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MAKERSPACES: CREATIVITY IN THE LIBRARY

WHAT IS A MAKERSPACE? | WHY START WITH LIBRARIES? | CONFERENCE INFO

WHAT IS A MAKERSPACE?

To describe them simply, makerspaces are community centers with tools. Makerspaces combine manufacturing equipment, community, and education for the purposes of enabling community members to design, prototype and create manufactured works that wouldn't be possible to create with the resources available to individuals working alone. These spaces can take the form of loosely-organized individuals sharing space and tools, for-profit companies, non-profit corporations, organizations affiliated with or hosted within schools, universities or libraries, and more. All are united in the purpose of providing access to equipment, community, and education, and all are unique in exactly how they are arranged to fit the purposes of the community they serve.

Makerspaces represent the democratization of design, engineering, fabrication and education. They are a fairly new phenomenon, but are beginning to produce projects with significant national impacts.



- Make Magazine

"Educational makerspaces (EM) and maker education (ME) have the potential to revolutionize the way we approach teaching and learning. The maker movement in education is built upon the foundation of constructionism, which is the philosophy of hands-on learning through building things." - R. Steven Kurti, Debby L. Kurti, Laura Fleming

WHY START WITH LIBRARIES?

More and more schools are coming to value maker education and exploring ways to create makerspaces in their schools. Many schools are discussing how they might utilize their library to facilitate this. As schools have increased their commitment to constructionist learning and maker education over the last few years, schools have done so in close collaboration with their school libraries. In exploring the relationship between the school libraries and schools makerspaces, it's not difficult to see why conversations about the growth of makerspaces are often tied to the conversation about the future of libraries. Both makerspaces and libraries are constructivist learning spaces that share a number of common goals, while approaching them in different ways and through very different material resources.

Makerspaces and libraries are sites of informal learning. Libraries and makerspaces are inherently interdisciplinary spaces. Libraries and makerspaces provide equitable access to materials and resources. Makerspaces and libraries are more than just resource closets. Libraries and makerspaces serve the common goal of building community.



- Josh Weisgrau, Director of the Learning Studios project at Digital Promise Global



ABOUT ITIE



Information Technology in Education - ITIE - International Conference, held bi-annually since 2004, is aimed at the communication of ideas, methodologies, and practical experiences of library development, including promoting information literacy, cultural programs and educational innovations. ITIE2016 will provide a platform for library professionals, students, educators, researchers and practitioners from both within China and abroad, to explore, discover and share their best practices in the design, creation, operation and the continual reinvention of Makerspaces in the libraries.

ITIE 2016 CONFERENCE INFO



BEIJING | Nov 18-19 | @ THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CHINA

Makerspaces for Cultural Innovators & Historians

SHENZHEN | Nov 20 | @ THE LIBRARY OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE

Makerspaces for Innovators & Designers

GUANGZHOU | Nov 21-22 | @ THE GUANGZHOU LIBRARY

Makerspaces for Everyone in the Community

WUHAN | Nov 23-24 | @ THE WUHAN UNIVERISTY LIBRARY

Makerspaces for Students & Educators

ITIE 2016 BEIJING



BEIJING | Nov 18-19 | @ NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CHINA

Makerspaces for Cultural Innovators & Historians

Hosted by: National Library of China Evergreen Education Foundation

ITIE 2016 SHENZHEN



SHENZHEN | Nov 20 | @ SHENZHEN LIBRARY OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE

Makerspaces for Innovators & Designers

Hosted by: Shenzhen Library of Technology & Science Evergreen Education Foundation

ITIE 2016 GUANGZHOU



GUANGZHOU | Nov 21-22 | @ GUANGZHOU LIBRARY

Makerspaces for Everyone in the Community

Hosted by:

Guangzhou Library

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ITIE 2016 WUHAN



WUHAN | Nov 23-24 | @ WUHAN UNIVERISTY LIBRARY

Makerspaces for Students & Educators

Hosted by: Wuhan University Library Evergreen Education Foundation

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Registration #68-0474814.