



DGES Library of Things Project

Project Team / T&L Working Group

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Project Background / Aims

Background

- DGES
 - Fieldwork as core requirement of all degree programmes
- Barriers to participation
 - “...you have to have waterproof shoes, waterproof pants, waterproof coat...I was really hoping that one would be a little more accessible. Yeh I just can't afford, I can't. There's just no way.”
(participant quoted in Beardmore 2024)

Aims

- to promote accessibility, inclusivity, and sustainability within the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences by developing a ‘library of things’ for student borrowing and use.
 - Offering loanable and secondhand useable resources
 - Repair Cafes

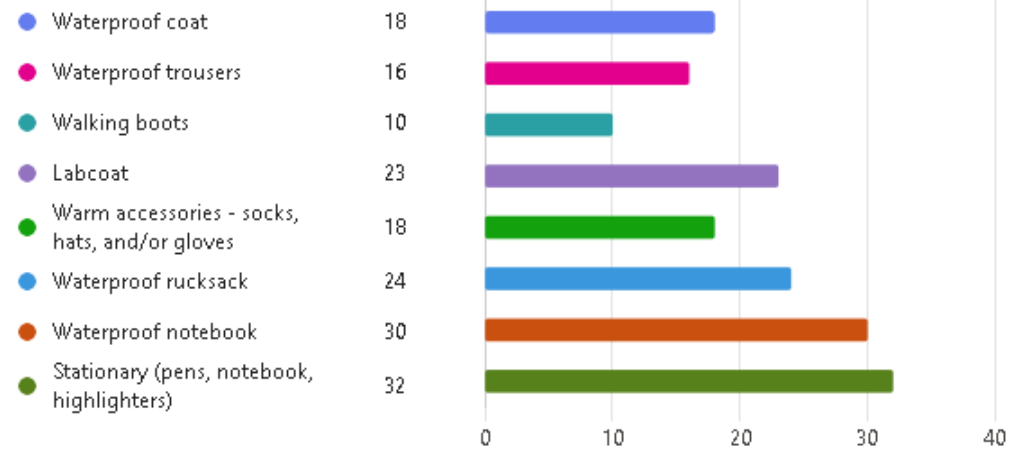
Stage One: The Survey

- Sent to all DGES students (UG and PGT)
 - Sense checking
 - Identifying additional equipment barriers to engagement
- Positive response – students in favour of the LoT *and* Repair Cafes
- Nearly 1/3 respondents reported struggling with equipment/clothing costs

Stage One: The Survey

- We also asked what we should have in the library
 - Fleeces
 - Hats and gloves
 - Power banks
 - Lunchboxes
 - Fidget toys
- Students recognised other needs:
 - Discretion when borrowing
 - Guidance on cleaning
 - Guidance on what and where to buy even when they could afford clothing/equipment

16. Which of these might you want to borrow from the Library of Things? Please choose as many as relevant [More details](#)



Stage Two: Acquire Stuff

- First attempt:
 - University Residence Life team
 - Redirecting items left behind at end of term from landfill
 - Mixed bag (literally): majority of items received were dirty, damaged or unsuitable.
 - Time cost of sifting, cleaning, and disposal
- Second attempt:
 - 2x notices in the staff Weekly Bulletin
 - Better quality items received
 - Limitation: B-floor office no longer available as a collection point

Step Two: Acquire Stuff

- Third attempt:
 - Yr Undeb will redirect items to us from The Big Sale (but we won't receive items until summer 2026)
- Fourth attempt:
 - Shopping list drafted and circulated within team for comments
 - Suppliers: Charlie's, Amazon, Regatta & Alpkit
 - Ethics, time costs, and setting up registered suppliers
 - Orders to be placed on 9th March
- Clothes rail and hangers
 - Donated from MedRus Conference team
 - Grateful for support from other (unexpected!) departments

Step Three: Profit Opening the Library

- Secure *and* discreet storage space a limiting factor
- Labelling system needed to manage loans and returns
- Students will complete LoT Item Loan Agreement
 - Clarifies expectations to reduce pressure on staff and reduce anxiety/uncertainty for the borrower
 - Terms of loan e.g. length of loan, returning items in clean condition, reporting any repairs needed
- DGES Field Trips scheduled for w/c 23rd March
- Staff to circulate a PP slide to insert into lectures across 2nd year modules in March to raise awareness of the LoT

Step Four: Ongoing maintenance

- Budget included purchase of re-waterproofing solution for ongoing kit care
- Repair cafés
 - First event to be hosted by Emma Sheppard on 13th March – opportunity for students to learn basic clothing and kit repairs