

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SPL introducing loanable technology

Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) patrons can now borrow several types of educational and interactive technology as part of the organization's focus on introducing more STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) offerings.

SPL patrons can place holds on Fisher Price Code-a-Pillar, Makey Makey and Osmo kits. The kits can be checked out for three weeks at a time.

These items were purchased using funds from the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award (\$10,000 US), awarded to SPL in 2017 by the American Library Association. The award was given to SPL in recognition of the organization's Better Than Ever promotional campaign.

"We're thrilled to start loaning technology in addition to our robust collection of printed materials, DVDs, video games and digital media," said Beth Cote, SPL's Director of Public Service. "Libraries around the world are increasingly investing in both loanable and in-branch technologies to help build digital literacy levels in their communities. It's exciting to start offering this service within Saskatoon."

These educational forms of technology are designed to help people develop skills in problem solving, coding, sequencing and creativity. Code-a-Pillars are most suitable for toddlers and young children, Osmo projects are intended for kids aged 6 to 12, and Makey Makey projects can range from easy to advanced, making it suitable for all ages.

Holdings can be placed on these items using SPL's online catalogue and searching for the individual product names or "Saskatoon STEAM".

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Media Release

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