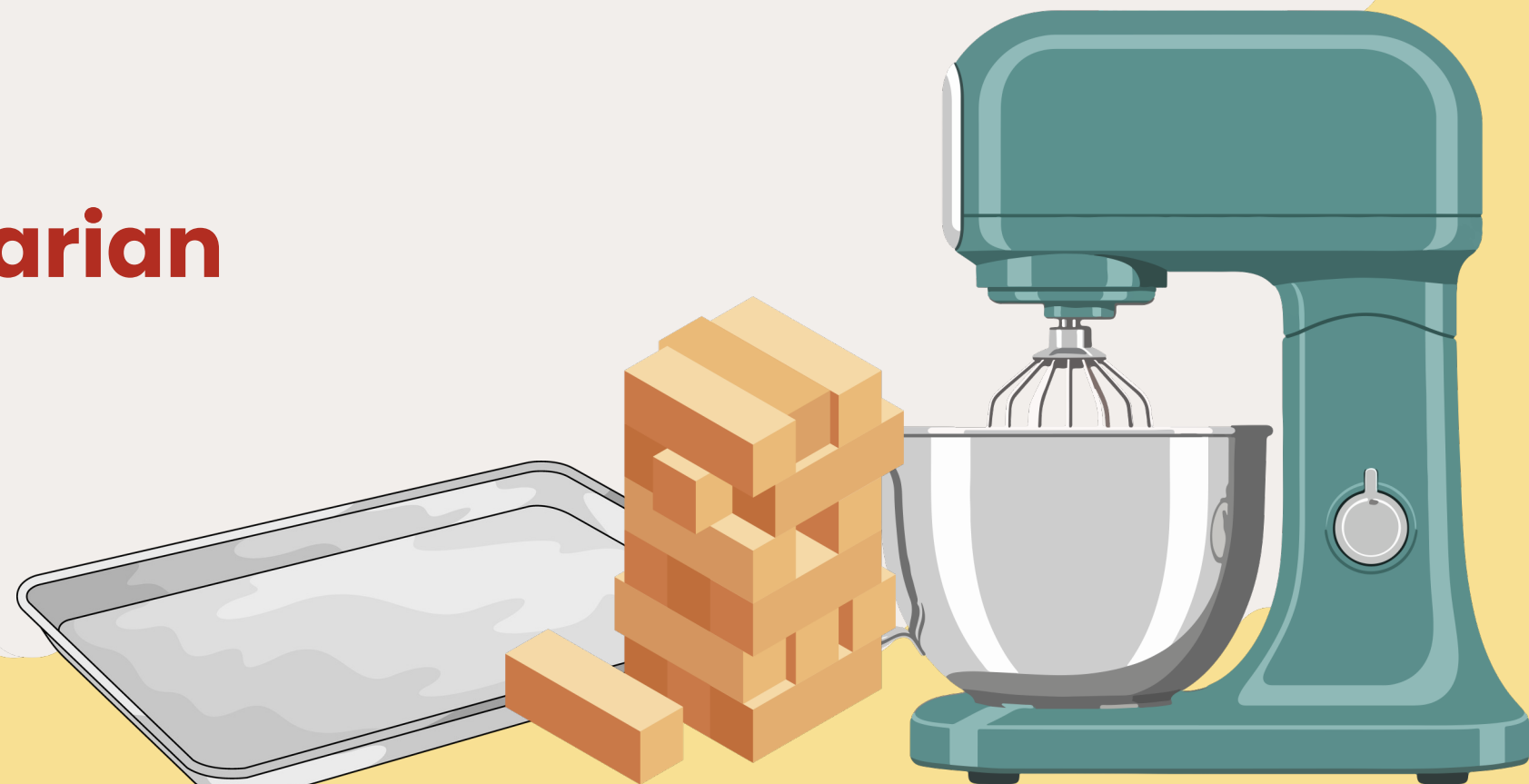


# **Library of Things: Powered By Enthusiasm, Not Dollars**

**Lauren Vogt, Student Engagement Librarian  
Dave Scott, Marketing Librarian  
FLITE Library, Ferris State University**

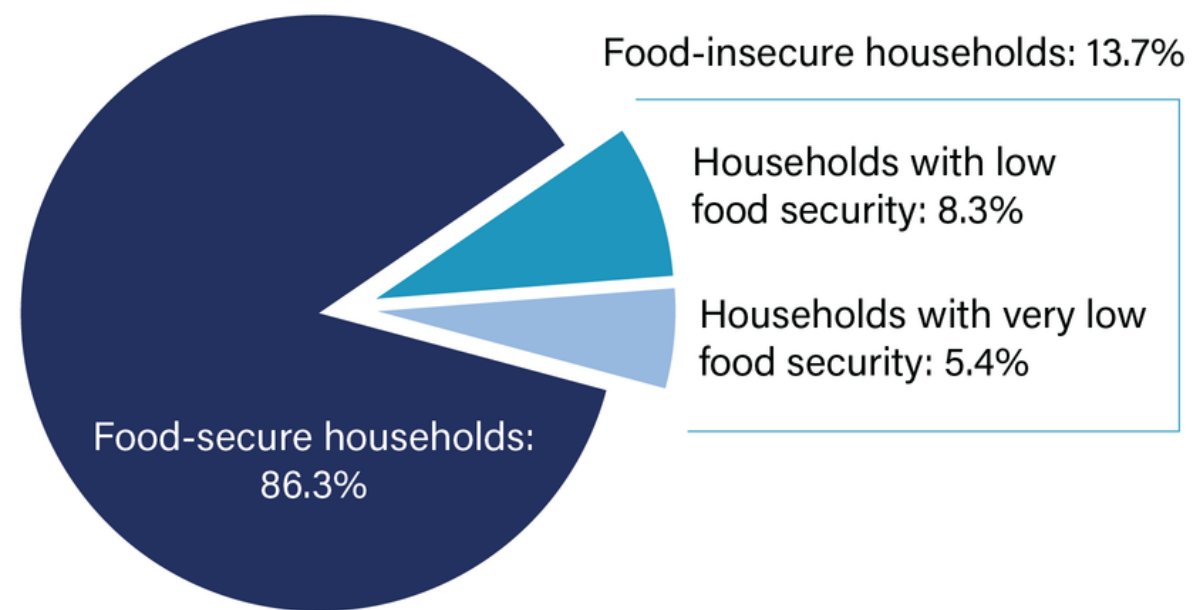


# What is a Library of Things?



# Ferris State University + Food Insecurity

U.S. households by food security status, 2024



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 2024 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data.



# Background on Libraries of Things

## the LIBRARY of THINGS

More than ever, libraries are offering nontraditional items for checkout

ILLUSTRATION BY Brian Mead  
EDITED BY Terra Dankowski

Libraries loaning "stuff" isn't a new concept. Framed paintings were available for checkout at the Newark (N.J.) Public Library back in 1904. "Libraries were sharing before sharing was cool," says Miguel Figueroa, director of the American Library Association's Center for the Future of Libraries.

As the sharing economy continues to swell, nontraditional collections become more pervasive, community-specific, and imaginative. Here are some of our favorite unusual items circulating at libraries in North America.

<p><b>1 American Girl dolls</b> Port Townsend (Wash.) Public Library</p> <p><b>2 Bubble machines</b> Hillsboro (Oreg.) Public Library</p> <p><b>3 Sewing machines</b> Sacramento (Calif.) Public Library</p> <p><b>4 Mounted animals</b> Alaska Resources Library and Information Services, University of Alaska Anchorage</p> <p><b>5 Floppy drives</b> Montana State University Library in Bozeman</p> <p><b>6 Dog activity kit</b> Wilkinson Public Library in Telluride, Colorado</p> <p><b>7 Croquet sets</b> Mesa (Ariz.) Public Library</p> <p><b>8 Video projector</b> Denver Public Library</p> <p><b>9 Science experiment kits</b> Denton (Tex.) Public Library</p>	<p><b>10 Fishing equipment</b> Grand Rapids (Minn.) Area Library</p> <p><b>11 Bird-watching kits</b> Shirley M. Wright Memorial Library in Trempealeau, Wisconsin</p> <p><b>12 Santa suits</b> Bolivar County (Miss.) Library System</p> <p><b>13 Microscopes</b> Ann Arbor (Mich.) District Library</p> <p><b>14 Fondue set</b> Temple Terrace (Fla.) Public Library</p> <p><b>15 Snowshoes</b> McArthur Public Library in Biddeford, Maine</p> <p><b>16 Romba vacuuming robot</b> Reading (Mass.) Public Library</p> <p><b>17 Apple picker</b> Island Free Library in Block Island, Rhode Island</p> <p><b>18 Umbrellas</b> Yale Law Library in New Haven, Connecticut</p>
---	--

**Recently featured in American Libraries**

**A Canning equipment** South Sioux City (Neb.) Public Library (*AL*, Nov./Dec. 2016, p. 18)

**B Musical Instruments** Parkdale branch of the Toronto Public Library (*AL*, June 2016, p. 6)

**C Bicycles** Stark County District Library in Canton, Ohio (*The Scoop*, Sept. 8, 2016)

# Goals + Objectives

**01**

Provide affordable access to high-quality tools and equipment

**04**

Address food insecurity by providing kitchen implements and equipment

**02**

Promote sustainability by reducing the demand for single-use or seldom-used items

**05**

Promote collaboration with community partners and campus stakeholders

**03**

Help students reduce costs by not purchasing these items themselves

**06**

Facilitate fun and exploration in our aim to create lifelong learners

# Ferris Foundation

# Merit Grant Process

## The Process

Step One: Merit Grant Proposal  
Form

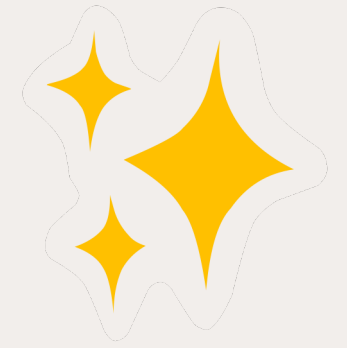
Step Two: Item Spreadsheet

Step Three: Presentation  
Before the Committee

Step Four: Wait

Step Five: Pivot

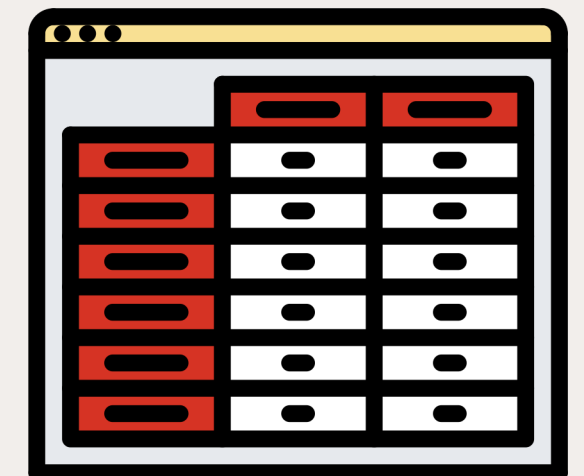
Our Ask



**\$5000**

Initial Collection  
of

**~150  
items**

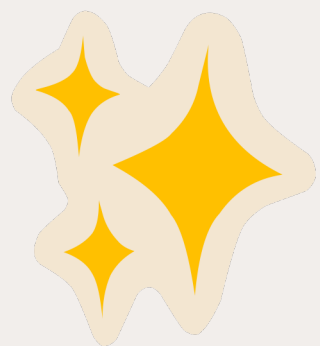


# Pivot to Year Zero-Five Plan

<b>Year Zero</b>	<b>Fiscal 2025-26</b>	<b>\$750</b>
<b>Year One</b>	<b>Fiscal 2026-27</b>	<b>\$1,750</b>
<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Fiscal 2027-28</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
<b>Year Three</b>	<b>Fiscal 2028-29</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Fiscal 2029-30</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Fiscal 2030-31</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>

Household Essentials	Handheld Steamer	1	17.24	<a href="https://www.amazon.com/Steamer-2Caps%2C115&amp;sr=8-8">able+steamer%2Caps%2C115&amp;sr=8-8</a>	0
Kitchen Equipment	Electric Kettle	1	21.99	<a href="https://www.amazon.com/Chefman-Removable-Protection-Stainless-Borosilicate">https://www.amazon.com/Chefman-Removable-Protection-Stainless-Borosilicate</a>	0
Crafting and Leisure					
				<a href="https://www.amazon.com/ApudArms-Tumble-Timber-Wooden-Scoreboard/dp/B0886SRD16/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?crid=1WXX210QZQVYK&amp;di=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.7ogqFXD8KW1RU0cxwdfjssCu2TjLqQqNVIAGhvcTxb3y6a1knCz2E7zJPd2XyLiCCJOREq160HBlzDCQsLqQZxUjPq6H5J-03jE60eSwLU8gnSY9Jv1OHobHvF6kebiOXJHNTa83ZjblRlq5y7gExYjKlUchMjF1b-D-d8yx2caD76otVxsfN7P_2vsExpGrAc_8YQCA4s4oM4G2Wz4fu6UvgBRKw6bkUbZ-TdAD_IV6zH-WiSxg7u548Q5n8mW26RstSVsMksHfTz2WQlIbehQyyp8eo.bTVAcM3LugxZeL-OYCPNik_4zWWDscQz2bGUcQF1w&amp;di=tag=se&amp;keywords=outdoor%2Bjenga&amp;qid=1736792352&amp;prefix=outdoor%2Bjenga%2Caps%2C168&amp;sr=8-1-spons&amp;sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmF1ZT1zCF9hdGY&amp;th=1">https://www.amazon.com/ApudArms-Tumble-Timber-Wooden-Scoreboard/dp/B0886SRD16/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?crid=1WXX210QZQVYK&amp;di=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.7ogqFXD8KW1RU0cxwdfjssCu2TjLqQqNVIAGhvcTxb3y6a1knCz2E7zJPd2XyLiCCJOREq160HBlzDCQsLqQZxUjPq6H5J-03jE60eSwLU8gnSY9Jv1OHobHvF6kebiOXJHNTa83ZjblRlq5y7gExYjKlUchMjF1b-D-d8yx2caD76otVxsfN7P_2vsExpGrAc_8YQCA4s4oM4G2Wz4fu6UvgBRKw6bkUbZ-TdAD_IV6zH-WiSxg7u548Q5n8mW26RstSVsMksHfTz2WQlIbehQyyp8eo.bTVAcM3LugxZeL-OYCPNik_4zWWDscQz2bGUcQF1w&amp;di=tag=se&amp;keywords=outdoor%2Bjenga&amp;qid=1736792352&amp;prefix=outdoor%2Bjenga%2Caps%2C168&amp;sr=8-1-spons&amp;sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmF1ZT1zCF9hdGY&amp;th=1</a>	0
Outdoor Entertainment	Giant Jenga	1	25.49	<a href="https://www.amazon.com/GoSports-Classic-Cornhole-Rustic-Finish/dp/B071B5LNB2/ref=sr_1_5?crid=3PHNGIF762KRA&amp;di=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.gCb8TRFCSj33Mby7LKhbAEifmb7UckvWjmkDMFg3e77hyWUwvnb6KjU2kKvfkss5y5doR6GrIUUvbl6jZTwVH8y82EM8Tu_HFvN5qcBSEfvQ_WvsGyqLgrx58EfnM86BLGJsrxs8iI80rvohX68sWctZ0qk_oMIB9ZLhr2GGChrtwfaFvETiYUK9tcbUu02puWcpgN2JHGAItFtFLcCwk4lNaTay2vqBPdaeeK46sU22fBSxwdXz5tSP_in2MlWdX7GegPedykl_b73OXDONuVb1sbSi_uFZ9WkE3yhFw7-1QIM6FA43wXGhJnHfN_NvWAnuDF8eW6D5kltJfOiw9UjFGW:Ozb5hmWuf575xa77119NTRFN5lnpMSFTokOwmiSE4UfVodlBnmGhpChsJYfmg9Uj_OyWRKBxESao19pJlLQjQJbUlcZFCvmyujPh4Yao&amp;di=tag=se&amp;keywords=cornhole+board+set&amp;qid=1736792388&amp;prefix=corn%2Caps%2C127&amp;sr=8-5">https://www.amazon.com/GoSports-Classic-Cornhole-Rustic-Finish/dp/B071B5LNB2/ref=sr_1_5?crid=3PHNGIF762KRA&amp;di=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.gCb8TRFCSj33Mby7LKhbAEifmb7UckvWjmkDMFg3e77hyWUwvnb6KjU2kKvfkss5y5doR6GrIUUvbl6jZTwVH8y82EM8Tu_HFvN5qcBSEfvQ_WvsGyqLgrx58EfnM86BLGJsrxs8iI80rvohX68sWctZ0qk_oMIB9ZLhr2GGChrtwfaFvETiYUK9tcbUu02puWcpgN2JHGAItFtFLcCwk4lNaTay2vqBPdaeeK46sU22fBSxwdXz5tSP_in2MlWdX7GegPedykl_b73OXDONuVb1sbSi_uFZ9WkE3yhFw7-1QIM6FA43wXGhJnHfN_NvWAnuDF8eW6D5kltJfOiw9UjFGW:Ozb5hmWuf575xa77119NTRFN5lnpMSFTokOwmiSE4UfVodlBnmGhpChsJYfmg9Uj_OyWRKBxESao19pJlLQjQJbUlcZFCvmyujPh4Yao&amp;di=tag=se&amp;keywords=cornhole+board+set&amp;qid=1736792388&amp;prefix=corn%2Caps%2C127&amp;sr=8-5</a>	0
				<a href="https://www.amazon.com/Military-Survival-Buttons-Closure-Durable/dp/B0CP483GXT/ref=sr_1_22_sspa?crid=ER5ZZQ8WN8X&amp;di=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.9pdCI_eMuQGjgbx9tZdXkXS71Ak_DwERKkYw8srbyvG-etzITjvWMjVMYSeWwCEQusnd67vF1Y1mUOIZqM6Eey8S9WbnVukT0pA99egv0jBhc1z2PL64uCDRgQzOzCw6pNM24u3NWV4z12x08WfS234aABdFIAQ2Z3P3Xy6K.zxE8oVjYhPK3XrLhspSSvzD02NZauITDXXGdXNkUvYmJ3u4w487V1VL1DfRaj7uID_cjX0hkhGzdFed8koXUKGZmM9MlId-aUqkGalaOzoH1SI.ujat8XlNI0agdnKh2546xnyE40yurP-4D9QIDBF-OU&amp;di=tag=se&amp;keywords=sewing%2Bkit&amp;qid=1737053366&amp;prefix=sewing%2Bkit%2Caps%2C114&amp;sr=8-22-spons&amp;sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmF1ZT1zCF9tdGY&amp;th=1">https://www.amazon.com/Military-Survival-Buttons-Closure-Durable/dp/B0CP483GXT/ref=sr_1_22_sspa?crid=ER5ZZQ8WN8X&amp;di=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.9pdCI_eMuQGjgbx9tZdXkXS71Ak_DwERKkYw8srbyvG-etzITjvWMjVMYSeWwCEQusnd67vF1Y1mUOIZqM6Eey8S9WbnVukT0pA99egv0jBhc1z2PL64uCDRgQzOzCw6pNM24u3NWV4z12x08WfS234aABdFIAQ2Z3P3Xy6K.zxE8oVjYhPK3XrLhspSSvzD02NZauITDXXGdXNkUvYmJ3u4w487V1VL1DfRaj7uID_cjX0hkhGzdFed8koXUKGZmM9MlId-aUqkGalaOzoH1SI.ujat8XlNI0agdnKh2546xnyE40yurP-4D9QIDBF-OU&amp;di=tag=se&amp;keywords=sewing%2Bkit&amp;qid=1737053366&amp;prefix=sewing%2Bkit%2Caps%2C114&amp;sr=8-22-spons&amp;sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmF1ZT1zCF9tdGY&amp;th=1</a>	0

# Let's Get Technical (Services)



REALIA  
**Cornhole yard game**  
GoSports  
Available at Ferris Library Checkout Desk (LOT CRAFT / LEISURE CORNHOLE) >

TOP  
SEND TO  
GET IT  
LINKS  
MORE INFO  
VIRTUAL BROWSE

Send to

QR MENDELEY EXPORT RIS EASYBIB CITATION PERMALINK PRINT

Get It

Please sign in to check if there are any request options. [Sign in](#)

[← BACK TO LOCATIONS](#)

LOCATION ITEMS

Ferris Library  
Available, Checkout Desk ; LOT CRAFT / LEISURE CORNHOLE  
(1 copy, 1 available, 0 requests)

Item in place Reserves -- 1 week  
Loanable

ELITE Library / LibGuides / Library of Things

## Library of Things


The library provides access to these popular but only occasionally used items. Request these items at the FLITE Checkout Desk on 1st floor. Users will be required to fill out a waiver prior to taking advantage of this collection.

Name/Keyword Search Category Search

27 Assets


All A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z #

**A**

 **Air Fryer** [or](#)

Contains: 1 air fryer, 1 air fryer basket, 1 air fryer basket rack, and 1 instruction manual.

Additional Info


 **Allen Wrench Kit** [or](#)

Alt Names: Hex keys

A kit containing 15 long arm wrenches in inches and 15 short arm wrenches in millimeters.

Additional Info

**B**

 **Baking Sheet (18 in. x 13 in.)** [or](#)

Alt Names: baking sheet, cookie sheet, sheet pan

# Do You Want the LoT Tour?

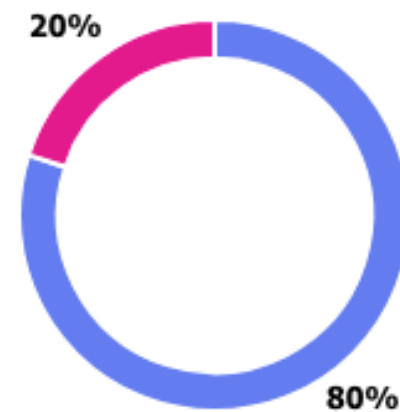


# Continued...

1. Scenario #1: A patron is looking for an air fryer. In the first step to retrieving the air fryer, which option would you prefer.

[More details](#)

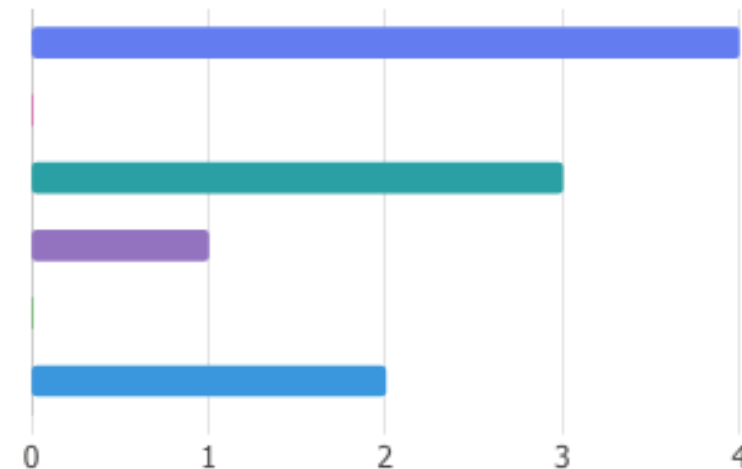
- The Library of Things is sorted into four overarching categories: Tools and Auto, Kitchen and Household, ... 8
- All items are contained within a single range. You go to where the air fryer is located. 2



2. Scenario #1 Continued: In the second step to retrieving the air fryer, which option would you prefer.

[More details](#)

- Once to Kitchen and Household, finding Air Fryer under "A" (items sorted alphabetically) 4
- Once to Kitchen and Household, finding the item by KITCHEN-3 (items sorted by call number) 0
- Once to Kitchen and Household, finding the item by sight (items generally located in... 3
- Once to single range, finding Air Fryer under "A" (items sorted alphabetically) 1
- Once to single range, finding the item by LOT-3 (items sorted by call number) 0
- Once to single range, finding the item by sight 2



## FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

FLITE LIBRARY

### Library of Things Agreement Form and Waiver

FLITE Library makes available nontraditional materials, which includes equipment, kitchen appliances, tools, devices, etc.

#### Eligible Borrowers

The Library of Things (LoT) is limited to current Ferris students, faculty and staff. The patron account must be in good standing.

I, THE BORROWER, DO HEREBY AGREE TO THE CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS OF THIS DOCUMENT, AS OUTLINED BELOW. I AGREE TO THESE CONDITIONS FREELY AND DO HEREBY PROMISE TO FULFILL THEM TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITIES.

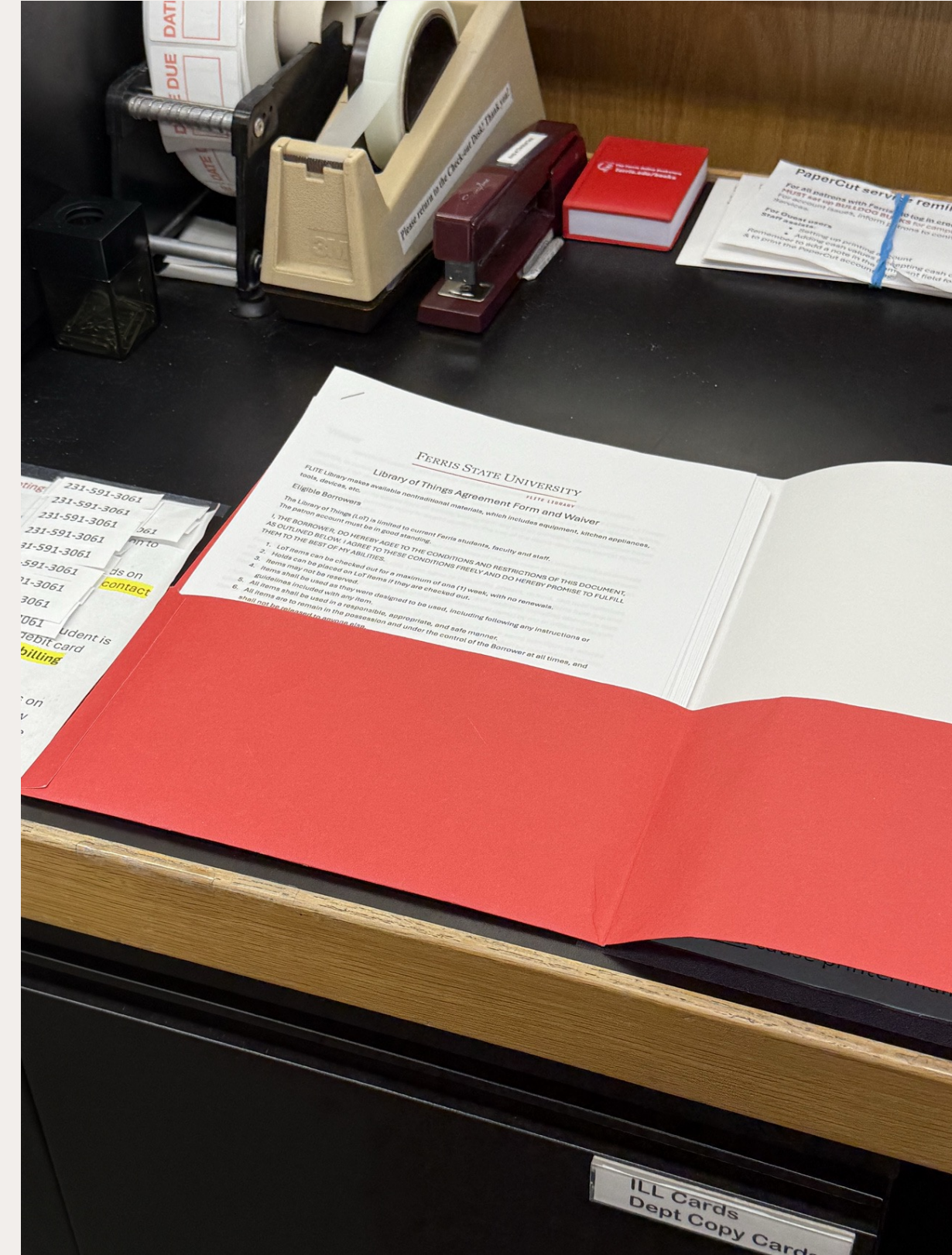
1. LoT items can be checked out for a maximum of one (1) week, with no renewals.
2. Holds can be placed on LoT items if they are checked out.
3. Items may not be reserved.
4. Items shall be used as they were designed to be used, including following any instructions or guidelines included with any item.
5. All items shall be used in a responsible, appropriate, and safe manner.
6. All items are to remain in the possession and under the control of the Borrower at all times, and shall not be released to anyone else.
7. Borrower shall ensure that the Equipment is secure against loss, damage and theft.
8. Return all LoT items to the check-out desk at the agreed upon time. Do not place items in the book return.
9. Return the items with all parts and components, including any storage container the item was in (if applicable).
10. Clean all items before returning, if applicable. Patrons returning items that need to be cleaned will be assessed a \$15 cleaning fee.
11. Staff will inspect items upon return. If any parts are stolen, lost, damaged beyond normal wear and tear, or otherwise rendered unusable, charges will be assessed to the Borrower.
12. Patrons are responsible for the full cost of the item if it is not returned within 48 hours of due date.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

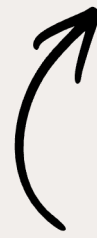
Library Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Training





# Marketing



**To  
The Torch  
Article**

**Leg 1 – First Floor: Academic Literacies Center and Information Commons**

**Find the copiers/printers in FLITE. Read and understand the FSU Print Anywhere sign.**

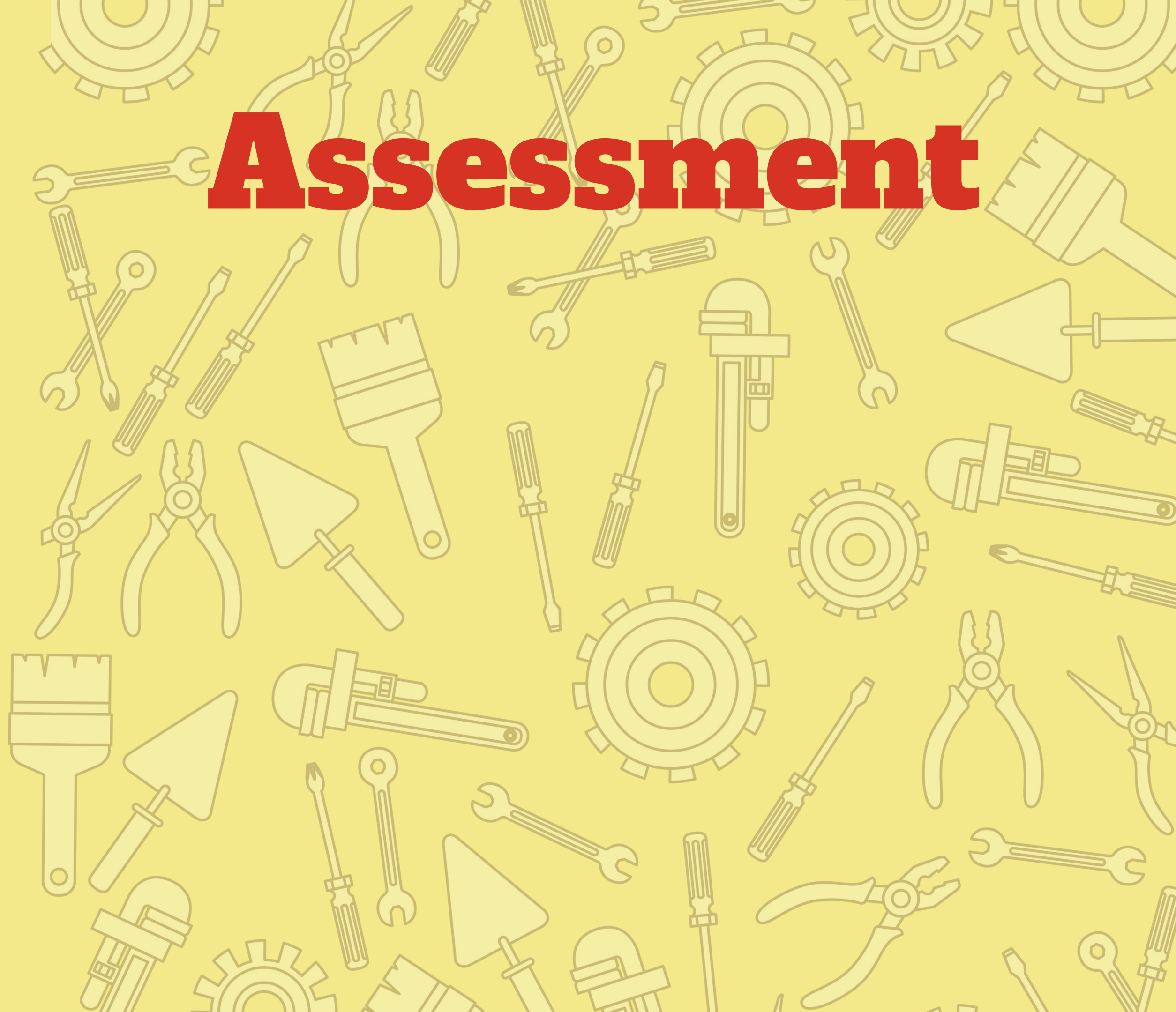
How do you add funds to your printing account?

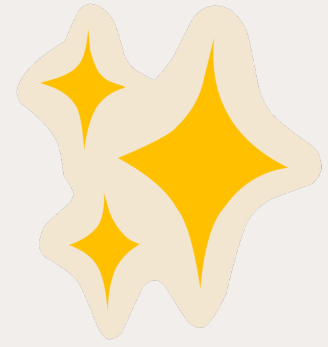
**Visit the Checkout Desk. Talk to the person at the desk.**

What is the Library of Things? How do you borrow one of these items?

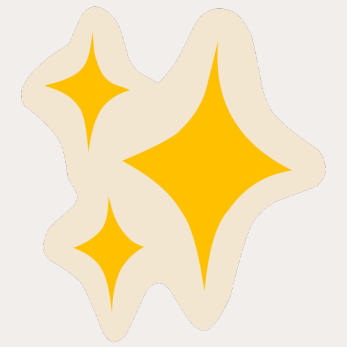


# Assessment

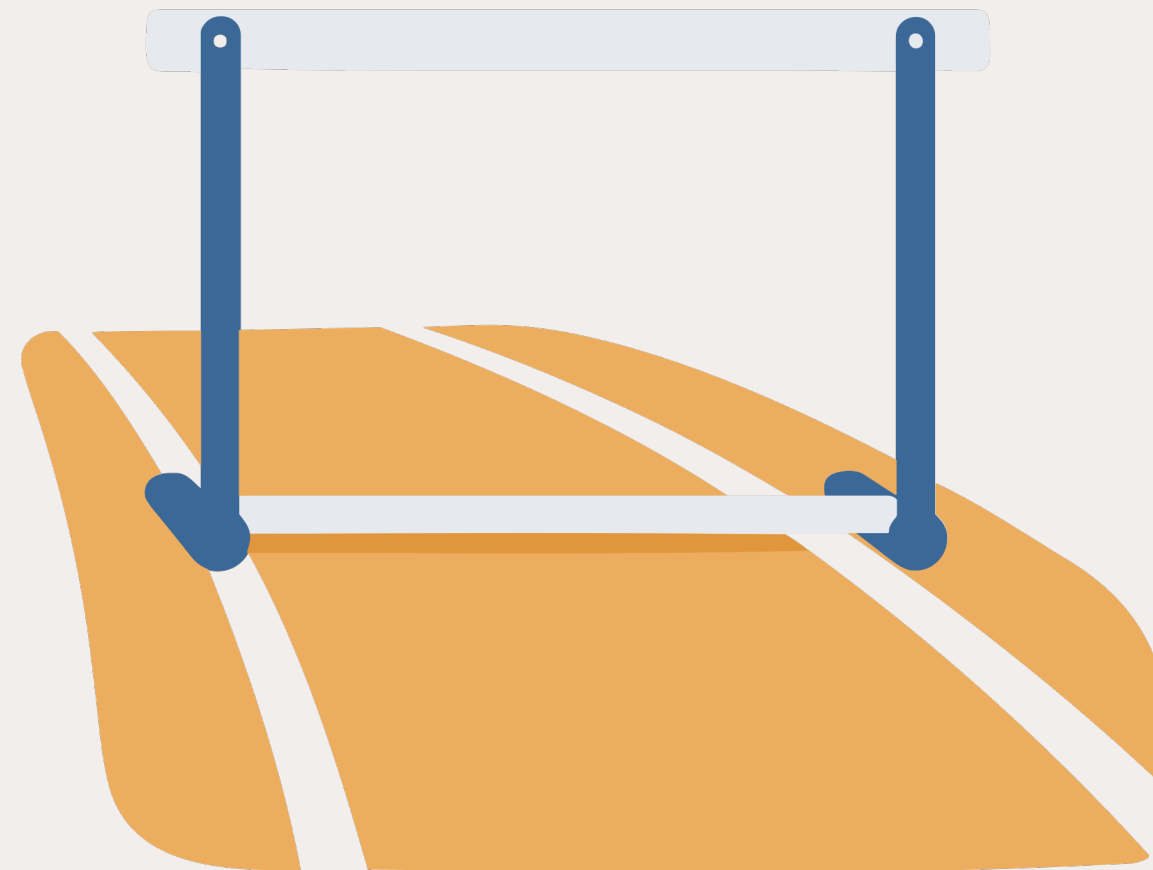




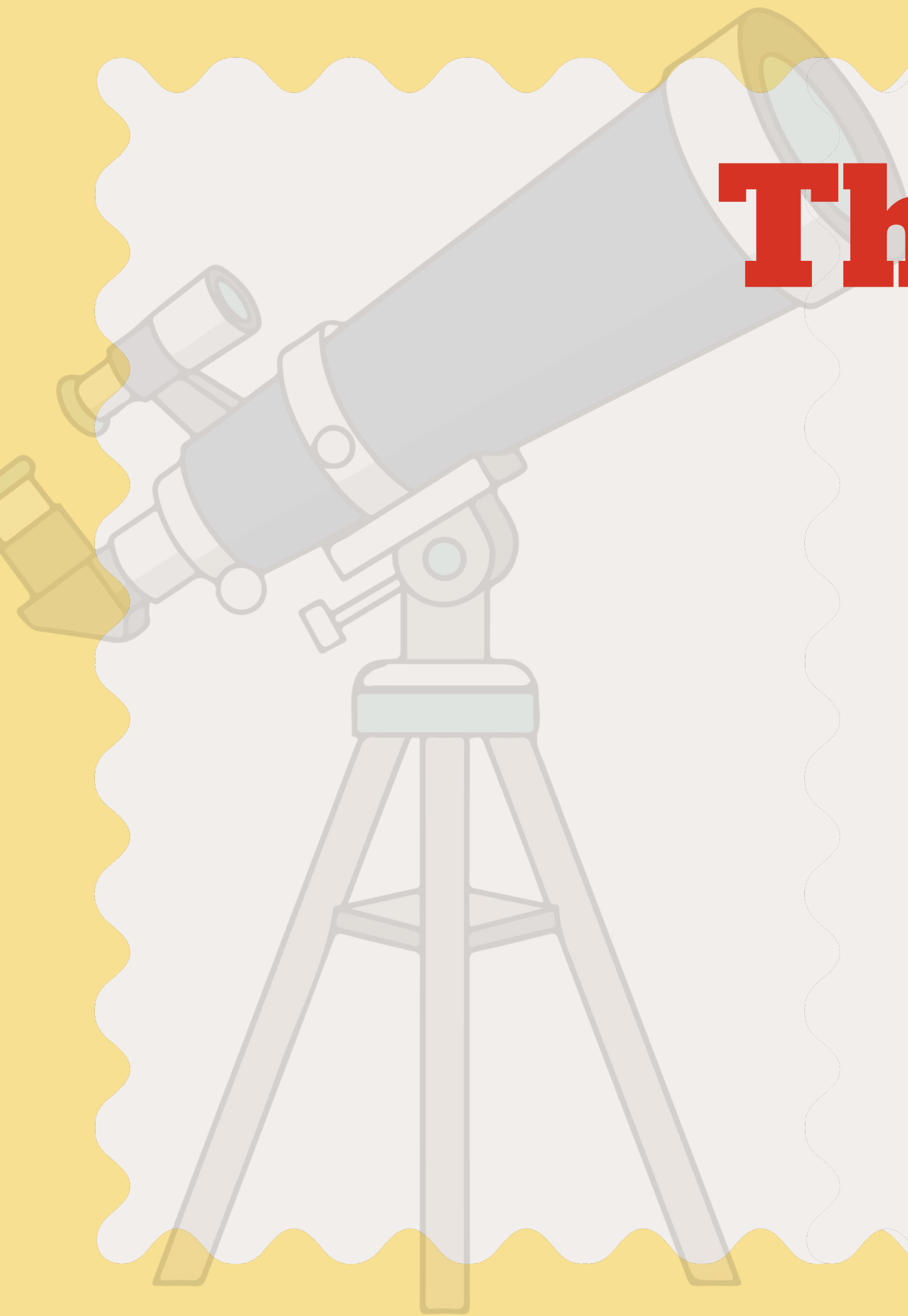
# Hiccups and Hurdles



- Time Delays
- Flat Budgeting
- Underuse
- Change In First-Year Programming



# The Future



# References

- Hales, L.J. & Reed-Jones, M. (2026, March 30). *Food security in the U.S. - Key statistics & graphics*. USDA Economic Research Service. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/key-statistics-graphics>
- Loofbourrow, B.M. & Scherr, R.E. (2023). Food insecurity in higher education: A contemporary review of impacts and explorations of solutions. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(10). doi: [10.3390/ijerph20105884](https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20105884).
- McCarthy, J. (2019, May 8). *The 'library of things' want to end wasteful spending*. Global Citizen. <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/library-of-things-borrowing-uk/>
- The Peoples Hub. *The library of things*. <https://thepeopleshub.org/library-of-things/>

# Q&A

