Librarian's Shelf by Jessica Lee

Makerspace @ your library

Columbus Public Library has an amazing makerspace for patrons to use. A makerspace is a place that fosters creativity, invention, and learning. There is a wide variety of technology that patrons can come and explore.

Rooms 222 and 223 in the east wing of the second floor are now home to the library's flatbed scanner. The Epson Expression 11000 XL has an 11" x 17" scan base and can be used for digitizing documents, photographs, slides, and film negatives.

The scanner is connected to the library's 27-inch iMac. This screen is large enough for a few people to gather and see the screen to make collaboration easier. Garage Band is a popular application for the iMac and can be used to learn to play the keyboard or guitar, create music, or even record podcasts using our Blue Yeti microphone.

The makerspace also offers a laser cutter and engraver for patrons to use. Our Trotec Rayjet 50 is ready for you to come in and get started engraving and cutting wood and acrylic projects. Tutorial software and Corel Draw Graphics Suite 2017 are made available to patrons who would like to use the laser. Please note, some additional training may be required, and library staff must approve materials intended for use with the laser.

Our Ultimaker 3 extended 3D printer is a new addition to the makerspace. Our other 3D printer, the FlashForge Creator Pro, has already been used for various projects, including a chess set and wedding decorations. Patrons have the ability to import models from www.thingiverse.com, into Cura Ultimaker Edition for printing. If you would like to make your own designs, check out www.tinkercad.com.

The makerspace also offers a Graphtec 24" vinyl cutter, green screen, and Oculus Rift for exploring virtual reality. As of October 1st, 2019, the library is starting to charge for the use of our materials.

We do offer several different classes each month. These classes are for patrons wanting to learn how different equipment works within the space. Only 2 people may attend each class. These classes run for 1 hour on Saturdays. Saturday, December 7th from 1-2 pm, we will have a Laser Engraving class. Saturday, December 21st from 1-2 pm, we will have a 3D Printing class. Saturday, December 28th from 1-2 pm, we will have a Video Conversion class. All of our classes require registration, so make sure to stop by the Information Desk or call me at 402-562-4203. There are also several makerspace open hours held throughout the entire month. Monday, December 9th and 23rd open hours begin at 10 am. Saturday, December 7th, 21st, and 28th open hours will run from 2 pm-4 pm.

If you have any questions, please call me at 402-562-4203 or email me at Jessica.Wilkinson@columbusne.us for more information.