

**Tell us about your library's Maker Space and the tools/resources that are being used.
How did it come about?**

Anne: Has experience using and organizing the maker kits that WVLS circulates.

- In partnership with IFLS, they created kits that libraries can borrow.
- <http://www.wvls.org/makerspace-kits>
- Have over 100 kits available to loan between the two library systems.
- Can be overwhelming to think about learning each one of them and then build a program around them
- Made some YouTube videos on how to use the various kits
- Stole (borrowed) some videos that were already in existence
- Had 4 MakerSpace Fair workshops
- Idea Sheets for the kits

Josh

- Community Advisory Council - 40 to 50 people invited to participate and about 10-15 people regularly showed up for their meetings. They helped figure out what they needed to do.
- Needed help with what the design for the space would look like. Worked with Interior Systems to design the space.
- The Idea Studio has 3 zones - the main one is the classroom, social space, and has a couple 3D printers, scanner, sewing machine, serger, button maker, etc.
- There is a small office that is a recording studio. There's a demonstration kitchen - not a certified kitchen but can use for classes. The other side is the Shop - hands-on tools area. There's a Carvey machine, laser cutter and engraver, etc.
- They do training classes for some of the equipment - badging. Single training session to learn about the equipment. Once trained, they can use the equipment mostly independently.
- How do you track? They are virtual badges stored in a database.
- Schedule a bunch of sessions every month. Small and hands-on sessions so people can get a little experience with the equipment.

Do you have staff dedicated to the space, volunteers, no staff (a walk-in space with basic directions next to the makerspace tools)?

Anne:

- Have the YouTube channel, Idea Sheets, and training day. They have no control over that after they leave the system. The libraries use them in various ways for programming.
- Cost: partnership happened after WVLS applied for an LSTA grant in 2016. Had a few things before the grant but purchased a lot in 2016. Worked with IFLS - to share their kits.

- Sustainable: Some kits have consumables - the plastics for the 3D printer - how do you purchase additional materials? Do we want to replace it? Should we get something better?
- Who checks or manages the kits after they are returned? Anne! And two other staff members. (Lend item process?)

Josh:

- Always have one paid staff person in the Idea Studio.
- Trying to develop a volunteer program to utilize some of their regular users who are willing to give of their time.
- They did hire two positions - a 12 hour and a 20 hour position - to be in the space the bulk of the hours when it's open. Josh is also in the space and the two staff members report to him.
- Recording studio is Jon Mark's baby and he spends a few hours every week in the space.
- Community Advisory Council gave the suggestions for the items to have in the Idea Studio.
- Funding? It was a large remodel of a space in the library. Much of the funding came from a private donation to the library. Also used LSTA grants for some equipment.

3D printing idea question:

Anne:

- <https://www.thingiverse.com>

<https://www.tinkercad.com/>

Josh:

- Open hours - if there's any way to give people initial training and then have open access.

Lend Item -

<http://lend-items.appspot.com/login.jsp>

What has been the community response?

Anne:

- Some libraries who are gung ho and will check out lots of kits every month and put some out for active and passive programming.
- Some libraries don't have as many staff or time to do them. Depends on the size of the staff.

Josh:

- Really good response.
- Task is now to convert the expert users into volunteers who can help others and possibly do programs.

Are there things you wish you would've done differently in the development of the space? Any lessons learned, and what?

Anne:

- Loved the hands-on makerspace fair days they did. Some people learn differently so having the other ways of training. How do we continue training for new directors and staff?
- Sustained learning plan - something to work on now.

Josh:

- Not a lot they'd do differently. Went into the process with very few preconceived notions. Made things that can be changed over time. Most furniture is on wheels so the space can be very flexible.
- Learned about monitoring and overseeing the construction process.
- Learning about behavior management in the space.
- Made some changes to how the studio can be used - moved to a sign in sheet and very clear guidelines about how space can be used.
- Being open and flexible has helped to be able to make the changes when needed.

Some people don't think items like 3D printers belong in libraries. That it is not our role to provide them. What are your thoughts on that?

Josh:

- From Ben Miller - the library is not about books it's about ideas.
- This is not a book warehouse - this is a community space (former FDL director)
- Hasn't heard much from the community against any of the Idea Studio equipment.

Anne:

- Libraries are about learning - and that's not limited to reading and books. It's bringing in books, cooking demonstrations, etc.
- At WVLS, we can help the rural libraries bring some of these kits and resources for their communities.

What are your plans for the future? What is your plan for sustaining your makerspace? Grants, donation jar, patron per use fees (pay per 3D print job?)...?

Anne:

- Started with an LSTA grant. Have a technology budget line that can be used for some of the replacement parts for the equipment.
- Sustainability - always looking at the collection and what's broken or new things to add.

Josh:

- Commitment to hire the two part time positions. That was huge.
- Equipment maintained and replaced - there's a portion allocated from endowment to maintain and keep up the space.
- Working on a grant for kits in schools - can be challenging without additional staff to administer the grant.
- Working on a volunteer program to help with staffing the Idea Studio.

Small to medium sized library and want to do something with makerspace. Where do you start?

Anne:

- Start small and do what you can with the skills that you have.
- Building the group that has passion for it.

Josh:

- Important to have a permanent space because it allows for people to come in and play.
- Independent play time - that's where they get the most out of it.

Final thoughts:

Anne: the maker space isn't going away. Thinks of libraries as tinker labs. Will look different in the future - libraries transforming.

Josh: What's in the space will change over time but the need for an active community space for people to engage with technology and ideas isn't going away.

Thank you!