Though makerspaces are not a new concept for libraries, modern makerspaces are playing a significant role in helping libraries remain relevant and providing additional value to communities. Big machines have become neighbors to books as makerspaces foster innovation through hands-on experimentation with technology that would otherwise be inaccessible. Opportunities to learn and build new skills enhance patron experience while strategically supporting educational and economic development efforts of communities.

Spark Space
Jackson County Library Service (OR)

A STEM Center for Kids and Teens

Spark Space is a digital play space and homework help center for kids and teens, featuring cutting edge resources in science, technology, engineering, math, and digital arts.

The first of its kind in the Rogue Valley, Spark Space provides free access to digital stations featuring music, video, digital arts, writing, coding, and robotics tools for K-12 students. Created by repurposing existing space within the library, Spark Space empowers young minds to find their spark and connect with their passions while encouraging play and providing nurturing relationships.

Coding

Spark Space Computer Science tools engage young minds and help them advance from being computer users to creators. Get started coding in Scratch, Snap, Python, JavaScript, and more at Spark Space!

Robotics

Serious fun, but also serious learning in electronics, math, computational thinking, and more. When programming a robot, kids get instant feedback on whether their code is successful. Spark Space has robots for all ages and skill levels, from Blue-Bots and Makey Makey to The Finch Robot and Arduino Circuit Kits.
Creative Design

With access to Spark Space creative design tools—drawing tablets, Go-Pro style cameras, digital microphones, Hemingway Editor, and the full Adobe Creative Suite—the possibilities for creative expression (and learning) are limitless!

Homework Help

Spark Space offers free homework help from staff and volunteers, along with access to the Internet, computers, tablets, charging stations, color printing, and resources for independent learning. Leapfrog gaming/educational tablets are available for younger kids to use while older siblings work on homework.

Creation Station

Riverside County Library System (CA)

Creation Station offers science, technology, engineering and math, (STEM) programs and resources to the community through access to a variety of tools and technology. From a bright yellow workbench-sized bandsaw, sander and full set of hand tools to the sleek 3D printers and laser cutters, Creation Station can turn any resident into the next designer or entrepreneur.

3D Printing

Introduction to 3D Printing, Slicing Engine settings and using PLA and ABS filament. Printing with PETG and other specialty filaments, other types of 3D printers and techniques to finish printed parts.

Electronics

Introduction to LEDs, wires, batteries, resistors and other components of electronics. Proper handling and use of soldering equipment for electronics.

Laser Cutting

Introduction to properly setting up files to laser cut on wood and acrylic materials. Laser cutting non-traditional materials, engraving painted metals and glass.

CAD

Introduction to using Autodesk Fusion 360 program to create 3D designs that can be used for 3D printing, animation and manufacturing.
Hand Tools
Orientation on safely using equipment in the tool room.

Sewing
Introduction to setting up a sewing machine, operation and basic sewing techniques. Intermediate techniques, including how to sew buttonholes, use of bias tape and using zipperfoot to sew on zippers.

TechCentral
Osceola Library System (FL)
COMING SOON! Opening Day: April 1, 2020

Osceola Library System will be launching its TechCentral makerspace where patrons can make, collaborate, learn and share a new technology, skill or project. The space creatively repurposes empty office space into a series of tech suites designed to provide exposure to tools and technologies that will help the community gain skills to make their dreams – of personal enrichment, professional development or educational achievement – a reality.

TechCentral is divided up into seven spaces. Each room was developed to connect with a potential career and educational path within Osceola County business or educational arenas.

- Virtual Reality/Lobby Area
- Mac Lab
- Robotics and Hands-On Tech
- Flex Space
- Recording Studio
- Photo-Video Studio
- Sewing Studio

Virtual Reality
Oculus Rift workstations and Oculus Go headsets enable learning about VR technology that can lead patrons into career fields such as health care and business, and provides greater understanding of the latest trends in entertainment, travel, and education.

Mac Lab
Patrons will have access to Mac computers running Adobe Creative Cloud to be used for projects such as sound and video editing, graphic design, animation and web design using software that is cost-prohibitive for the average user.
Robotics and Hands-On Tech/Flex Space

A collaborative workspace geared toward STEM-hungry kids and teens, the focus will be on understanding circuitry, simple machines, robotics and their potential application for real life. LEGO and VEX robotics, littleBits and Arduino kits will be featured.

The Flex Space is another collaborative workspace for fun and school tours with a MakerBot Replicator+ and DeltaMaker 3D printers used to teach the real-world applications of 3D printing.

Recording Studio

Designed for aspiring musicians, podcasters and DJs, the pre-set space includes iMacs, keyboards, microphones, cables adaptor, software that a professional quality studio would feature, providing access to technology and equipment typically reserved for professionals or tech schools.

Photo-Video Studio

Aspiring professional and hobbyist photographers will have access to advanced equipment – cameras, green screens and microphones - to practice portrait and product photography to film school projects, take professional headshots, film a commercial spot, photograph products and more.

Sewing Studio

Sewing machines, dress forms, Sergers, and more will be used for self-guided learning or classes for aspiring seamstresses, costumers and hobbyists who want to learn sewing skills for everyday use.