

The LaunchPad Makerspace is Awesome!

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What is a LaunchPad Makerspace?

LaunchPad Makerspace is a section of the physical library that provides technology that is not always accessible to residents at no cost. These services include duplication services for audio/visual media formats, 3D printers, virtual reality learning and gaming, precise cut equipment for crafts, sewing machines, culinary equipment and materials, specialty photography equipment, robotics, crafts and games, and a seed library.

LaunchPad Services are available at the Daytona Beach Regional Library, Deltona Regional Library, Ormond Beach Regional Library, and the Lake Helen Public Library.

Here are just a few of the LaunchPad services available.

Legacy Lab

Let's say you have some really old LP (long play) phonograph records that you would like to preserve in a more modern format like a USB drive that then can be imported to a computer or transferred to a CD/DVD. The Legacy Lab is an innovative do-it-yourself space for digitizing various audio/visual media formats, as well as scanning documents, slides, and negatives. Patrons can transfer the following formats to a USB drive: VHS and VHS-S, Photos & Papers, 3.5" Floppy Disk, Audio Cassettes, 35mm Negatives, 35mm Slides, Vinyl Records, 8mm, & Super8 Reels. Available by appointments of two-hour blocks, however, all transfers are real-time, so if you have a three-hour VHS tape you want to convert to a digital file, let the library staff know that your appointment time will be longer.

3D Printers

3D printers are equipment that use plastic filament (which is melted and extruded) to create predesigned objects. LaunchPad visitors can use one of two Prusa MK3 3D printers to create small-scale 3D objects in various colors. Scanners for preexisting items are not yet available. What I mean by that is, if a scanner was available, you could scan a small item like a water bottle screw-on cap, and the 3D printer would reproduce the cap. Why would you need another bottle cap? You probably wouldn't, but if you had a plastic part for a piece of equipment or a toy about the size of a bottle cap, you could use the 3D printer to replicate the part. The 3D printers in the LaunchPad are for demonstration purposes only. There are 3D printers in all sizes that are used for many different applications. I have purchased 3D printer-produced items for my drum set that were not available from the manufacturer. The space station has 3D printers on board in case a part breaks. NASA or SpaceX can transmit the scan codes from Earth to the 3D printer on the space station, and within a day or so (depending on the size of the part) the crew has the much-needed replacement part. Some extremely large 3D printers use concrete instead of plastic filament, and construct houses in weeks instead of months. The 3D printers at the libraries are available by appointment only.

Virtual Reality Headsets

What if you wanted to get a job driving a forklift, but you have zero experience driving one? Without ever actually driving a forklift you can learn how and eliminate any chance of crashing into someone or

something. Or, a surgeon could virtually replace a patient's hip or knee with an artificial part without ever operating on a human being. The possibilities and applications are endless.

Also referred to as Oculus, Virtual Reality headsets are devices worn over the eyes, like a pair of goggles. The headsets provide users with a 3D viewing experience allowing virtual exploration of parks, museums, other countries, theme-park rides, and more – all from the safety of the library's LaunchPad. For ages 8+. Available by appointment or during programs.

Cricut™

A Cricut™ is a cutting machine that can precisely cut many different materials for craft projects – like paper, vinyl, cardstock, and more. LaunchPad visitors can use the Cricut™3 or the Cricut™ Joy to create and cut out designs for personalized t-shirts, stickers, cards, labels, and more. Available by appointment or during programs.

LaunchPad Makerspace is only available to patrons with an active library card. If you don't have a library card, visit one of the 14 library branches nearest you. It only takes a few minutes and there is no cost for the card. To find a branch location, visit www.volusialibrary.org

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