



Town of Carbonado

Public Library Research and Assessment



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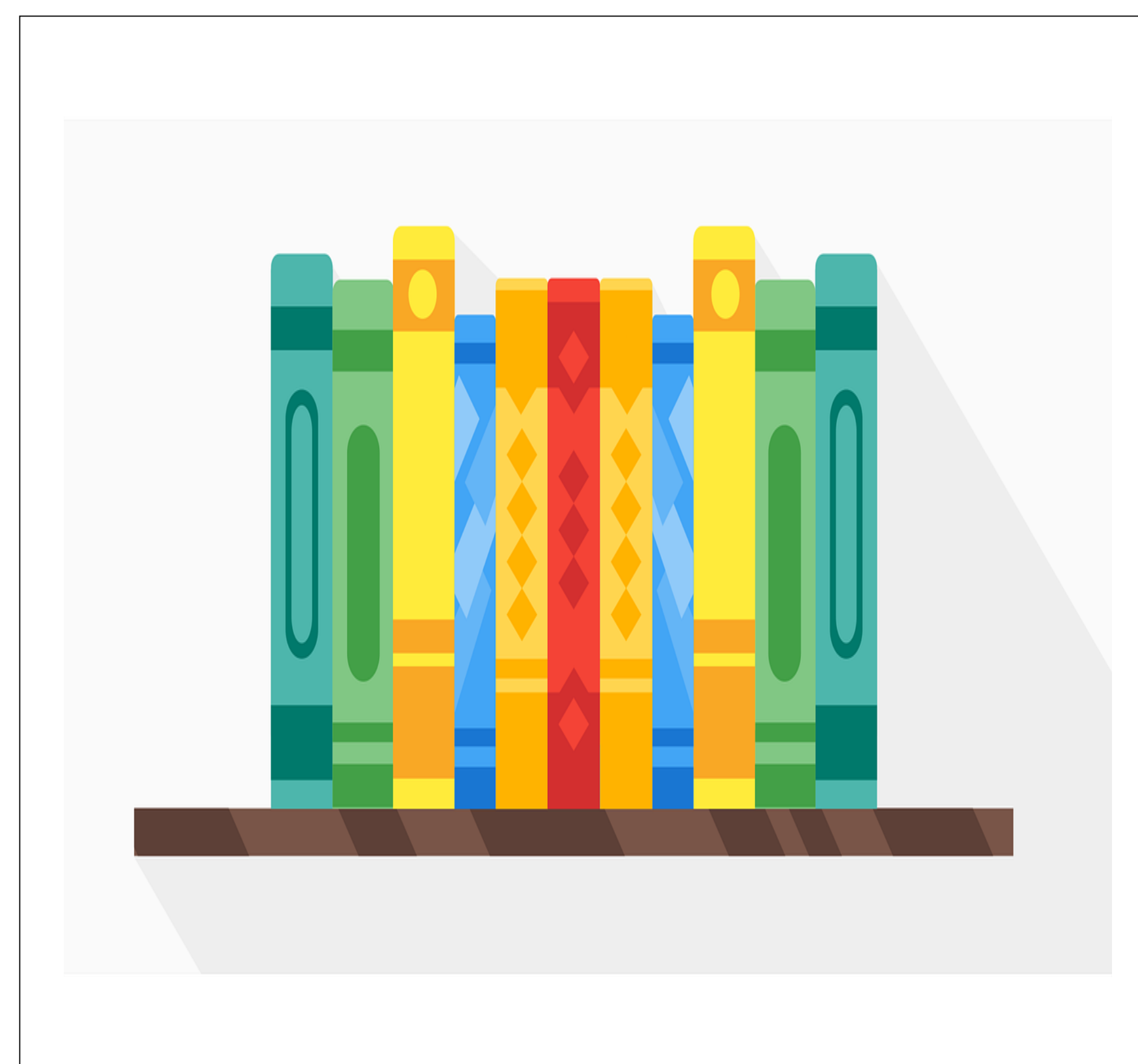
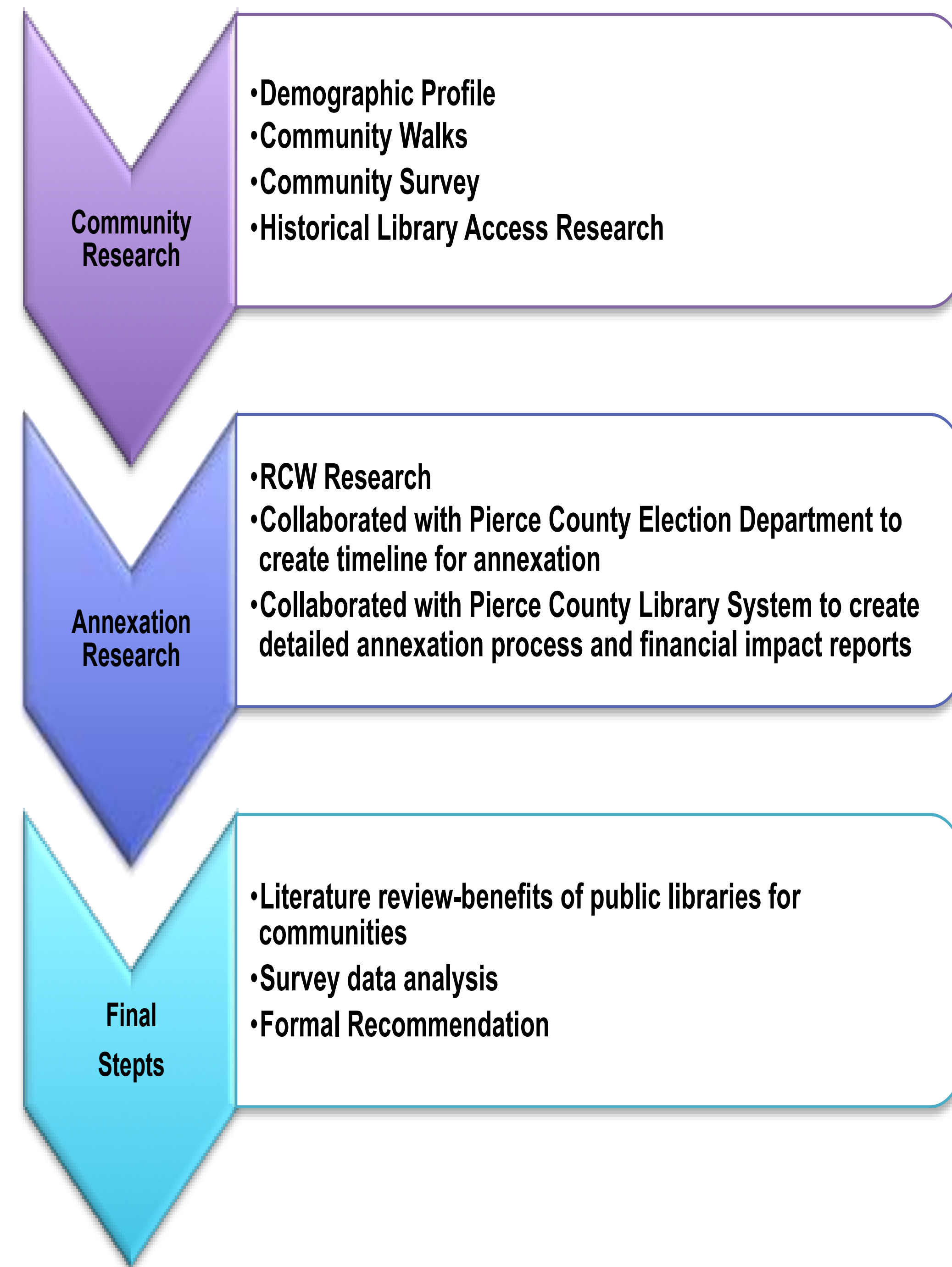
Project Goal

This project aimed to provide the Town of Carbonado's Mayor and Town Council with an understanding of community members' thoughts and feelings about joining the local public library system along with a clear and comprehensive outline of the process, costs, and benefits of doing so.

Background

Carbonado is a small, rural town nestled at the base of Mount Rainier in Pierce County, Washington. It is one of just three cities in Pierce County without public library access. In the past, residents had the option to purchase an annual membership to the stand-alone public library located in the nearby town of Enumclaw. In 2012, the Enumclaw library was annexed to the King County Library System and buy-in access was abolished. Since this time, the roughly 650 residents of Carbonado have had no way to attain membership in any public library system.

Methodology



Key Findings

TOWN OF CARBONADO
Public Library Exploration:
Resident Survey Overview

10% OF REGISTERED VOTERS RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY

81% OF RESPONDENTS FEEL RESIDENTS SHOULD VOTE ON WHETHER TO JOIN THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

PRIMARY CONCERN:
14% OF RESPONDENTS MENTIONED PROPERTY TAXES

THE AVERAGE HOMEOWNER WOULD PAY AN ADDITIONAL \$94 PER YEAR OR \$7.83 PER MONTH IN PROPERTY TAXES
*CALCULATION BASED ON HOME VALUED AT \$189,615

THE CURRENT CLIMATE

WHERE RESIDENTS STAND NOW

WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO JOIN THE LIBRARY?

UNSURE	14%
NO	18%
YES	68%

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Outcomes

The sponsoring organization has been provided with all the information they need to make an informed decision regarding public library annexation.

The benefits of public library access, materials and services residents would gain access to, the process and costs of annexation, and the results of the community survey have been compiled and explained.

Based on the research outlined here, the formal recommendation is that the sponsoring organization plan to move forward with putting a proposal for public library annexation on the next regular ballot, providing residents with their first opportunity to vote on this important topic.

Acknowledgements

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