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3-D Printers For Libraries (Library Technology Reports)



Synopsis

As the maker movement continues to grow and 3-D printers become more affordable, an expanding group of hobbyists is keen to explore this new technology. In the time-honored tradition of introducing new technologies, many libraries are considering purchasing a 3-D printer. Jason Griffey, an early enthusiast of 3-D printing, has researched the marketplace and seen several systems first hand at the Consumer Electronics Show. In this report he introduces readers to the 3-D printing marketplace, covering such topics as

- How fused deposition modeling (FDM) printing works
- Basic terminology such as build plate, spool, nozzle hot end, direct extruder, and Bowden extruder
- Plastics used, such as ABS, PLA, and others
- Descriptions, price ranges, and filament specs for 3-D printers from MakerBot, Printbot, Solidoodle, and other manufacturers
- Suggested staff skills for performing basic maintenance tasks
- Where to find both ready-to-use designs and the software for customizing, from beginning to advanced systems

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Customer Reviews

Jason Griffey is the founder and principal consultant at Evenly Distributed, a technology consulting firm for libraries and education. He has written extensively on libraries and technology, most recently a chapter in *The Top Technologies Every Librarian Needs to Know: A LITA Guide*. His previous book, *Mobile Technology and Libraries*, is a part of the award-winning Tech Set series. Named a Library Journal Mover & Shaker in 2009, he has written and spoken internationally on

topics such as the future of technology and libraries, personal electronics in the library, privacy, copyright, and intellectual property. He is the designer and director of The LibraryBox Project, an open source portable digital file distribution system.

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