



The Maker Space Library

A Maker space can be anywhere: even the school library. For starters, a library can be full of books extolling the world of making: books on robotics, coding, knitting, soft-circuitry, Arduino, 3-D printing, origami and countless other skills. A STEM Maker Library could be a great start in establishing a school-wide making culture.

Some of these books are geared towards educators wanting to know more about the Maker Movement while some are geared towards students with project ideas.

Libraries, as learning communities where students learn and grow together, make ideal locations for Maker events. They are places where—with the necessary resources and facilitation—students can envision making just about anything: becoming producers in a world of consumers. Getting kids into the library to make, to learn, and to experiment can energize a school's culture. It instills life-long learning by letting children have a space where they can grow in ways that a traditional classroom often doesn't allow.

Librarians make ideal Maker facilitators for a variety of reasons:

- They inspire students with an array of educational possibilities.
- Librarians welcome non-traditional learning, and present their libraries as learning laboratories outside the confines of a traditional classroom.
- Librarians are willing to try new approaches and disregard some of the rules in the name of curiosity and creativity.

But what makes a Maker Librarian? A Maker Librarian gives a place and a voice to innovation and creativity. A Maker Librarian enables students to think outside the box and believe in themselves enough to take risks. Maker Librarians host spaces where students can gain confidence in their abilities by trying new gadgets or building something creative out of random supplies. Maker Librarians aren't afraid when things get a little messy as they know mistakes are vital to learning. When things don't work, Maker Librarians remain calm and help the student to find a solution using logic and determination.

Working outside of a traditional curriculum, a Maker Librarian can spend more time problem-solving with students. This helps students to release their fear of failure to embrace risk in an effort to learn and grow. That said, they also work in conjunction with teachers—becoming instructional partners—to promote safe and alternative learning environments that are still aligned with a teacher's curricular objectives. A Maker Library is best when students feeling empowered to come in and work on their own projects and ideas.

A Maker Librarian simply takes the traditional role of librarian—helping students connect with relevant resources and teaching them how to evaluate and manage these resources—and supersedes matters by allowing students to get more hands-on with the subjects that interest them the most.