



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

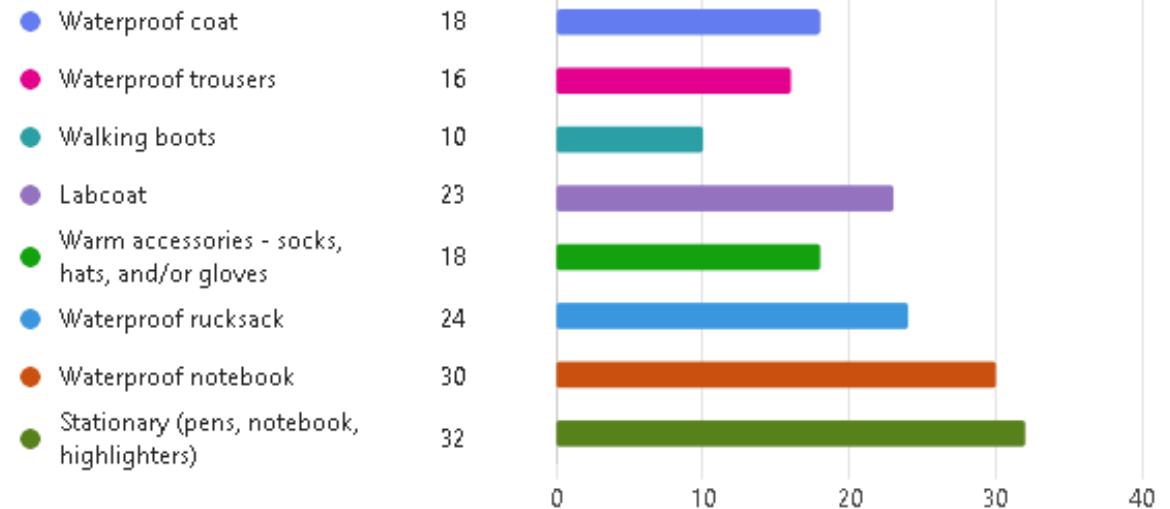
- Sent to all DGES students (UG and PGT)
 - Sense checking
 - Identifying additional equipment barriers to engagement
- Positive response – students in favour of the LoT *and* Repair Cafes
- Nearly 1/3 respondents reported struggling with equipment/clothing costs

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 detail](#)



Stage Two: Acquire Stuff

- Donations
 - University Residence Life team - redirecting items left behind at end of term from landfill
 - 2x notices in the staff Weekly Bulletin
 - Grateful for support from other (unexpected!) departments
 - Limitation: B-floor office no longer available as a collection point
- Purchases
 - Ethics, time costs, and setting up registered suppliers
 - Orders to be placed on 9th March
- Storage and organisation
 - Clothes rail and hangers donated from MedRus Conference team
 - Secure *and* discreet storage space a limiting factor
 - Labelling system needed to manage loans and returns

Step Three: Profit Opening the Library

- DGES Field Trips scheduled for w/c 23rd March 2026 – needed to open before then
- Students fill out self-referral form
 - Includes borrowing agreement – student responsibilities
 - Terms of loan e.g. length of loan, returning items in clean condition, reporting any repairs needed
- Lecture announcements and emails – and posters in Llandinam

Step Four: Reuse, Recycle

- Budget included purchase of re-waterproofing solution for ongoing kit care
- Repair cafés
 - Opportunity for students/staff to learn basic clothing and kit repairs
 - Last Friday of the month during term time (March – July); restarting October 2026

Step Five: Ongoing

- Notices during induction weeks and regularly throughout semesters
 - Reduce/remove stigma of 'borrowing'
- Repair cafés – last Friday of every month, starting October
- Donations sought at regular intervals

Reflections

- Regular borrowing from students
 - Waterproof trousers
- Start-up cost – and staff time
- Non fieldtrip 'stuff'
 - Undeb Aber
- Other departments?
 - 'costs' for students
 - Equipment/kit list for new students