

# Fix It

## Mending Workshop

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### NUTRITION INFORMATION

Using a dash of staff expertise and a pinch of borrowed supplies, this outreach recipe provides good sources of patron interaction and goodwill. Students are encouraged to bring in textile items that need mending, such as those missing buttons or with rips or tears. Staff with mending experience review the items and help fix them, explaining the techniques and providing training in order to empower students to fix items in the future. This recipe is especially tasty in the cooler months, as students are likely to already be wearing outerwear that could use some care and may drop in when seeing the setup.

### NUMBER SERVED

1–5 participants per helping staff member

### COOKING TIME

1–2 hours, some of it inactive while waiting for walk-ins

### DIETARY GUIDELINES

By providing tools and guidance to on-campus students who are unlikely to have easy access to the equipment or expertise needed to fix their clothing or textile items, you will encourage students to repair them rather

than throwing them away. The interactive process also offers a chance for library staff and students to interact in a fun way other than a traditional research appointment, potentially opening the door to scholarly interactions in the future.

### MAIN INGREDIENTS

- At least 2 staff members with sewing or needlework experience, plus more with or without experience to help greet students
- Sewing machine
- Variety of notions: pins, measuring tape, thread, needles, seam ripper, scissors, spare buttons, fabric scraps, zippers

### MAIN COOKING TECHNIQUE

Drop-in session, no RSVP required

### PREPARATION

- Gather materials needed. This recipe works well as a no- or low-cost option if you have staff with materials that can be brought in from home. Thrift stores are also a great place to obtain additional supplies at a low cost.
- Reserve space in a visible, non-quiet zone area. You might also wish to move

outside the library, for example, in your student union.

- Market your event through your library's channels, such as a library announcement email list, campus newsletter, residence hall partners, or campus sustainability groups.

### COOKING METHOD

1. Set up workspace, including sewing machines, notions, and other tools you have available. Include table signs that indicate the name of the workshop in case students are too shy to ask.
2. Assist students on a first-come, first-served basis to fix their items. Have students help when appropriate, such as having them thread the needle or finish sewing on a button.

### ALLERGY WARNING

You might receive complex or uncomfortable requests, such as tailoring a suit or mending undergarments. In these instances, be clear about your limitations! It helps to include in your marketing materials examples of things that can be fixed, such as ripped seams or missing buttons.

**CHEF'S NOTE**

Feel free to substitute any staff expertise that you have on hand. Small appliance repair, electronic repair, basic bicycle repair, or book repair would all work well here. Offering this activity on multiple consecutive days may encourage more participation, since students who see the ongoing workshop in person may return the next day with items they have at home that need repair.