MAKERSPACES, LIBRARIES, AND INFORMATION

PA Forward Information Literacy Summit
July 19, 2017
- Laura Fleming

• A unique learning environment that encourages tinkering, play, and open-ended exploration for all
What is in a Name?
“Makerspaces and the collaborative design and making activities they support have generated interest in diverse educational realms.”

Images courtesy of NC State Libraries
Images Courtesy of Teen Hype Center. Detroit
Richland Public Library

Columbia, South Carolina, USA
North Carolina State Library

Storytelling Makerspace
(Special Thanks to Laura Fleming)
Images courtesy of EdCamp Ghana and Tumu College of Education Makerspace
The Scrap Exchange, Durham, NC
(Special Thanks to Laura Fleming)
Maker Spaces can be anything your patrons and you want them to be!
Mobile Making

“I liken a mobile makerspace to a food truck. A mobile makerspace can go to the patron instead of waiting for the patron to arrive. Food trucks, like mobile makerspaces, depend on demand and social media advertising.”

DH Makerbus
Maker Fleet

Image Courtesy of Brad Gustafson, Greenwood Elementary School, Wayzata, MN
Projects

“Libraries are particularly well suited to support the creators in their community with a built-in audience.”

Green Screens, Do Ink App, News/Video Programs

Image Courtesy of Leah Joly
Green Screen Pizza Boxes
Stick Together

Lite Brite

Coloring
“Accessible “making” at the library can enrich the lives of people who are differently abled in many ways, allowing them to create items to improve their world, have fun, and identify hobby and career possibilities.”

Creating maker experiences or making for

- Visually Impaired
- Hearing Impaired
- Mobility Impairments (Wheelchair, Walker, Cane, etc)
- Cognitive Impairments
- Autism
- Cerebral Palsy

(For a more detailed list please see ADA.Gov)
Tactile Picture Books,
University of Colorado Boulder
Visual Maps

Photo Courtesy of Adam Rogers, Hill Library, NC State
Hearing Impairment
Setting Up Your Makerspace

- Facebook, Yahoo, Google has visually impaired employees to aid in accessibility issues on their sites. In other words, ask the experts. Show a video of your layout, get feedback.
- Have instructions in multiple formats (Written, demo, video, braille).
- Make space layout wheelchair/walker friendly.
- Be very aware of music/noise for autism spectrum guests.
- Have outputs in a variety of formats (visual, tactile, auditory, taste).
- Your makerspace is ready for any audience, it may just need a few tweaks to be universally designed, to be inclusive for all.
Training/Education

“Makerspace professional development should help educators/teacher librarians understand the educational rationale for having a makerspace, and provide curricular tie-ins to illustrate how making can integrate with classroom activities.”

Traveling Professional Development
“How can young people’s experiences as makers go beyond product-oriented activities focused on procedural “how to do it” learning, to include notions of reflection, critique, assessment, agency in relation to the technology that they make?”

Define What is Needed
Access The Material

Duct Tape

Hole Punch

Cardboard

Imagination

LEDs

Solder

Diodes

Paint

Hot Glue
Evaluate the Information Given
Apply the Knowledge!

NEVER BE AFRAID TO TRY SOMETHING NEW. REMEMBER AMATEURS BUILT THE ARK, PROFESSIONALS BUILT THE TITANIC - UNKNOWN
Use Ethically
How do we ethically run a maker learning space?

- Educate our patrons
- Practice by example
- Communicate
- Signage
- User agreements (especially public, many examples)
“unless young people are willing to face the unfamiliar they cannot be creative in any sense, for creativity always means the doing of the unfamiliar, the breaking of new ground. It is from this creative element, which we should be stimulating now, that all the new ideas of the future will come.”

Eleanor Roosevelt: Tomorrow is Now, 1963, Harper & Row
Questions?

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