

The Laboratory @ the Thompson Library

The Laboratory is a place for experimentation, investigation and observation for the creative & curious.

3D printer funded by Gladys Tucker's generous donation.
Additional funding provided by the Friends of the Library.

3D Printing is the process for making a physical object from a digital model, typically by laying down many successive thin layers of a material. A design file is sent to the printer where hot plastic is passed through a nozzle and laid down layer by layer via a robotic arm. The plastic cools quickly, so the finished object can be used right away.

How do I find a design?

Designs can be found online, Thingiverse.com has a wide variety. Projects must be submitted as an .stl file.

How do I use the library's 3D printer?

You will need to attend an orientation session if you would like to participate in the printing. Otherwise, files may be submitted for printing by the library staff once a Terms of Use form has been signed. For children under 14, an adult must sign the form at the Library.

What if I need help with my design?

Library staff are available for printing assistance only.

How much will my print cost?

It's free, thanks to the support of the Friends of the Library.

How many designs can I have printed?

You may submit and have printed one file per week. The 3D printing service we offer is experimental and intended for instructional learning. The service is not intended to accommodate mass manufacturing or large projects.

What else is planned for The Laboratory?

The Library intends to offer a wide variety of opportunities for all ages with a focus on technology and creativity. Suggestions and comments from users are welcome.

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Terms of Use:

The Library reserves the right to decline any print job.

The 3D printer and related equipment is to be used for lawful purposes in compliance with Library policies. Patrons may not create content that violates any law, privacy or property right. No forms of weapons, obscene or inappropriate material will be printed.

All builds must be scheduled in advance. To participate in the printing, users must attend an orientation session.

All designs must be submitted in an .stl file format.

You may book a 3 hour block of time, all sessions must end one hour before closing.

You may request one print file or session per week.

The Library does not guarantee a successful print job.

Items not picked up within one month become property of the Library. Items must be picked up by the individual who printed them.

Children under 14 are to be accompanied by an adult.

By signing this form I understand the terms and agree to abide by them.

Printed Name(s) _____

Signature _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Name of File _____

Description of design (required) _____

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees, April 7 2016