

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

More Opportunities to Be a Maker @your library™

The library's makerspace opened in April of this year with a variety of tools for serious making and crafting. Many visitors have enjoyed spending time in the makerspace crafting and learning about the equipment the library offers. While the community has been getting acclimated with the space, we've been busy adding more cool tools for you to explore.

It was immediately clear that 3D printing was going to be popular, and we have added a second machine. The FlashForge CreatorPro offers visitors more opportunity to use this service. As with the Lulzbot Taz 6 3D printer, most patrons have been importing models from www.thingiverse.com. If you would like to make your own designs, check out www.tinkercad.com. This requires an account, but it is free and an easy way to get started with 3D modeling.

Another recent addition to the space is our Bernina 560 sewing machine that has an embroidery attachment. If you love to sew but don't have a machine, or if you have always wanted to teach yourself but didn't want to invest in an expensive piece of equipment, now you can do all of that at the library.

If you have home videos on VHS that you'd like to convert to DVD, the library now offers a VHS/DVD player and recorder that allows you to move those recordings to a more up-to-date format. Want to take it a step further and make your home movies digital? Stop in and use our Elgato Video Capture device.

Our brand new HP DesignJet T520 36" printer has already been used here in the library. Look for signs for upcoming programs including "Nebraska through Song and Story" on September 23, and "Russian Accordion Music" on October 6, for examples of the quality of prints this can make. Someone suggested using the printer to make large banners for graduations and other celebrations. What could you use it for?

The makerspace still houses an iMac with standard software, including GarageBand. A keyboard, guitar, and Blue Yeti microphone all work in conjunction with this equipment. The Trotec Rayjet laser is perfect for crafting with wood and acrylic, and the Graphtec 24" vinyl cutter is waiting for your creative ideas.

To assist your creativity and to get you going in the makerspace, the library provides materials for most of the machines. Paper for the large format printer, vinyl, 3D printing filament, thread and fabric are available for you to use as you are getting started. We also have wood and acrylic pieces for practicing with the laser engraver. Patrons are welcome to bring their own supplies for staff to approve for use in the makerspace.

The makerspace will have open hours September 24 and 29, and October 8, 13, 22, and 27. Hours will be posted on our website at www.columbusne.us/library. If you would like to see the makerspace outside of regular open hours, or if you would like assistance getting started, stop in or call the library to use our "Book a Librarian" service. Before using the makerspace, please review our Makerspace Use policy at www.columbusne.us/DocumentCenter/View/393.

Do you have experience using a makerspace or any of these machines? If so, I would love to hear from you. To share your expertise or for more information about the makerspace, call 402-564-7116 opt. 2 or email me at rmcphil@columbusne.us.