



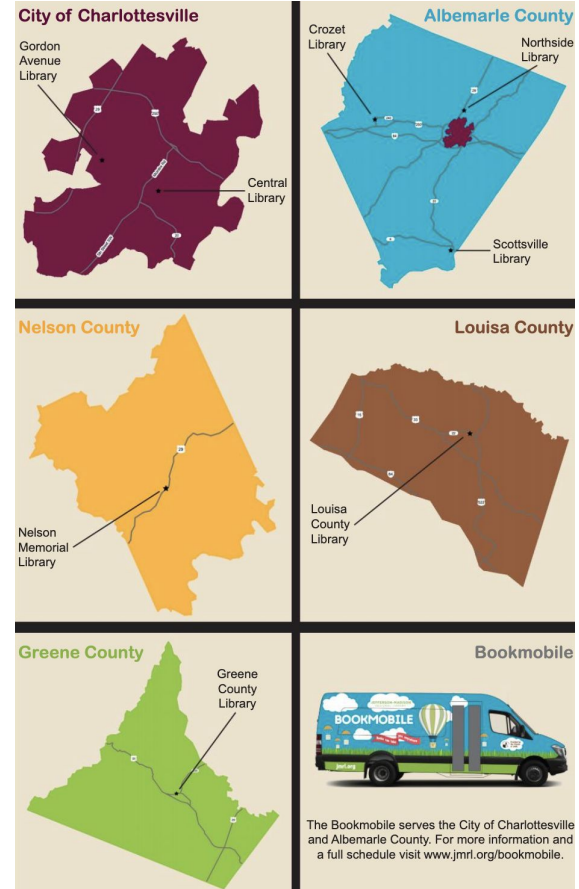
Give 'Em What They Want: A Library of Things

Abby Cox - Jefferson-Madison Regional Library;
Liz Rapp - University of Virginia Libraries



About JMRL

- 8 branches + bookmobile + historical society
- Serve approximately 200,000 residents
- Both urban and rural populations



How It Started

- Several special collections
 - Memory kits
 - Hotspots
 - Toy library
 - Electricity usage monitors
 - Virginia State Park backpacks
 - Discovery Museum passes



What We Added

- Maker kits
- Fit kits





Funding

- Grants
- Friends of the Library
- In budget (museum passes, memory kits, toy library)
- Added more maker and fit kits at end of the fiscal year
 - Kept a document throughout the year of patron suggestions, ideas for new kits

Promotions



Promotions

- Press release
- Newspaper articles
 - Daily Progress front page
 - Cville Weekly
- News interview
- Mentions in employee city-wide newsletter



Make the most of your library

Everyone knows you can get books, CDs, and DVDs from the public library. But there's a whole lot more on offer.

Charlottesville's downtown branch has just introduced "health kits" and "maker kits" that come with both equipment and instructions that you can take home for three weeks at a time. "Getting started with yoga," for example, includes a yoga mat, block, strap, DVD, and instructional materials. Maker kits include knitting, embroidery, calligraphy, and more. Parents can check out toys, free passes to the Virginia Discovery Museum, or a parking pass good for any Virginia state park, along with a backpack filled with pocket naturalist guides.

The screenshot shows a news article from The Daily Progress. The headline is "Area library system's maker, fitness kits a big hit". The byline is "BY ALLISON WRABEL Feb 17, 2019". The main image shows two women, Elizabeth Siga and Abby Cox, standing behind a table displaying various maker and fitness kits. A sign behind them reads "MAKER KITS HEALTH LIBRARY FIT KITS". Below the image is a caption: "Reference librarians Elizabeth Siga (left) and Abby Cox have made a series of kits available for checkout for community members at Jefferson-Madison Regional Library branches. The kits range from arts and crafts to health- and fitness-related activities." Below the caption are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Email, Print, and a bookmark icon. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a small text block: "As part of the growing 'library of things' trend, the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library system now has several types of maker and fitness kits available for checkout from any branch."

Two vertical promotional banners. The top one is orange and white, with the text "YOUR ONLINE SOURCE FOR LOCAL NEWS" and "SUBSCRIBE!". The bottom one is black and yellow, with the text "You're a Double scheduled? Join the Winning Team" and a small graphic of a flame.

Promotions

- Blog post
- Social media: Facebook, Instagram
- Flyers on in-house TV
- Outreach events
- In-house events (meet your library table)
- Website
- Beyond the books

MAKER & FIT KITS

In addition to books, JMRL has so much more to offer patrons!

For example, patrons can check out passes to the Virginia Discovery Museum or Virginia State Parks, rent a conference room, access free Wi-Fi, and now enjoy four new maker kits and two new fit kits!

Maker Kits

- The **squishy circuit kit** uses conductive and insulating play dough to teach the basics of electrical circuits. Be inventive with this kit!
- A **lap loom, yarn, and the book *Little Loom Weaving: Quick and Clever Projects for Creating Adorable Stuff*** by Andreia Gomes will allow you to create wonderful projects.
- The **bird watching kit** has binoculars, *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, and a pocket guide to Virginia birds, perfect for the beginning birder!
- The **writer's block kit** will inspire you to write by using story cubes and the book *Kicking In the Wall: A Year of Writing Exercises, Prompts, and Quotes to Help You Break Through Your Blocks and Reach Your Writing Goals*.

FIT KITS

- Kit 7 consists of a light therapy lamp and the book *The Short Circuit: Depression and Anxiety Exposed for What It Really Is: A Brand New and Inspiring Way of Looking at Depression and Anxiety* by Dr Shabby Noor. Light therapy is one of the treatments for seasonal affective disorder (SAD), which is a type of seasonal depression that usually strikes during the winter months.
- Kit 8 has 5 resistance bands, the book *Fitness Sutra* by Dr. Monika Chopra, guide sheets, and 10 exercise cards. Resistance bands can be used to perform exercises for every major muscle group or to challenge your existing routine. You can also use resistance bands to increase your range of motion, flexibility, and muscular endurance.

You can place a hold on these kits by visiting the library's online catalog.

For more information, visit the JMRL website at www.jmrl.org or call the Central Reference Department on 434.979.7151 ext. 4.



Promotions

- Kit demonstrations



Misc. Things

- Label what each kit contains (attach label to kit)
- Take pictures of each kit- buy a [portable photo studio](#) (\$118)
- Different cases/bags might be needed

Toy 43 (Same as Toy 30) Wooden Cash Register and New Sprouts Shop It! Play Set



10 Pieces

- 1 Wooden Cash Register
- 1 Wooden Credit Card
- 1 Shopping Basket
- 2 Apples
- 1 Carrot
- 4 Cans of Food



Kit Info/Maintenance

- In the OPAC
 - Kit/toy library records link to google slides with pictures & descriptions of each item
- Patron looks at slides, then puts a hold on the individual item after logging into their account
- Staff puts a hold on item after the item has been checked out
 - Kits come back to the correct departments (reference/children's/bookmobile)
 - Replace parts/clean items

TITLE [JMRLHEALTH LIBRARY/FIT KITS \[KIT\]](#).

Pub Info [United States] : Manufacturer varies, [dates vary]



Connect to
[Link to see Health Library/Fit Kits](#)

Copies

| LOCATION | CALL # | | STATUS |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Central Adult Stacks | Kit 1 | Blood Pressure Monitor Kit | DUE 11-02-19 +1 HOLD |
| Central Adult Stacks | Kit 2 | Cardio Kit | DUE 11-16-19 +1 HOLD |
| Central Adult Stacks | Kit 3 | Foam Roller Kit | IN TRANSIT +2 HOLDS |
| Central Adult Stacks | Kit 4 | Hand Therapy Kit | AVAILABLE |
| Central Adult | Kit 5 | Yoga Kit | DUE 10- |

Challenges/Room to Improve

Challenges/Room to Improve

- Buy spare kits for extra parts
- Buy extra cases
- Make sure staff knows who to reach out to with problems



Successes



Successes

- Very popular
- Adding new toys/maker/fit kits
- Most items have been returned on time

Bookings ▼

Hold Copy Returned Soonest Hold Selected Item Trans

Book Any Available Item Book Selected Item(s) All

| um | Call Num | Barcode | Location | Due Date | Holds | |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------|----------|-------------|-------|---|
| 76 | Kit 1 Knitting Kit | 31743308901543 | mms | 10-30-2019 | 4 | 0 |
| 18 | Kit 2 Spirograph Kit | 31743308901550 | mms | IN TRANSIT | 3 | 0 |
| 22 | Kit 3 Coloring Kit | 31743308901576 | mms | AVAILABLE | 1 | 0 |
| 46 | Kit 4 Embroidery Kit | 31743308901568 | mms | IN TRANSIT | 7 | 0 |
| 71 | Kit 5 Origami Kit | 31743308901626 | mms | 11-06-2019 | 2 | 0 |
| 95 | Kit 6 Snap Circuits Kit | 31743308901618 | mms | IN TRANSIT | 7 | 0 |
| 13 | Kit 7 Calligraphy Kit | 31743308901600 | mms | ON HOLDS... | 7 | 0 |
| 25 | Kit 8 3Doodler Kit | 31743308901584 | mms | IN TRANSIT | 27 | 0 |
| 37 | Kit 9 Makey Makey Kit | 31743308901592 | mms | ON HOLDS... | 6 | 0 |
| 49 | Kit 10 Ozobot Kit | 31743308901642 | mms | IN TRANSIT | 14 | 0 |
| 80 | Kit 11 Squishy Circuits ... | 31743309265351 | mms | ON HOLDS... | 3 | 0 |
| 94 | Kit 12 Ozobot Kit | 31743309265419 | mms | IN TRANSIT | 14 | 0 |
| 93 | Kit 13 Lap Loom Kit | 31743309137170 | mms | 10-18-2019 | 10 | 0 |
| 0x | Kit 14 Bird Watching Kit | 31743309137162 | mms | 10-29-2019 | 3 | 0 |
| 11 | Kit 15 Writer's Block Kit | 31743309137188 | mms | 11-02-2019 | 1 | 0 |

Things To Consider



Things To Consider

- Who can check the items out?
- What if a piece is lost? Fines for missing pieces?
- How many 'things' can one patron check out at a time?
- Where will they be shelved/housed?
- Where will replacement parts and materials be stored?
- Can you troubleshoot tech kit contents?
- Do you have time to clean kits?

Conclusion



Questions?

Contact

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