3D Printer Policy

The Library desires to offer community access to new and emerging technologies such as 3D printers to inspire a new interest in design and help the community to bring their creations to life. This policy establishes how and under what circumstances the public may use the Library's 3D printers.

The Library's 3D printer is available to the public to make three-dimensional objects in plastic using a design that is uploaded from a digital computer file.

A. The Library's 3D printer may be used only for lawful purposes. The public will not be permitted to use the Library's 3D printers to create material that is:

1. Prohibited by local, state or federal law.
2. Unsafe, harmful, dangerous or poses an immediate threat to the well-being of others. No Weapons.
3. Obscene or otherwise inappropriate for the Library environment.
4. In violation of another's intellectual property rights. For example, the printers will not be used to reproduce material that is subject to copyright, patent or trademark protection.

B. The Library reserves the right to refuse any 3D print request.

C. Cost: Patrons will be charged the cost of materials. Printing at the library will cost a minimum of $3.00 per object plus ($.20) cents per gram of filament used in the process. Patrons must use the filament provided by the library.

D. Library patrons who wish to use the 3D printer must go through a training session. Patrons must stay with the 3D printer until the project is completed.

PROCEDURES

The procedure for printing from the Library's 3D printers is as follows:

A. Design creation:

1.The 3D printer can be used with basic knowledge of Computer Assisted Drawing (CAD). Creating a new design requires an advanced knowledge of 3D modeling software products. Video tutorials that accompany CAD programs can be of assistance.

2. Any 3D drafting software may be used to create a design as long as the file can be saved in .stl, .obj, or .thing file format.

3. The Library has computers with AutoCAD and Photoshop software that may be used to create a design.

4. Digital designs also are available from various file-sharing databases such as Thingiverse.com.

B. Submitting a design for printing:

1. Persons wanting to use the 3D printer will make an appointment with staff to go through the training process and schedule another appointment for printing. All printing projects must be completed 1 hour before library closing.

2. The design to be printed must be in .stl, .obj, or .thing file format (no larger than 25MB)

3. The files will be readied for printing in MakerWare or other authorized software. The Library will view all files in MakerWare or other authorized software before printing.

Please note that procedures governing the use of the Library's 3D printers are subject to change.

DEFINITIONS

- 3D printing: the process of making a physical object from a digital model.

- 3D Printer: A 3D printer uses melted plastic to produce objects designed on a computer.

- CAD: Computer Assisted Drawing

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