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.

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

Recently featured in American Libraries
- Canning equipment South Sioux City (Neb.) Public Library (AL, Nov./Dec. 2016, p. 18)
- Musical instruments Parkdale branch of the Toronto Public Library (AL, June 2016, p. 6)
- Bicycles Stark County District Library in Canton, Ohio (The Scoop, Sept. 8, 2016)