

how to set up a lending library/ borrow shop



what is a
lending library?

why set up
a library?

planning
a lending library

useful links

case study

contents

what is a lending library? 0

why set up a library? 0

planning a lending library 0

useful links 0

case study 0



what is a
lending library?

why set up
a library?

planning
a lending library

useful links

case study

What is a lending library?

Book lending has been a recognised form of lending since the Public Libraries act 1850 gave boroughs the power to establish free public libraries. Scotland has 541 libraries and 82 mobile libraries with around 30 million visitors per year (As at 2011 - Source; <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Tourism-Culture-Sports/TrendPublicLibraries>).



There's now a growing trend of lending libraries around the world that lend other items such as;

- DIY Tools
- Garden tools such as lawnmowers, hedgetrimmers etc
- Bike maintenance tools, books, accessories
- Tents
- Suitcases
- Board games
- Skills
- And much more ...

what is a
lending library?

why set up
a library?

planning
a lending library

useful links

case study

Why set up a library?

Many households have a range of items that are rarely used. For example the average electric drill is used for 13 minutes in its entire lifetime (Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/17/berlin-borrowing-shop-benefits-share-leila>), or think about suitcases – how many do you have in your house, how much space do they take up, and how often do you use them?



Do we really need to own these things, or would it be better to borrow them when we need them?

- It saves space in your home by just borrowing when you need things.
- It saves money.
- It saves resources by reducing the amount of items needed.
- It can help bring a community together.

what is a
lending library?

why set up
a library?

planning
a lending library

useful links

case study

Planning a lending library

How?

- Do you want to involve members of the local community, a closed group such as staff, or everyone?

Where?

- Depends very much on the “Who” above. If it’s available to everyone, then the local library is the best location as it’s an already established place for borrowing, but there may be issues in terms of storage space depending on how you run the system.



what is a
lending library?

why set up
a library?

planning
a lending library

useful links

case study

It could be in an office, a high street shop, a village hall or anywhere that the community can access it. Alternately the system could be run online, where there isn't a central store of items, but they are advertised online and collected from wherever the items are stored.

How?

- It's worth looking at the examples in the "Useful links" section at the end of this guide to see how existing libraries are working as they vary considerably, but the following briefly describes their approaches;
- Leila, Berlin – This is run as a community shop, manned by volunteers, with the only costs being the premises (voluntary donations are suggested). People can join by bringing one item to the shop. It is built on trust and people agree how long they need to borrow something and when they'll bring it back.
- Ecomodo, London – This is all run online. You retain ownership of your items, but decide who you're happy to lend your items to (friends only, people in your lending circles or everyone). You can buy insurance and Ecomodo will sort out disputes. You have the option to specify if you want to charge;
 - a fee that goes to you,
 - a security deposit
 - a donation to charity,
 - or nothing ... it's free.
- Berkeley, USA – This is a tool library which is part of the general community lending library. All tools are owned by the library and to borrow items you have to be over 18 and show proof of residence or property ownership.

what is a
lending library?

why set up
a library?

planning
a lending library

useful links

case study

Useful links

- www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/17/berlin-borrowing-shop-benefits-share-leila - article about "Leila" in Berlin (www.leila-berlin.de/ - all in German). There's a very good brief interview at; youtu.be/fX9Eru08zzw or a more in-depth interview at; <http://youtu.be/TIZpS3ijos4>.
- www.redpepper.org.uk/both-a-borrower-and-a-lender-be/ - Fairly old article, so it looks like some of the organisations mentioned may not still be in existence, but still some interesting ideas.
- www.ecomodo.com/ - a good example in London.
- www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/locations/tool-lending-library - A tool lending library in the USA. You can see their rules of membership at;

www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/locations/tool-lending-library/tool-lending-library-how-use-it

- www.edinburghtoolibrary.org.uk/ - A great little initiative in Edinburgh.



what is a
lending library?

why set up
a library?

planning
a lending library

useful links

case study

Case Study – Edinburgh Tool Library (ETL)

www.edinburghtoollibrary.org.uk

The Edinburgh Tool Library has proven that you don't need much space to set up a Tool Library. It runs a web-based service and uses an old Tardis-style Police Box on Leith Walk as the pick up and drop off point for tools.

People become members by showing photo ID, proof of address and a donation for annual membership (whatever they think is fair and can afford).

Once they've joined, members get access via the website, to the tool inventory.

They reserve tools online, then pick them up the following Saturday, borrow them for a week, and return them the following Saturday.

Future plans include developing the service further to provide training in how to use the tools properly. The ETL is also keen to get more tool libraries across the country and is offering advice to others wishing to set up similar projects.



In just 7 weeks from opening, the ETL had signed up 56 members, who borrowed almost 200 tools. This saves people the expense of buying tools

what is a
lending library?

why set up
a library?

planning
a lending library

useful links

case study

for one-off jobs, allows those who can't afford tools access to what they need, and reduces the environmental impact of everyone owning tools that they rarely use.



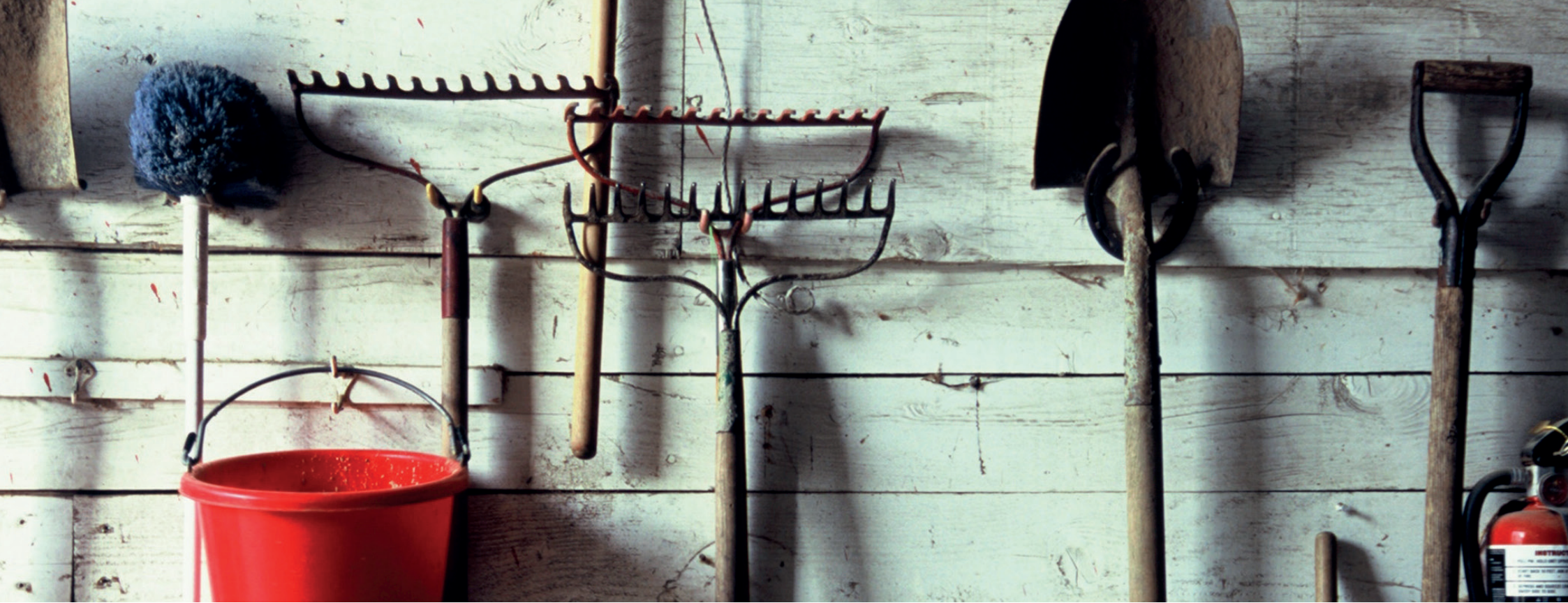
what is a
lending library?

why set up
a library?

planning
a lending library

useful links

case study



passitonweek.com

[#passitonweek](https://twitter.com/passitonweek)



what is a
lending library?

why set up
a library?

planning
a lending library

useful links

case study