



(SanSone, 2021)

Seeding Up Winthrop:

Sowing community resilience and food security

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Executive Summary

Public libraries have been centers for community involvement and connection since the 19th century. These spaces provide valuable resources to their community members including internet, media, restrooms, and other social services (Connor, 2014). The nature of the public library makes it the perfect place to house seed libraries which provides another valuable community resource. Providing access to a wealth of seeds is a direct action supporting community resilience and food autonomy and security. It provides a way for people who may not be able to afford seeds to grow their own food and hopefully bring seeds back to the library. It also allows people to try gardening without a high upfront cost. This cycle promotes a strong community with a growing sense of place and knowledge of healthy food systems (Ingalls, 2017). These benefits can be achieved at the Winthrop Public Library by following the research and recommendations of this study.

This report investigates the feasibility of implementing a seed library at the Winthrop Public Library. The goal is to provide the library with preliminary research and planning that will assist them in beginning the project. We conducted interviews with primary and secondary stakeholders to gain an understanding of the needs and wants of the library and community. In addition, we researched different seed libraries around the country and benchmarked categories of pertinent information. These methods allowed us to determine the most cost-effective and appropriate route for the library to take in implementation. Our recommendations are based on the library's specific needs, resources, and visions. Our recommendations outline how the seed library should be initially put into place and then maintained.

Our recommendations cover storage and packaging, seed sourcing, maintenance, outreach methods, and event coordination. Each recommendation is discussed in detail in the corresponding sections of the report.

The project follows the central mission of the North Central Washington Libraries: "Connecting the people of North Central Washington to vital resources and opportunities that foster individual growth and strengthen communities" (NCW Libraries 2023). Seed libraries connect communities and individuals to fresh food and shared knowledge, strengthening and growing their resilience.



(Hammonton Now Has a Seed Library!, 2023)

Introduction

Seed libraries provide free seeds and information to people, and encourage communities to develop sustainable practices surrounding gardening and food sovereignty. In the Methow Valley, agriculture is a large part of the local economy, as well as a source of food. There have been several seed swaps hosted in the area, both by the Winthrop Library and other organizations like the Methow Seed Collective and Twisp Valley Grange with great success. This not only engages the library with the greater community but establishes the library as a focal point for sharing knowledge, encouraging autonomy of citizens as well as the development of a circular economy (Alty, 2021). Seed libraries also preserve and propagate heirloom and heritage seeds, which helps preserve local biodiversity (Alger et. al, 2014). Not to mention, being able to grow one's own food can help close the gap for some experiencing food insecurity, which is also common in the Methow Valley with almost half of students in the school district on free or reduced lunch programs. The Winthrop Public Library is looking to establish a seed library to allow the community to decrease dependency on large farming and imported produce. This project is designed to directly support the local community. The inclusion of a seed library in the Winthrop Public Library gives an opportunity for Methow Valley residents to procure supplies to start their own gardens, and with the potential of using community gardens in the area, a seed library is a valuable resource to implement in the public library where it is most available to those who wish to use it.

Seed libraries provide an avenue to educate communities about the importance of seeds and seed saving. Seed saving has been a staple of farming and agricultural practices for most of history. But over the past several decades this essential practice has been undermined, jeopardized, and capitalized upon by companies through seed patents, hybridization, and genetic engineering (Peschard, 2020). During the 1990s a "proprietary rights system that includes patents, private licensing contracts entered into upon the purchase of seeds, and the corporate surveillance of farmers to ensure enforcement of these contracts" infringed upon farmers' abilities to save and exchange seed as they always had (Peschard, 2020). The involvement of capital into this system has caused a decrease in crop biodiversity, a loss of farmers' rights, and a dramatic shift in our connection to our food. This is why saving seed and exchanging it among a community is such an important act because "whoever controls seeds controls the food supply" (Connor, 2015). Saving seed supports community resiliency and autonomy, farmers' rights, and ecosystem biodiversity and can be achieved through a seed library.

The first seed library was formed in the Berkeley Ecology Center in 2000, and the founders moved on to create more seed libraries at public libraries. The goal of the first seed library was to create a hub for leftover seed when the campus farm closed down (Connor, 2015). Seed libraries can take many shapes and serve different purposes based on the needs of the community. Seed saving is often incorporated into the library's operations because it is intrinsic to the mission behind community and ecosystem resiliency. Even if a library does not focus much energy into seed saving and education around the practice, the act of providing such a vital resource to community members facilitates the same principles and activism.

These principles are reflected in the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that were adopted by UN member states in 2015 as a blueprint for creating a more sustainable world by 2030. Out of the 17 goals, there are three that directly apply to this report; goal 2 (zero hunger), 11 (sustainable communities), and 15 (life on land). The looming threat of climate change is already making itself known in the Methow Valley, with rising temperatures affecting local agriculture and increasing risk of wildfires. A seed library can help address food insecurity within the community, encourage sustainable practices, and preserve biodiversity in the Methow Valley. With community participation, a seed library can help Methow residents adapt to the changing climate and create a reliable food source that will increase access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs.

The goal of this report is to research and evaluate the feasibility of creating a seed library in the Winthrop Public Library and determine a framework for administering a seed library, including budgeting, supplies, outreach, and programming to support and advertise the library to the community.



(Albert & Albert, 2021)

1. Methodology

1.1 Benchmarking

To form a thorough understanding of the aspects needed for a successful seed library, we used a benchmarking system to record and compare practices used by seed libraries across the country. The resulting benchmark will provide a template for Winthrop Library to guide the implementation of its own seed library. Looking at other successful models and finding patterns among them allows us to provide the library with the most helpful recommendations based on their location, resources, and desired scale. We organized our benchmarks into categories including the physical setup, maintenance practices, outreach methods, events and programming, and ways for tracking engagement.

1.2 Stakeholder identification

To cultivate long-lasting community engagement with this project, our team understood that it was essential to identify key stakeholders early on and build connections with them. The main sponsor of this project was librarian Ree West. Ree was a crucial contact for us to understand the scope and needs of this project, as well as the resources that Winthrop Library had in order to implement this project. She was also invaluable in connecting us to other NCW Libraries with seed libraries (Personal Communications July 14, 2023). Other individuals shared information on seed library formation and maintenance and were also invaluable resources to this project. Petra Page-Mann of Fruition Seeds has experience with getting seed libraries started by supporting them with donations, consulting, and hosting seed swaps and seed saving events. She has also created online courses for beginner gardeners and seed savers. Petra offered guidance regarding the cultural benefits of seed sharing and how it cultivates community building (Personal Communications July 12, 2023). With Anaka Mines of Methow Valley Seed Collective, we discussed logistics of seed donation and seed library programs, diving into successful methods and systems for seed sourcing (Personal Communications July 14, 2023).

1.3 Stakeholder interview procedure

Interviews were a valuable method of communication with the project stakeholders, as they gave us insight into the specific needs of the valley. With this location-specific lens, we can make recommendations that are specialized and appropriate based on the conversations with local community members. Interviews were conducted both in-person and over Zoom and held as guided conversations with questions curated to reflect the interviewee's expertise. We ensured that during meetings at least two group members were present. Our main sponsor, Ree West, was updated weekly on the progress of the project and presented avenues for deeper collaboration.



(Higgins, 2021)

2. Results

2.1 Benchmark Summary

A significant portion of our research was benchmarking different seed libraries and their models. We looked at six seed libraries and organized pertinent information into a table (Appendix 9.4). The categories include the physical box set up, quantity of seeds, organization, maintenance, sourcing, outreach methods, frequency of events, drop off / pick up methods, borrowing restrictions, and budget. Here are the following patterns that we found through this process.

Most of the seed libraries we benchmarked use old card catalogues that they had available to store their seeds. Although this is the most common choice, libraries like the Port Orchard Public Library simply use a small shelving unit (pictured below). The majority are all run by the library staff who oversee receiving, processing, cataloguing, and distributing the seeds, the exception being the MacDonald Campus Library which is run by a volunteer student. Another common practice is having a webpage filled with resources such as books, videos, and classes that support the library users. The Omaha Library and Pima County Library have excellent examples of what a highly informative and engaging website can look like. Some of the libraries did have regular events including seed swaps and seed saving workshops that help educate the public and stimulate interest and engagement in the seed library. There are, however, several that had no supplementary events or online resources and had a more off-hands approach.

The available seeds themselves were mostly vegetables, herbs, and flowers with amounts available varying from 60 to several hundred. About half of the libraries also had a limit of how many seed packets users could check out per month, but those that do not monitor the library did not impose a limit such as the Port Orchard Public Library. Lastly, all the example libraries received donations from local businesses and seed savers. Many had restrictions about the type

of seed that could be donated due to concerns around cross pollination and heirloom and organic restrictions. The most important patterns identified were the importance of online resources to educate and engage the community and reliance on donations.



(Seed Libraries, 2023)

2.2 Interview Summary

Interviewing Ree West, our primary sponsor at the Winthrop Library, we learned that a priority of the project was to explore methods for the organization and storage of seeds. Recommended actions in the form of a feasibility study and contact list were the preferred products of this project. We also learned that the library had hosted a seed swap that received significant community engagement.

Interviews were also conducted with two commercial and community-focused seed savers, Petra Page-Mann and Anaka Mines. They've found usage difficult to quantify, preferring to view growth in the community's sense of self and generosity as a marker of success. Community engagement is necessary to support the seed library and annual programming can stimulate interest with events like seed swaps and planting and seed saving workshops. Volunteers to maintain the seed library could be found among students, local seed savers, and the Master Gardener program; looking to participants of last year's seed swap event would also be a good start. Regarding the storage of seeds, a card catalog cabinet is often used, but not necessary. The interviewees recommended organizing the seeds alphabetically. Knowledge of seasons and which seeds are best should also be shared. Further documentation of this was found through Urban Farmers, a vast online resource that shows what should be grown in what regions and during which times of year. For example, in the month of August, Methow growers should plant cover crops, flowers, kale, lettuce, peas, radishes, and spinach (What to Plant Now, n.d.). Access to this document is listed under References.

2.3 Other Research

Storage Options

A storage solution for the seeds that is user friendly for both the patrons and library staff is vital to an effective seed library. Outlined below are multiple options at different price points.

The best and most cost-effective option would be via donation. We suggest the library release a public notice and contact different organizations, including other libraries, to see if someone is willing to build or donate one of the following options. For the purpose of the rest of this report, this will be referred to as Option A, donation.

A second option, Option B, is to purchase a small parts holder cabinet. These are cabinets with thin drawers that can fit most coin packets. The one that could be purchased would depend on costs, coin pouch size, and the number of drawers needed. This would likely be made of plastic or metal and would run the library between \$40-300 depending on size and material. Many of these options are modular and will need multiple cabinets that can be stacked together or more can be purchased as the seed library grows. This also allows for greater adaptability for growth of the seed library.

Option C is for the library to purchase a set of wooden drawers that have short drawers, around 3-4 inches, and then add wooden dividers within the cabinet to make different rows that the seeds could sit in. This type of cabinet is readily available second hand and finding an affordable or free option could be an inexpensive choice but would require a larger amount of labor either by library staff or volunteers.



(Seed Library – ChillicoThe Public Library, n.d.)

Seed Packaging

The first option found and the one used by most seed libraries is coin envelopes or other small envelopes. These are easy to write on, durable and relatively inexpensive. These are often the choice also because their dimensions can fit into the card catalogs that many older libraries have at their disposal. For the Winthrop Public Library, this added benefit does not exist and there could be a level of difficulty finding a cabinet that specifically fits with these dimensions. Another option is to use plastic bags. While this option is less common it is inexpensive and would make storage easier, as there would be no specific size requirement for cabinets. Writing on these bags to tag them as a specific seed may be moderately difficult



(Amazon, N.d.)

3. Recommendations

The recommendations are designed to directly increase accessibility to seeds and foster community. We have compiled recommendations regarding programming and advertising that can disseminate information about the seed library, how to organize the seeds in a user-friendly system, and materials that can be purchased for ease of use as well as aesthetic purposes.

3.1 Programming Recommendation

As Petra Page-Mann informed us, lack of community involvement is the most common cause of a seed library failing (Personal Communications July 12, 2023). Because of this, continuous programming is essential for this program's success. We recommend holding a minimum of two annual events: a seed swap and a seed saving workshop. The seed swap should be held in February before gardeners begin planting in early spring. Past programming for the seed swap has been successful and should continue as such. The seed saving workshop should be held in fall (no earlier than late August). Partnering with Master Gardeners and local seed collectives for program support would be a good idea (see appendix 9.5 for contact list). By creating community partners, the project pushes forward the 11th goal of the UN, making cities and communities sustainable.

To support the Methow community in gardening and local food production, seed programming could continue throughout the year. However, the Winthrop Public Library doesn't need to be the host of such events. Instead, we recommend the seed library act as a center for information with a bulletin board for local gardening events and activities. Advertising for organizations that do horticulture classes, such as the Master Gardeners, Classroom in Bloom, or local seed collectives, both outsources the event programming work and builds a gardening community. Other resources can be posted on the board, such as a list of relevant online resources and databases or directions to Winthrop's gardening section of physical books like the resource discussed earlier, linked in Resources. This is tied directly to the education goal of the UN Sustainability Goals.



(J. Porter)

3.2 Organization Recommendation

Seeds should be organized in the most user-friendly way possible, which we determined is alphabetically within the broad categorizations of these seed types: ‘flowers’, ‘fruits/vegetables’, and ‘herbs’. By doing this the direction of consumption can be altered and the importance of using homegrown goods will increase with increased use of the seed library. This connects to the 12th UN Sustainability Goal, Responsible Consumption and Production which is “ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, which is key to sustain the livelihoods of current and future generations” (Martin, n.d.). Information about what time of year to grow the plants is essential to the patron’s gardening success and so we recommend providing a poster next to the seed library depicting common seeds and what seasons to plant them in. Having a flyer of that same information that patrons could take with them would also be helpful.

3.3 Storage Recommendation

Our top recommendation for storage is to reach out to the community in search of donations. If this is not achievable or if this is attempted and does not yield results in enough time the best option for ease and cost is to purchase a small parts cabinet that fits the selected envelop size. With this option, a modular cabinet is best due to its expandability.

3.4 Envelope Recommendation

Based on time and cost constraints, the best choice for seed packets are coin envelopes. These packets are inexpensive, require little effort to use, and are a reasonable size for seeds. Providing these, as well as markers, allows library patrons to package and label seeds themselves, decreasing the time and resources the library must put toward the project. While plastic bags are made of an unsustainable material, they are significantly more affordable (one fifth the price) than the coin envelopes and fit in a wider variety of seed cabinet drawers. These two options are very similar in costs and benefits. We believe the cabinet should be bought first in order to determine the size of the envelopes.

4. Project Timeline

This year: look for maintenance volunteers and donations for seeds and a cabinet as soon as possible. If no cabinet is donated by this winter, purchase one within desired budget. The volunteer, depending on how much time they need to organize the library, should begin sometime in winter to prepare for the February event.

September-October: hold the annual Seed Saving event. Organize the new seed library stock.

Winter: organize the current seed stock at least once during the off season.

February: hold the annual Spring Swap event. Organize new seed library stock.

Summer: promote local seed and gardening programming.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to be truly successful, a seed library should be utilized by the community. Even if just a few people end up being regular users, the seed library is making a difference. In addition, if programming is attended by residents, this can be a marker of success. These events are also an

excellent opportunity to advertise the seed library, in case any attendees don't know about it. Ideally, and this is a measure of success that might take a considerable amount of time, the seed library will receive seeds saved by library users. Not necessarily exclusively, the seed library should still rely on donations to create an inventory. Coming full circle and being able to redistribute seeds, possibly even becoming heirloom seeds, is a sign of a successful seed library.

Intensive supervision and tracking are not necessarily needed to monitor the success of the seed library, but keeping an eye on inventory can be a good indicator of how much the seed library is being used. If resources allow, inventory and usage could even be tracked by a spreadsheet to ensure accuracy. Another indicator could be observing if there are any "regulars" utilizing the seed library and if (and how many) seeds are brought in from people who have used the library in the past.



(J. Porter)

6. Budget

This report is operating under the understanding that there is a maximum of \$400 available and it will be focused on using this as minimally as possible but will still use it as the upper limit.

6.1 Programming

There are primarily four things from our research that have been presented as necessary for seed libraries. Our interview with Petra gave us the first one, essential programming. Specifically, the necessity for the library to host two events per year. The first is a seed swap. In the case of the Winthrop Public Library, this has already occurred. The second event would be a seed-saving workshop. These events would require staffing and would likely take around 3 hours (Pierce Conservation District n.d). For the Winthrop Public Library, there has been a clear community desire to be involved so a large part of these events could be volunteer based, however, the library should have someone on staff to help support. The program budget will come directly from the library branch's programming budget. Additional options include grants or from the Friends of the Library.

6.2 Storage

The next cost is the seed cabinet which will be accessed by the library patrons. This is the most variable cost. Assuming that Option A (See Section 2.3) the next least expensive option, Option B, will likely cost slightly above the lower limit so for the purpose of budgeting we will assume \$60. If Option C is utilized the cost will be extremely varied and that should be addressed case by case because of the added necessary, labor.

For future development, the storage space can be expanded or replaced each following year if the need arises. If not, this money can either be utilized for other projects or for increased spending on information about the seed library to spread awareness.

Table a. Prices of different options and their estimated cost.

Option	Desc.	Cost
A	Donation	\$0
B	Small parts holder	\$40-300
C	Modification	Variable

6.3 Seed Packaging and Sorting

Again, the best option is to have all of the packing supplies and sorting done by volunteers but to plan for this not to happen below is the listed costs from the options found in research.

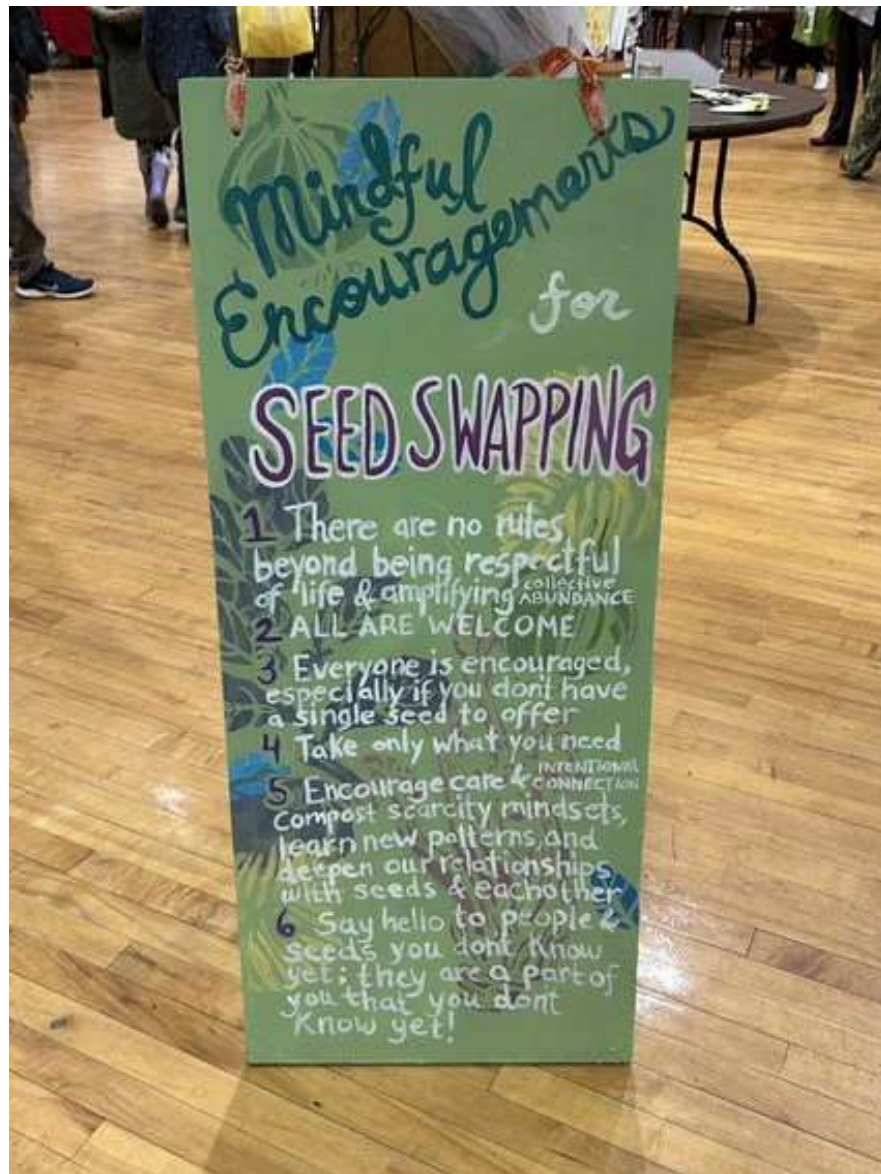
For packaging coin envelopes can be found easily for about 10 cents each rounding up. With 100 as a starting amount, this could run the library about \$10 which leaves room for an increase.

Plastic bags are 4 cents apiece which costs \$4 for an initial 100.

6.4 Advertising

Due to its small size and existing close-knit community, Winthrop and the surrounding valley should experience an easier spread of information. Based on the size and success of the last seed swap the advertising for the event can remain minimal. Posting on local boards and word of

mouth works well for a town of this size. If the library would like to do further advertising the remainder of the budget for that purpose is at the library's digression.



(J. Porter)

7. Conclusion

Seed libraries can help decrease food insecurity through collective self-sufficiency. A seed library is a feasible addition to the Winthrop Public library and can provide a vital resource to the community. It would make an excellent addition to not only the Winthrop Public Library but could be recreated in any of the libraries within the Methow Valley and beyond. Each of those libraries would reap the benefits of providing a way for their populus to grow their own food. This will create a bolstered sense of community while also strengthening citizen resilience and autonomy.

The programming necessary to support the seed library includes two events, one before the fertile season and one for the end of the season. This will engage the public and broaden outreach. The other recommendation relies on the preferences of the library for how they want to address housing the seeds. Winthrop Library's prospective seed library gives the community a boost in pursuit of a few of the UN Sustainable Development Goals regarding alleviating food insecurity, promoting sustainable practices among Winthrop residents, and preserving local biodiversity. From a system thinking perspective, a seed library would promote community unity through shared knowledge and a deeper sense of connection with the land and environment. The Methow is moving toward a more sustainable future with programs like the Methow Climate Action Plan and a seed library will move Winthrop into following this trend.

The goal of the North Central Washington Libraries is to connect people with vital resources. This project accomplishes that goal by supporting the Methow community in their collective efforts to share food growing practices and improve food security.



(J. Porter)

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9. Appendices

9.1 Interview with Ree West 7/14/23 (Personal Communications July 14, 2023)

Q: What is your ideal scale of the project?

- Bootstrap level, then if needed, can go on to purchasing cabinet
- Looking for a sorting method, a form of organization

Q: In terms of community interest, how much engagement have you seen?

- The seed swap event in February was well attended (over 50 people) across a wide demographic
- Leftover seeds from the swap are being kept in plastic bins, which when people ask about can then take from and leave seeds whenever they want

Q: What types of seeds are you most interested in?

- Most interest is in produce seeds to support community food production
- But also lots of community interest in flowers

Q: What is the physical space available for the future seed library?

- The bins are sometimes placed on the front counter when there isn't another display to go there. There is space under this counter for a small shelving unit
- In the building's northeast corner is a section of empty space large enough for a small table or piece of furniture
- The gardening section is close by. A sign could easily point from this section to the potential seed library location

Q: What interest have you seen regarding volunteers from the community?

- Likely could get interest from local retired population or master-gardeners
- Envisioning a weekly tidy-up
- Advertising could be done through the Friends of the Library newsletter or physical signs posted in the Winthrop branch

Q: How is advertising done through the library?

- Library systems have a graphics department that create posters, flyers, and social media posts.
- Winthrop library has a digital display and can put up flyers in the branch and in the community

Q: How do you envision the annual timeline?

- Two events: Seed swap in spring and seed-saving in fall
- The seed library would stay out year-round, but wouldn't be very active in the off seasons - Posters and advertising should be refreshed for the two events every year

Q: What is the library's target demographic for the seed library?

- More than half of the seed swap attendees were retired

- Many attendees were middle to lower class with the goal of growing food for themselves - Also had a surprising number of younger families looking for bonding activities and ways they could improve their property

Q: What kind of resources does the Winthrop library have to put towards this seed library? - Winthrop has \$400 for the rest of the fiscal year for event budgeting

- Goal is to spend as little as possible on the seed library infrastructure and work as donation-based regarding inventory

Q: Do other NCW libraries have seed libraries?

- Yes! A list of these will be sent

Q: For our final document, what would be most helpful for you to see in order to implement this project?

- Would appreciate a feasibility study with indications of best practices
- A recommended plan on how to put for this project would also be helpful

9.2 Interview with Petra Page-Mann 7/12/23 (Personal Communications July 12, 2023)

Q: What is your past association with seed libraries?

- Founder of Fruition Seeds, a New York state seed collective
- Has supported seed libraries in their beginning stages

Q: How do you measure the success of a seed library?

- By a community's deepened sense of self
- When seeds are moved from a commodity to something shared

Q: How do you begin a seed library? What is the source of your seeds?

- Their local library began with a seed swap event before spring. Surplus seeds from this event made up the seed library's first stock
- This event was advertised to local farmers beforehand to engage their full support

Q: What are the best ways to engage the community in the seed library?

- Has seen that gifting leads to a return, or a kind of "generative generosity"
- Having local seed keepers at the forefront of library programming. Invite those who are already passionate about this to co-create and collaborate. This will build a sense of ownership - Annual events, such as a seed swap in spring and a seed harvesting event in fall create consistent interest

Q: Of the seed libraries you've helped, what kind of infrastructure have you witnessed? -

Storage methods are often in the form of a card catalog cabinet

- Their local library uses volunteers to organize and maintain the seed library. Seeds are packaged in coin envelopes with pens available for patrons to label donations

- Their storage method is a card catalog cabinet. The system runs on a “take what you need” system

Q: What are some outreach methods used by libraries to gain initial and continued support?

- Consistent social media presence that reflects the demographics you are trying to connect with
- Posters, bulletins; word of mouth amongst the community
- Posting volunteer positions on both library and community volunteer websites. The Instagram account of Rogers Park Seed Library in Chicago is a great example

9.3 Interview with Anaka Mines 7/14/23 (Personal Communications July 14, 2023)

Q: What is your association with seeds?

- Founder of Methow Valley Seed Collective
- Doesn't have past seed library experience but is willing to donate seeds to help the seed library begin

Q: What should we know about taking care of seeds? Are there certain places or conditions to best keep them fresh?

- Card catalog cabinet isn't needed. Something like a filing cabinet could work as well - It's important for a seed library to have a humidity tester so that seeds can stay dry, especially for a seed library that would be getting seeds from many different places

Q: How would you recommend organizing seeds?

- Could organize by variety or size. By season would also work
- Having a seed catalog on hand (one that organizes alphabetically) could be useful, though may overwhelm patrons who are less experienced
- Understanding how seeds germinate would be good to know, but is difficult for a seed library to keep track of

Q: How might we create a process for donation? Where can we source from?

- Could make a flyer for needed seeds and accepted quality levels, as quality control is important
- Should have a way for seeds to be labeled not only with name but how to grow them

Q: Seasonally, what kinds of seeds can we surmise would be available for the seed library to dispense? How should we keep track of this? How can we prepare seeds so that they're ready for the growing season?

- Seeds should be available at the beginning of February
- Seed Swap Event: scheduling the seed swap event for February is best. should include education of how to start plants inside and transplant them to the garden when the soil is dry and sun is out
- March plants: onions, peppers, eggplants, snapdragons and perennial flowers
- April plants: other flowers, brassicas, tomatoes, lettuces
- May plants: seeds (root crops) that must be directly sowed outdoors
- Seed Saving Event/materials: beginning in August or September, but no earlier. A workshop could be done in winter

Q: Do you know any community members that may be interested in volunteering? -
Check back on those who came to the last seed swap event at the Winthrop Library

Q: Are there any other organizations in the area you could recommend us to?

- Anaka at MVSC would be willing to donate seeds. Begin communications about that in August.

9.4 Benchmarking Table

Library	Physical Box	Quantity	Organization	Maintenance	Sourcing
Omaha Library (Omaha, NE)	Card catalog	150 varieties	Sections: flowers, herbs, vegetables. Ordered alphabetically	Library staff	Community seed and donations from businesses.
Macdonald Campus Library (McGill University)	Card catalog. Unwanted letter-sized envelopes and coin envelopes (cheaper than seed packets).	N/A	Sections: flowers, herbs, vegetables. Common type. Alphabetically.	Student volunteer. Track usage and borrowing method to prepare for next year.	Donations from local farms and businesses. Increased donation requests from 2 companies first year to 7 the second to meet demand. Request in late fall/winter.
Ephrata Library (Ephrata, WA)	Card catalog	100s of heirloom packets.	Organized by difficulty level. Inventory updated in Spring and Fall. Seed packets include index cards with planting info (template by library graphics team).	Library staff	Donation-based; Master gardeners have funded seed purchases in the past. Friends of the Library non-profit have donated.
Pima County Library (Pima, AZ)	Card catalogue and coin envelopes.	202 varieties.	Categories: fruits & vegetables, herbs, and flowers.	Library staff	Donated seeds must be collected, cleaned (seed cleaning screens available at the library) and labelled. Locally saved, openpollinated, or heirloom.
Pasco Library (Pasco, FL)	N/A	60 varieties	Organized alphabetically	Library staff	Company donations and community factory sealed donations.
Potrero Branch (San Fran, CA)	Wooden cabinet	Large quantity	Organized by types	Library staff	Donation by community, prelabeled.
Port Orchard Public Library	Small shelving unit	Small quantity	Loosely organized by genus	Library staff	Donation by community, prelabeled.

Outreach Methods	Event Frequency	Drop off / Pick up Methods	Seed Borrowing Restrictions	Budget	Link
Website with gardening books, DVDs, online courses. Seed saving and gardening workshops at various branch locations.	Two seed saving workshops in August and September.	Online hold system. Or pick up in person from librarian.	15 seed packets per month.	N/A	Omaha Public Library
Created a logo. Newspaper article and notice through local assoc. Bookmarks with information prior to launch. Social media posts. Seed swaps. Open access resources gardening, seed saving, food systems, etc.	Grand opening on first day of spring. Seed saving workshop in previous October. Workshops throughout the year with other organizations.	Available seeds can be viewed online. Borrowing done on paper forms. Request forms are filled out and seed can be sent to the closest branch.	25 seed packets per person.	After initial two years, 200 CAD.	Macdonald Campus Library
Previous partnerships with WSU Ext Master Gardeners; publicity through events with them. Index cards with seed packets include instructions of how and when to plant and what to expect.	Seed swap in spring. Presentations with Master Gardeners: seed saving, worm composting, native plant landscaping.	N/A	Seeds aren't cataloged. Open to anyone, regardless of library card.	N/A	Personal Communication July 27, 2023
Website with gardening books, pages for each in season crop with care instructions, and recipes.	No in person events, but seed saving and plant care videos are available.	Online hold system. Or pick up in person from librarian.	N/A	N/A	Pima County Library
N/A	N/A	Seeds are available through a request form to be picked up at the library.	Five packet per month limit for library card holders.	N/A	Pasco Library
Events hosted at library	Sporadic	Request at library.	Must be card holder.	N/A	Potrero Branch - San Fran
None	None	Open to take at any time	Honor system	No upkeep cost allocated.	Port Orchard Public Library

9.5 Contact List

Kim Romain-Bondi – Classroom in Bloom

Kim@classroominbloom.org

- Hosting gardening or seed saving workshops
- Student volunteers who could help organize and manage the library
- Connecting the horticulture class with the library

Anaka Mines – Twisp River Seed and Methow Seed Collective

Info@mvseedcollective.com

- Hosting seed saving workshops
- Donating seed to library

Paige Embry – Master Gardner Volunteers intern

206-963-9227 paembry00@gmail.com

- Interested in being a contact for the public to answer gardening questions
- Possibility of being able to provide volunteers to run the library or perhaps some of the corresponding workshops