

MLA Annual 2025

Exploring Swaps

Sustainable Library Programming For Any Community



Journey Hawthorne

Events Technician

Ann Arbor District Library

Agenda

What's a Swap?

Planning a Swap

The "Potty Problem"

Pitching a Swap

Agenda

- ➔ What's a Swap?
- Planning a Swap
- The "Potty Problem"
- Pitching a Swap



Swap

A program, event, or service where people may exchange goods.

Cost Effective

Community-Centered

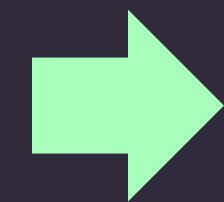
Eco-friendly

Flexible

Sustainable

Agenda

What's a Swap?



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Pitching a Swap

The Major Variables

These will impact how you plan and run a Swap.



Space



Time



Budget



Staff



Community

Swap Topics!

What are YOUR community's interests?

Basic Swap Frameworks

Swap Stations

A designated location where people may leave or pick up items.



One-Off Swaps

Run a Swap once, or with a different topic each time.



Recurring Swaps

Running the same Swap multiple times a year.



Swap Flexibility

What can we change to make Swaps work for our library and our community?

Location

Supplies

Sorting & Organization

Tickets

Leftovers

Outreach

Item Drop-Off

Partnerships

Volunteers

Agenda

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The Potty Problem



Be prepared for the public.

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➡ Pitching a Swap

What Gets the Green Light?



“

**Strong libraries,
strong communities,
stronger Michigan.**

”

MLA Vision Statement



REAL-WORLD EXAMPLE

AADL's First Year

14 Swaps in 2023, 1355 Attendees

Community impact

~300 lbs of leftover Swap supply donated in 2023

Sustainability through collaboration with community orgs

\$100 spent TOTAL in 2023

Budget-friendly

THANKS FOR COMING!

Any Final Questions?

Feel free to reach out!

hawthornej@aadl.org

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➡ Bonus Content!

Basic Swap Frameworks

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A designated location where people may leave or pick up items.



COULD BE A BOX



LOCATION SETUP,
OCCASIONAL MAINTENANCE



COST OF BOX/SPACE



VERY LITTLE STAFF
INVOLVEMENT

One-Off Swaps

Run a Swap once, or with a different topic each time.



PROGRAM SPACE



1-2 HOURS PROGRAM,
1-2 HOURS SETUP & CLEANUP



NO MATERIAL COSTS



AT LEAST 1 STAFF
PERSON TO RUN EVENT

Recurring Swaps

Running the same Swap multiple times a year.



PROGRAM AND STORAGE SPACE



EXTRA TIME SORTING, STORING,
AND SETTING UP SUPPLIES.



COST OF STORAGE BINS, SHELVING



AT LEAST 1 TO SORT SUPPLIES,
AT LEAST 1 TO RUN EVENT

Swap Topics!

Ideas from the Audience

- Arts & Crafts Supplies
- Gardening Tools
- Houseplants
- Toys
- Board Games
- Records & CDs
- Costumes
- Knitting & Crochet
- Sewing & Quilting
- Electronics
- Puzzles