MAKING IN THE YOUTH LIBRARY

Amy Koester | Massachusetts Library System March 2015
HELLO! I’M AMY.

Youth & Family Program Coordinator, Skokie Public Library

The Show Me Librarian
ON OUR AGENDA

- What constitutes a makerspace
TODAY WE’LL DISCUSS…

- What constitutes a makerspace
- How making aligns with library goals
Today we’ll discuss…

- What constitutes a makerspace
- How making aligns with library goals
- Resources to help you make at your library
WHAT IS THIS “MAKERSPACE” THING?
MAKING IS REALLY AN ATTITUDE.

- Explore new skills!
- Create something meaningful!
MAKERSPACE =

- Interactive activities
- Variety of supplies
- Plenty of time
- (Space)
MAKERSPACE =

- A sense of accomplishment & personal empowerment.
SO HOW DOES MAKING FIT LIBRARY GOALS?

- Programs & services
- Lifelong learners
- Community engagement
- The third space
MAKERSPACES ARE SIMPLY ANOTHER ITERATION OF THE PROGRAMMING WE ALREADY OFFER.
LET’S TALK MAKER PROGRAMS.
THE MAKER SPECTRUM

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- **Medium-tech** = some specialty materials, some prior experience with the activities
- **High-tech** = significant supplies investment, expertise is a huge plus
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LOW-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: BUILD SOMETHING

Gingerbread Houses

- Supplies:
  - milk cartons
  - graham crackers
  - icing
  - candy
LOW-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: BUILD SOMETHING

LEGO Club

- Supplies:
  - LEGO bricks
  - (Building platforms)
  - (Challenges)
  - (Display space)
LOW-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: DESIGN CHALLENGE

Marble Run Mania

- Supplies:
  - marbles
  - recyclables
  - scissors
  - electric tape
LOW-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: DESIGN CHALLENGE

 Marshmallow Towers

- Supplies:
  - mini marshmallows
  - toothpicks
  - design books
LOW-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: CRAFT & CREATE

Cardmaking Crafternoon

- Supplies:
  - paper
  - art supplies
  - scissors, glue, & tape
  - papercraft books
LOW-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: CRAFT & CREATE

Duct Tape Designs

- Supplies:
  - lots of duct tape
  - scissors
  - duct tape craft books
  - (internet access)
LOW-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: BUILD A WORLD

Bonjour, Paris!

- Supplies:
  - papercraft templates
  - scissors, glue, & tape
  - coloring utensils

image from made by joel
LOW-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: BUILD A WORLD

Recycled Doll Houses

- Supplies:
  - recycled cardboard
  - old magazines
  - scissors, glue, & tape
  - dolls/figurines
MEDIUM-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: GET CRAFTY

Leather Bracelets

- Supplies:
  - old belts
  - hammers
  - grommets & grommet punchers

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MEDIUM-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: GET CRAFTY

Repurposed Record Bowls

- Supplies:
  - old records
  - oven
  - cookie sheet
  - oven-safe bowls
  - oven mitts & hot pads

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MEDIUM-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: GET WIRED

MaKey MaKey

- Supplies:
  - MaKey MaKey kits
  - computers with USB ports
MEDIUM-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: GET WIRED

Scratch Games

- Supplies:
  - computers with internet access
  - computer with projection capabilities
MEDIUM-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: IT’S ALIVE!

Art Bots

- Supplies:
  - cheap electric toothbrushes
  - pool noodles
  - craft supplies
  - markers
MEDIUM-TECH MAKER PROGRAM: IT’S ALIVE!

Bristle Bots

- Supplies:
  - toothbrushes
  - coin batteries
  - vibrating motors
  - double stick tape
NO SPACE? NO PROBLEM!

Mobile Makerspaces

à la Karen Jensen @ Betty Warmack Branch Library (TX)

image from Teen Librarian Toolbox
DON'T FORGET TO TAP COMMUNITY PARTNERS!

Local Businesses, Tech Startups, & Non-profits

à la Justin Hoenke @ Chattanooga Public Library (TN)
FIND YOUR BEST RESOURCES.
ONLINE RESOURCES

- Make It @ Your Library
- Blogs
  - Teen Librarian Toolbox
  - so tomorrow
  - Imagine | Make | Play
  - search “library + maker”
- wikiHow
COMMUNITY EXPERTS

- Local children’s/science museums
- Local artists
- STEM-area businesses
- Hobby societies
MINE YOUR NON-FICTION!

- Find those how-to books!
- Think about what topics will pique kids’ interests
PURCHASING SUPPLIES

- Consider how you can repurpose and/or add on to what you already have
- Peruse your local dollar store
- Always solicit reviews & recommendations
SEEKING DONATIONS

- LEGOos
- Gently used equipment
- Financial contributions
- Friends of the Library

image “OIC—Donations” by flickr user Joe Schueller, Creative Commons licensed
GO FORTH AND MAKE!
QUESTIONS? IDEAS? COMMENTS? LET’S CHAT!

- amy.e.koester@gmail.com
- @amyeileenk
- http://showmelibrarian.blogspot.com
- http://goo.gl/iBRTF2