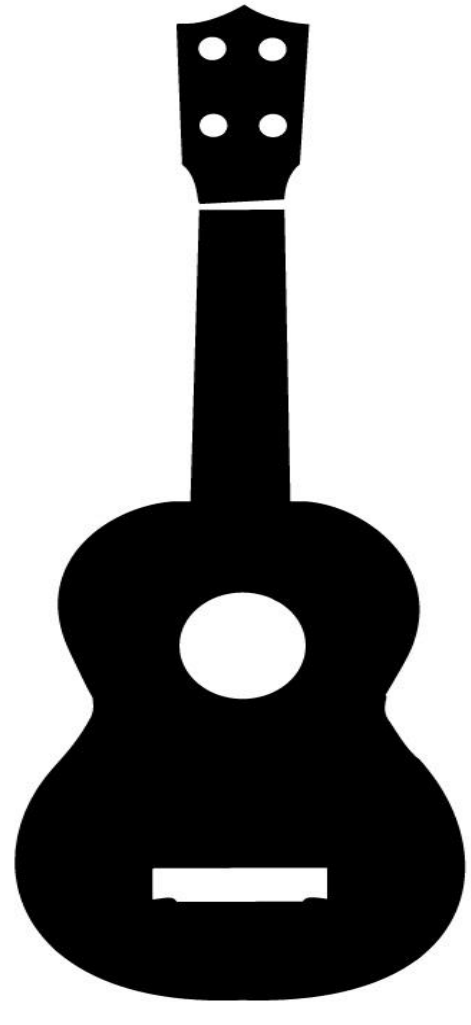


Surprise, Delight, Inspire:

Circulating Unusual Items in a Small Public Library

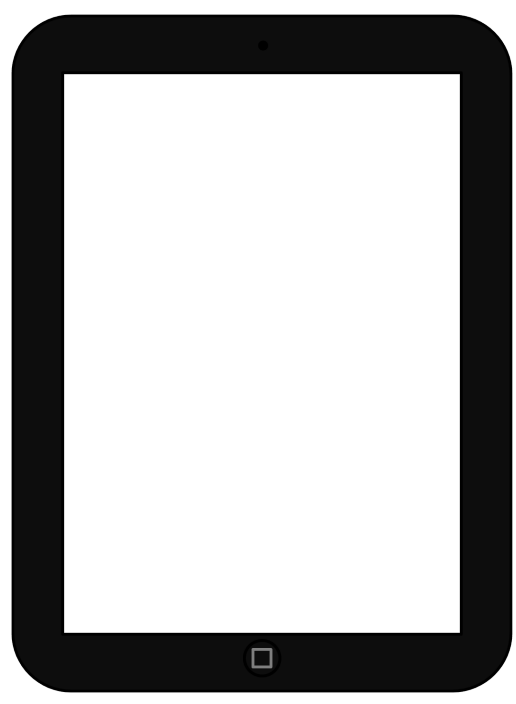
Alex Lent, Senior Librarian, Medfield Library, alent@minlib.net



Ukulele - \$60 - Circulation: 18X avg

Why: Supports life-long learning

Impact: Revamp of music collection around popular ukes - more sheet music, consolidated area, purchase of guitars



iPad Mini - \$300 - Circulation: 28X avg

Why: Allows on-demand purchase of econtent for waiting patrons

Impact: Shorter wait times for e-content.



Soil Tester - \$15 - Circulation: 10X avg

Why: Supports existing seed library project

Impact: "Could I borrow a post-hole digger?"



Board Games - \$5-45 - Circulation: 18X avg

Why: Promotes social interaction

Impact: Collection that appeals to wide age range, board game parties



Metal Detector- \$60 - Circulation: 9X avg

Why: Promotes community exploration

Impact: Requests for community maps, GPS, telescopes, and other "explorer gear"

Quick Start Guide

Selection: Wing it. Pick something affordable that inspires YOU. Say yes to staff when they have ideas. Say yes to public when they ask for more.

Marketing: Social media, newspapers, prominent location in library.

Assessing success: Compare circulation counts to library's turnover rate. Train staff to ask for and write down feedback when patrons return items.