divided them into categories for easier browsing. Some categories you may see on the display or on the library's website are audio (which includes microphones and a bluetooth speaker), photo and video (including cameras and tripods), get connected (which includes hot spots and chromebooks), and Maker ( which includes sewing machines and silhouette cutting machines).

One of the newest categories in this collection is called Tools for Better Living, and this is a collection of items that are designed and curated with accessibility in mind. Some of the items in this category are things like door knob grips, reading magnifiers, zipper pulls, and easy-to-use scissors, and many more items that we hope that can make daily life a little easier for whoever may need them.

The library of things also has some brand new items that have been added to the collection that we are excited to share and get into patrons' hands.

One of those new items is a portable record player. For anyone who still has a stack of records in the basement with no way to listen to them, this record player is the perfect solution to get back into those records that you used to love listening to. Use it to spin some tunes at your next backyard barbeque or to listen to the old recording of your high school choir that hasn't been heard in decades.

Also new to the collection is a telescope for stargazing. With this year's summer reading theme, Read for the stars, it's a great way to tie in library fun and learning at home. And coming soon, we will have bird watching kits with a variety of items included to assist in spotting owls, eagles, finches, and other feathery creatures this summer. Last, another coming soon item perfectly aligned with summer reading is a home planetarium for displaying stars and galaxies onto the ceiling in your home, perfect for budding astronomers!

With a number of patron-favorites and new items being added, there truly is something for everyone in the Library of Things.

The library of things collection is also a great way to test drive an item before taking the plunge on a purchase. You're thinking about purchasing a Chromebook, and you'd like to use one and see if it's right for you? The library of things is perfect for this application as well.

A couple of nuts and bolts details about this collection are: The Library of Things collection is available to Niles-Maine cardholders. Adults need to fill out a Creative Studio Agreement the first time that they borrow an item, and kids and teens need a parent to sign a user agreement. Last, it's good to know that there is a \$3 per day late fee on Library of Things items, so get them back on time, or give us a call and see if your item can be renewed before its due date.

Tech Bytes is recorded in Studio A on the lower level of the Niles-Maine District Library, where Niles-Maine cardholders have access to the recording equipment and software that were used to produce this episode.

Thank you for listening, and if you have any technology questions, you can find us on the lower level, at the Library's technology desk. You can also email us at [digitalservices@nileslibrary.org](mailto:digitalservices@nileslibrary.org).

If you enjoy listening to this podcast, and want to have easy access every time a new episode is released, please consider subscribing on Apple Podcasts or Spotify.

Last, the thoughts and ideas portrayed on this podcast do not necessarily reflect those of Niles-Maine District Library.

[Music - Tech Bytes theme]