Duchesne County Library System

3D Printing Policy

Purpose of the Policy

Duchesne County Library System–the Library–is committed to supporting access to technology and the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century. The 3D printer is one of those technologies. 3D printing is a process that creates physical objects from digital designs. The machine prints objects by melting and slowly layering a specialized plastic filament, a process called "additive manufacturing." This policy outlines approved uses of the 3D printer as well as the responsibilities of patrons and the library.

Approved Uses and Responsibilities

The Library's 3D printer is available for use by the general public. Only trained staff and volunteers may handle the 3D printer. Designs are printed on a first come, first serve basis. The only cost is $0.10 per gram of plastic used in the print, which is determined once the design is submitted and broken down into printable layers, a process called "slicing." This sliced design is what is sent to the 3D printer to print the appropriate layers. Dissolvable plastic support layers are also charged at $0.10 per gram.

The following designs and objects are prohibited from printing:

- Any item prohibited by local, state, or federal law.
- Any item that is determined to be unsafe, harmful, dangerous, or poses a threat to the well-being of others.
- Any item judged to be obscene or inappropriate for the Library environment.

The Library reserves the right to refuse any 3D printing requests.

The printer may not be used to reproduce material that is subject to copyright, patent, or trademark protections. The user is responsible for ensuring all designs are within compliance of all copyright and property laws.

The user assumes all responsibility and liability for the 3D design and prints. The quality of the resulting print due to design is the sole responsibility of the user. Failed prints due to 3D design should be reworked and resubmitted by the user. Failed prints due to machine malfunction or failure will be reprinted at the earliest convenience by staff, without charge.

Print times vary based on size, complexity of design, whether the print is solid or hollow, if dissolvable support material is required, and current printing queues. Patrons do not need to be present during the printing process. The printer may be unavailable due to maintenance, heavy usage periods, or scheduled programming. It is the patron's responsibility to submit designs far enough in advance before the items are needed. The Library will contact patrons when their items are available. Items must be paid for before receiving them.

The 3D printer is limited to an 8" X 8" X 9" cube of workspace. A design larger than that would need to be designed/printed in multiple parts that can be combined once the printing is complete; such as snap-together or other interconnecting pieces. Designs must be submitted in .stl file format. Patrons could find designs on free sites such as Thingiverse or Tinkercad.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed at least triennially by the Duchesne County Library Board of Trustees.

Reviewed: June 21, 2022
Adopted: July 19, 2022
Effective: July 20, 2022
Original Adoption: July 19, 2022