**“Library of Things” for Slover Library**

**1. Social Robot (Kindergarten- Adult)**

I feel that a social robot would be an amazing addition to our collection mainly because I

know many of our patrons are into robotics and coding. Adding a robot would be

beneficial for our local area because none of the neighboring cities have one at this time.

I also feel that it would be popular with kids and adults.

**2. Power Drill (Adults)**

A power drill would be another great addition for Slover because it is a household tool

that many people borrow. We actually had one patron request a power drill a couple of

months ago. I feel that eventually we should have a “tool library” but a drill would be a

great start. This kit would contain the power drill and its accessories.

**3. OSMO Stem Toys (Preschool-School Age)**

The Osmo Stem kit would make a wonderful addition to our equipment library. The kit

could contain a tablet as well as the Osmo base with accessories. This kit allows children

to play educational games and it doesn’t require Wi-Fi to play. I think many parents

would love this kit and it would be a great tool for reinforcing early literacy.

**4. Chromebook- includes charger and protective case (School Age-Adult)**

This item would be a great addition to the Slover Library collection because we get so

many requests for laptops. We already have Wi-Fi routers as a part of our collection, so

it seems fitting to offer a computer option.

**5. Gardening Tools Kit (Adults)**

A kit containing basic gardening tools would be a great addition to our collection. We

already have a Seed library that we offer to patrons, so it is only right to offer gardening

tools. The tools can include things like a shovel, gloves, a pocket gardening multi-tool,

loppers, gardening fork, etc.

**6. Canon Digital Camera (Teens-Adult)**

I think a digital camera is also a great addition to our collection. There are many positives

for offering a digital camera including providing a resource for those who do not have the

means to afford one. This would also pair well with our photography kit that we already

have as a part of our collection. I would include the camera and a tripod in this kit.

**7. Projector (Adult)**

I feel that a projector would be a well-used part of our collection. This is another item

that has been requested previously. If we offered this, I know some of our patrons would

feel like we are listening to them.

**8. Ab Roller (Adult)**

An ab roller would be a great start to building an exercise kit. I think many people would

appreciate being able to check out items such as an ab roller, resistance bands, yoga mats

etc. I say this because since Covid some people still may not feel comfortable going into

gyms so it would be beneficial if we offered an alternative for them.

**9. Portable Suitcase Turntable (Adult)**

Recently vinyl records have become popular again and I feel it would be helpful to have a

turntable as part of the collection. There have already been discussions about possibly

adding vinyl records to our collection so it would pair well to have a turntable.

**10. Blood Pressure Monitor (Adult)**

A blood pressure monitor would also make a great addition to our collection. The

community already takes advantage of the pharmacies who have stationary blood

pressure monitors so I know they would appreciate being able to borrow one. With the

many stressors in the world more people have been trying to monitor their blood

pressure. Providing this resource would be another way that we are looking out for our

community.

Slover Library is located in Norfolk, Virginia and provides for a diverse community of

patrons. We already have a decent number of items in our collection including knitting and

crochet kits, American Girl Dolls, Wi-Fi routers, nature backpacks etc. After doing research

about what other libraries are offering, I see that the possibilities are endless. It was actually

exciting to create a wish list of items to add to our collection. I was a little overwhelmed at first

with all that could be added but after really thinking about the community we serve; I was able to

narrow down the list. The Minuteman Library Network was helpful when brainstorming items

for the collection because they showed some of the items offered by a number of different

libraries (Minuteman Library Network, n.d.). The reason I chose majority of these items is

because of requests that we had, especially the recent requests of Chromebooks. I feel that

adding gardening tools will also be great since we already have a seed library that is sponsored

by Norfolk Master Gardeners. In order to decide which gardening tools that I would add to the

kit, I researched what the essential tools for a beginner gardener were. I also consulted with

some of my coworkers who were avid gardeners.

 When deciding on what I would actually select for the overall collection I looked at some

of the things patrons were requesting on our list and asked my coworkers what patrons were telling them as well. I did some research on each of the items selected to see if they were worthy of adding. Also, I tried to pair some of the items with the equipment we already had in our

collection. The goal was to find items that were appropriate and relevant to Slover Library’s

diverse community of patrons. Fortunately, I did not face many challenges during my search for

items to add to the collection because there is so much that we could add. As stated above, my

biggest challenge was narrowing it down for what would work best for Slover Library. Another

challenge I see that is not related to finding the resources is the upkeep of the resources. I think

that is one of the reasons we have not added as many resources at this time. They recently had to

update all of the Wi-Fi routers that we were offering because some were not returned and some

were damaged. Other than this small challenge, I think it would be amazing if we could offer

half of the items on this list.

References:

Minuteman Library Network. (n.d.). *Library of things.* [*https://catalog.minlib.net/Union/Search?view=list&lookfor=library+of+things&searchIndex=Keyword&searchSource=local*](https://catalog.minlib.net/Union/Search?view=list&lookfor=library+of+things&searchIndex=Keyword&searchSource=local)