Seed Library

Sprouting Success
The Eagle Rock Seed Library is a collection of heirloom seeds available to patrons to promote the growing and saving of heirloom flowers, herbs and vegetables.
Why are seed libraries important?

- Highlight and preserve rare and heirloom varieties
- Foster diversity in our food system
- Provide an opportunity for hands-on agricultural education
- Encourage healthy communities by promoting outdoor activity and the consumption of fresh, local produce.
Steps to Creating a Seed Library

- Get your community involved
  - Work with local gardening clubs
  - Talk to patrons about the idea
  - Work with national organizations
    - Seed Savers Exchange
    - VA Cooperative Extension
    - Organic Seed Alliance
Steps to Creating a Seed Library

- Brand your seed library
- Create packaging
  - Seed envelopes
  - Standard mailing envelopes
  - Glass Jars
  - Labels
Steps to Creating a Seed Library

- Acquire Storage
  - Boxes or plastic containers
  - Dividable Drawers
  - Old card catalogs
- Create Categories
  - Alphabetical
  - Easy-Hard
  - Type of plant
Steps to Creating a Seed Library

• Find a location
  • What type of shelving
  • Visibility of collection
  • Easy access
Steps to Creating a Seed Library

• Tracking Methods
  • Computer vs. paper
  • What information to gather

• Ground Rules
  • How many packets can be checked out?
  • Do we accept only organically grown plants?
  • Are pesticides allowed?
  • How do we gather this information?
Can This Be Recreated Anywhere?

Little to no budget
• Use what is in your building.
• Get the community to donate
• Repurpose furniture or shelving
• Print and fold your seed packets from an on-line template

Bigger Budget
• Dedicate a computer to track collection
• Purchase shelving
• Hire a professional to design your logo
My How We Have Grown
My How We Have Grown
Spinoffs and Collaborations

• Worked with the Friends of the Library and the Eagle Rock Elementary School Ecology Club to create an annual plant sale.
Spinoffs and Collaborations

- Hands on programming for adults and children
  - Master Gardner Programs
    - Focus on seed saving and indoor gardening
  - Eagle Rock Sprouts
    - Hands-on agriculture activities
  - What’s Cooking in Eagle Rock?
    - Using our harvests to teach healthy cooking