

What Should I Add to CKC's Community Collection?

and What Should I Write About My Contribution?

CKC's [Community Collection](#) is a free digital collection of knitting, crochet, and related arts – *made by you!* As makers, and family members of makers, we should be deciding what is important to preserve and share about these crafts. CKC's Community Collection puts that power in your hands!

CKC's Community Collection is *your museum!* When you take the initiative to record, preserve, and share what you have made and collected over the years in your own words, you honor yourself, and all makers past and present. By sharing your history, your stories, your creativity, your knowledge, your observations and perspectives, your experiences and insights, and your inspirations in CKC's Community Collection you will contribute to a more complete and inclusive history of these crafts.

Some ideas for what to add: Your humblest [first experiments](#) in knitting and crochet, your [first sweaters](#), those [antique doilies](#) rescued from a thrift shop, your grandmother's [prized afghan](#), your [one-of-a-kind works of art](#), [toys](#), [baby garments](#), [charitable](#) or [political](#) projects, [holiday](#) items, [ephemera](#), [tools](#), and [materials](#), etc. You decide!

Please know that what you add does not have to be perfect – it can be incomplete, damaged, faded, well-loved, and well-used and still tell an important and interesting story about who we are, our families, our community, and the history of these crafts.

Use CKC's Editable Worksheet to Gather Information About Each Item:

We have created **an editable worksheet** that you can download from the CKC Community Collection Support Page and use to gather all the information you will need about your items in one place before you add them to CKC's Community Collection. Download the template, save it, add your information to it, and use it to make the process of adding items to the Community Collection easier and faster.

What Should I Write About My Item(s)?

When you write about an item you are contributing to CKC's Community Collection, let yourself be guided by these two questions:

- What would I tell an interested friend about the item?
- What would I, as a fan of knitting/crochet, want to know about this item if I encountered it in a museum?

With this in mind, here are some related questions we hope will inspire your selections and item descriptions. Your entry can be just a few words, or as long as you want. Just do your best – your efforts to document and share these items will be greatly appreciated.

Who made the item (if you know)? Tell us about that person. When and where did they live? What is/was their life like? How are they related to you? Did they knit/crochet a lot? What did they do in life besides knit/crochet? What memories do you associate with them?

Was a particular pattern used to make the item (if you know)? Did the maker use a published pattern to create the item? (If you know the pattern, please share the source.) Was the maker able to knit/crochet items by copying a finished piece, or did they make their own original patterns and designs? Did the maker pass around patterns with family members and friends? Did the maker belong to any guilds, church groups, charitable associations, clubs, or other local, national, or international groups that focused on these crafts? If so, what were they?

Why is this item important or special to you? What about the item appeals to you? Was it a gift? Does it remind you of a specific time in history? Does it remind you of a fun knit/crochet fad? Does it bring back memories of your childhood or an important event in your life?

If you don't know who made the item, because its history has been forgotten or lost, or you rescued it from an estate sale, thrift store, antique shop or similar, what is it about the item that caused you to save it or choose it? Did it capture you with its beauty, the maker's technical skill, or its unusual construction? Was it a feature in your family's environment?

If you made the item yourself, did you use a pattern or design it yourself? Why did you make it? Why did it appeal to you? Was it a challenge to make, or did you find comfort in the process of making it? What memorable moments do you associate with the item? Do you use the item all the time or only on special occasions?

Whether you made the item yourself, or not, what do you know about the materials and techniques used to create the item? It is fine to say that you do not know or are not sure.

Closing Thoughts:

Many people who are familiar with knitting and crochet can add to what is known about items in CKC's Community Collection so don't worry if you don't know much about the items you are adding. We will soon make it possible for others to comment and share pertinent information that may not be included in the original entry. For example, someone may be able to identify the pattern that was used.

After your contribution appears in CKC's Community Collection, you will be able to edit it if you have set up a user account. It's never too late to add more details to your contribution. If you need to add more photos, delete or replace photos, or adjust photos contact us at collections@centerforknitandcrochet.org.