Tabletop Game Nights:
Co-Curricular Engagement in Academic Libraries
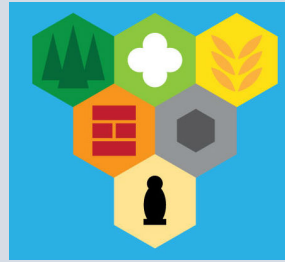
by Cari Lyle, MLIS, 2018

Objective

Do you have what it takes to host library game nights? As skilled librarians in a gamified world, you must engage students and encourage library interaction.

You and your colleagues will travel across campus to form partnerships, find ample space, and bring students together to play games in the library.
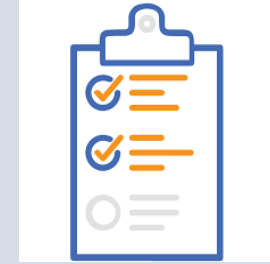
… did you bring enough snacks?

Rules

To develop your own library game night, you will need to start with an implementation plan.

This should include your library's goal, timeline of well-defined tasks, staff and location needs, budget, and game selections.

It is also important to reach out to potential campus collaborators like student clubs and residence life.

Don't forget to market on social media!

Assessment

After your library game night, you will want to start asking for feedback from both organizers and participants.

How did they hear about game night? Do you need to advertise more? Did they like the game selection? What could be improved upon? Are students likely to come again?

Did the organizers feel prepared? Was their adequate staff and space? Are they likely to help organize future events?