

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

### DIY @ your library® during Teen Tech Week™ 2014

Local teens will be tuning in at the library as Columbus Public Library celebrates the annual Teen Tech Week™ throughout the entire month of March. They join thousands of other libraries and schools across the country who are celebrating this year's theme, DIY @ your library® to raise awareness about how Columbus Public Library creates a space to extend teens' learning beyond the classroom where they can explore, create and share content.

Many of our young adult visitors will be on spring break and I will be attending a national conference during the official Teen Tech Week. This subject is too important to miss, though, so our after school programming will have a technology focus all month long.

Teen Tech Week is a national initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) aimed at teens, their parents, educators and other concerned adults. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure that teens are competent and ethical users of technology, especially the types offered through libraries. Teen Tech Week encourages teens to take advantage of the technology at libraries for education and recreation, and to recognize that librarians are qualified, trusted professionals who can help them achieve greater digital literacy.

Getting teens into libraries is essential. Offering gaming, access to computers, and online homework resources is important, and letting them know that we can help educate them on how to use these resources will get them in the door. Once they're in the door, we can show teens that with technology at the library, anything is possible.

From maker spaces, to coding classes, to online knitting clubs now offered by libraries across the country, the do-it-yourself theme shows how libraries provide meaningful contributions to the educational and social development of the teens in the community.

Teen Tech Week is a way for librarians and educators to collaborate with and educate teens about technology. Over the last several years the library's role in increasing digital literacy has become more and more important, equal to that of reading literacy.

Teens are encouraged to celebrate Teen Tech Week. CPL hopes to attract a wide variety of teenagers and increase teen technology literacy locally by offering a series of programs including: "Unplugged" computer science, DIY music studio, and app creation.

On March 5, participants had an opportunity to write programs that turned their friends into robots who complete unique tasks. Music lovers will collaborate and create their own music with GarageBand on March 12. On March 26, young adults will learn how to make a variety of apps during "There's an App for That!"

These programs start at 3:00p.m. in the Teen Space. Please call the library or stop by before March 21 to register for "There's an App for That!" Patrons in grades 6-12 who do not get out early on Wednesdays are welcome to drop in at 4:00 to join the fun.

Teen Tech Week is held annually the second week of March. For more information, visit [www.ala.org/teentechweek](http://www.ala.org/teentechweek).