

Fun & Games with Nontraditional ▶ Collections


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Some of the collections we'll be highlighting today...

- ▶ Video Games
- ▶ Family Engagement Kits
- ▶ Wireless Hotspots
- ▶ Roku
- ▶ Ice Rink and Museum Passes
- ▶ Seed Library
- ▶ Telescopes, Musical Instruments



What is “Nontraditional?”
Well, what do we think as
traditional?

- ▶ Books
- ▶ Audiobooks
- ▶ Magazines and other periodicals
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Video



Video Games

- ▶ Initial collection premiered on July 10, 2013
- ▶ Included E (Everyone) and T (Teen) games
- ▶ Systems included Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, and Wii
- ▶ Intended to also augment our Teen Programming

Issues

Problems

- ▶ Some highly rated, in-demand titles were M-Rated and we couldn't purchase
- ▶ Theft (even in locking cases)
- ▶ Didn't have locking cases for cartridge games (Switch, Nintendo DS, etc.)
- ▶ Not offered by our vendors (e.g. Midwest Tape)

Solutions

- ▶ I made the case to purchase M-Rated games (just like we did music and movies)
- ▶ Had to use dummy cases and keep games behind Circ counter
- ▶ When you use dummy cases, it doesn't matter what you use
- ▶ Purchase from Amazon or other retailers

Current Video Game Snapshot

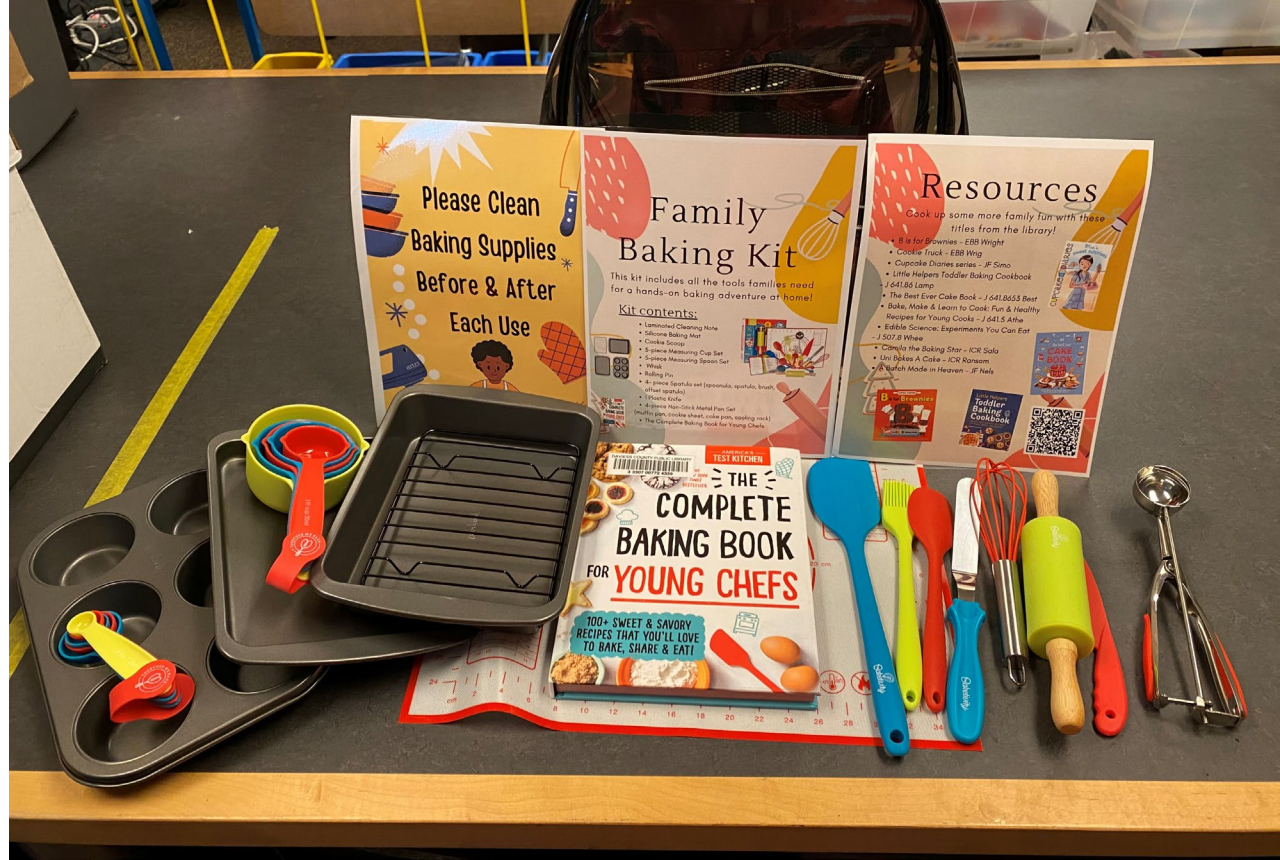
- ▶ Includes nearly 700 titles
- ▶ Systems include several console generations: PS5, XboxX, Switch; PS4, and XboxOne. We just weeded 3DS, PS3, Xbox360, and Wii.
- ▶ Average circulation is 700 per month
- ▶ Of our physical media (including DVD, Blu-Ray, Music CD, Books on CD), video games are the only format showing growth in circulation





Family Engagement & Kindergarten Readiness Kits

- ▶ Backpacks that contain curated collections of games, toys, and guided educational activities
- ▶ 11 Family Engagement Kits include Baking, Camping, Escape Rooms, Game Night, TonieBoxes, and more
- ▶ 5 Kindergarten Readiness Kits include Connect, Count, Move, Play, Talk Together



Family Engagement Kits

Why have kits?

- ▶ Important to child learning - play & experiential learning can be an important complement to reading
- ▶ They are very popular - almost constantly checked out and on hold

Concerns

- ▶ Take up a lot of space, so plan accordingly
- ▶ Have a method to organize contents (see our Binder for example)
- ▶ Pieces will break/get lost - be ready to replace as necessary (having replacement parts on hand is a good idea)

Wireless Hotspots

- ▶ Provides free Internet access
- ▶ 23 Circulating units
- ▶ “Perpetual” holds list



Issues

- ▶ Limited to purchasing 11 new units per year.
- ▶ Frequently lost and can't be re-purchased (see above).
- ▶ When they aren't returned, we need to mark them out of service - and then back into service when they are returned. It's a lengthy process.
- ▶ Patrons replacing parts on their own (including power adapters) - every part needs to be checked before being checked-in for compatibility purposes.

A black Roku streaming device and its remote control are shown on a wooden surface. The remote is in the foreground, featuring a blue directional pad and several colored buttons (purple, green, red). The Roku device is in the background, partially obscured by the remote. The background is a dark blue gradient with green geometric shapes on the right side.

Roku Streaming Devices

- ▶ Introduced to help customers stream our digital content (Hoopla)
- ▶ Has proven surprisingly popular
- ▶ Affordable technology
- ▶ Needs to be “wiped” after each checkout



Guest Passes



Museum Pass

- ▶ Family Admission to the Owensboro Area Science and History Museum
- ▶ Works for other museums in the Assoc of Science and Technology Centers
- ▶ We're charged for a family membership that we loan out





Edge Ice Pass

- ▶ Family admission to ice skating
- ▶ Made a deal with the Parks Department for discounted memberships we loan



Seed Library

- ▶ Partnership with the Master Gardeners volunteer group from the KY Extension Office
- ▶ They provide the seeds and the labor of putting the seeds in the packs
- ▶ We print the labels, keep stats of how many packs are taken (limited 5 per person - honor system)
- ▶ We use a repurposed physical card catalog

- ▶ It's been consistently popular since 2015.
- ▶ During the pandemic, we mailed seed packets.
- ▶ All seeds need to come from the Master Gardeners to make sure they're okay (no donations accepted, sadly).
- ▶ We distributed nearly 6500 seed packets last year.
- ▶ Includes a variety of vegetables and flowers
- ▶ We have tie-in programs and pass out information from the Master Gardeners



Nontraditional
Collections of the Past:

Retired Collections
(and Why)



Physical Art (Paintings, Sculptures, etc.)

- ▶ Space concerns
- ▶ Damaged items
- ▶ Waning popularity
- ▶ Didn't seem to "fit"

Projectors (filmstrip, overhead, carousel slide, etc.)

- ▶ Damaged items
- ▶ Difficult to get replacement parts
- ▶ Aging technology
- ▶ Waning interest
- ▶ Other sources could provide





Musical Instruments (guitars, mandolins, keyboards, banjos, etc.)

- ▶ While popular, it was funded by a donation
- ▶ Damaged, lost items couldn't be maintained by the regular collection budget
- ▶ Space, cost, staff expertise to maintain

Telescopes

- ▶ Ordered cheap ones from Amazon.
- ▶ Broke Easily
- ▶ Lots of parts to keep up with.
- ▶ No way to replace lost/missing/damaged pieces.



Healing Library Kits

- ▶ Premiered in January 2021
- ▶ Covered topics such as deaths of pets, COVID, separation and divorce
- ▶ Included books, replenishable craft supplies



Issues with the Healing Library Kits...

Topics and materials were not selected with the help of the Children's Librarian

The Kits were not on display or promoted in the Children's Library

No clear procedure for checking them or replenishing supplies

How to Succeed with Your Nontraditional Collections





Tailor to your community

Springform pan collection, place settings, and board games from my visit to the library in Akureyri, Iceland

(Their nontraditional collection also includes massage tools, picnic baskets, tongs, charging cables, sewing/crochet patterns, and more that I probably missed.)

What would work for your community?

Justify the collections



- ▶ Find data about the importance of play, potential harm of the digital divide, etc.
- ▶ Locate review sources, just like you would for traditional collections.
- ▶ Track the circulation statistics.



Have a Replacement Plan

- ▶ Who is responsible for checking components? (Recharging devices, clearing data, etc.?)
- ▶ Can you reorder parts? Should you keep them handy?
- ▶ How much will you charge for lost/damaged kits?



Don't be scared to
try new things.

Don't be scared to
modify or cut what
doesn't work.

General Closing Thoughts...

1

Call and work out deals with groups. Museums, parks departments, and other institutions might be willing to give you discounts.

2

Include other departments in your planning and promotion. (Do you have a passionate board gamer on staff?)

3

Start small. Plan for replacements - and budget accordingly.

4

Organize! Create binders for kits, descriptions of content, etc.



Thank you!!!

Questions?

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