Makerspace is a commonly used term to refer to a place for do-it-yourself fabrication where a user can find a range of resources including software programs used in design and fabrication, equipment, and expertise.

Why is this in the library? The relevancy to the library is the service model is a common one for Walker, which is the library environment brings together the expertise, technology, and space to encourage individual and collaborative learning. The library is also a place dedicated to meeting the needs of students and faculty across all disciplines. While the Walker Library makerspace will focus on the use of computer-aided design in fabrication, this area will draw students in the arts, business, and sciences as well as mechatronics and computer science. The makerspace will be supported by the use of informational resources and will require critical thinking to apply information in student projects. Research and discovery at the undergraduate level can now include the fabrication of parts used in the research process—either to enable or to demonstrate the end product.

The User Experience in the library: A key strategic goal of the library is to substantiate and understand the user experience in the many ways students and faculty interact with our services, collections, and spaces. Walker Library is consistently introducing changes to meet needs of the University community and to take advantage of new technologies that make the library most effective in support of the campus. Technological change allows libraries to introduce new ways of conducting research, acquiring data and content, applying information and bringing together competencies that support the research process. As Walker Library continues to evolve we are mindful of how these changes impact students and faculty. Our focus on assessment especially in the area of the user experience will guide us as we evolve.

Digital Initiatives: During the past four years, Walker Library expanded our digital initiatives to create a partnership with key archival centers on campus—the Gore Research Center, the Center for Popular Music, and the Center for Historic Preservation. We hired our first Digital Scholarship Librarian two years ago to coordinate the various initiatives and to create a digital scholarship lab equipped for the digitization of collections and to introduce students and faculty to the tools needed to publish in a digital environment. These tools include the software, protocols and methods, copyright issues to publish research in a dynamic environment. See our listing of seminars in the uses and application of software needed in digital scholarship. Contact DigitalScholar@mtsu.edu for information on how you can contribute to JEWLScholar, the library’s institutional repository, or get support in hosting digital journals edited by MTSU. faculty and students.

The library is a vibrant and ever-changing place. Please come and see what’s new.

Bonnie Allen, Dean, Walker Library
The big news this fall is a renovation of the Digital Media Studio to expand that service to include a “makerspace.”

This new learning experience builds upon the success of the Digital Media Studio (DMS) which opened in 2010, to encourage creative design with the aid of computer programs that drive the creation of multimedia materials. This service will introduce the campus to a variety of printers, cutters and 3D imaging, drawbots, and resin printers. The Makerspace takes the creative design focus of the DMS to a new level. Virtual or augmented reality will also be brought into the space as this technology develops and becomes more easily available.

What is a Makerspace?
Makerspace is a catch-all term to refer to a service that offers equipment that enables the creation or fabrication of prototypes of designs or customized “parts.” The vision for the Walker Library makerspace service is to provide an active learning experience for students that use technology as a tool, accessible to students of every level of technical expertise. The focus is on the process of collaborative problem solving that will take an idea to resolution. This learning experience will call students to integrate a variety of learning skills including information seeking, application of data, and use of the technology tool that takes an idea to an end result.

The future value of the Makerspace experience is in innovation—the creation of new solutions to problems using technology. As students pursue a variety of career paths, the creation of parts or prototypes to test designs, create modifications or to provide “proof of concept” is likely to be required. We are seeing this type of technology introduced in elementary schools already, so elementary education students will be prepared to instruct in this area in their school.

Why the library?
While the shiny printers and the curiosity around virtual reality might be the immediate attraction, it is the library service model that explains the reason why these services are successful in libraries. The library staff provide supportive expertise in a space with the equipment which encourages individual as well as collaborative work. The expectation that students who are majoring in all disciplines come together in the library adds to pooling of interests and knowledge. While there are direct connections of a makerspace to such academic programs as Engineering, Mechatronics, and Computer Science, there are equally useful applications to fashion design, theatre, art, business, and education. Research libraries with a makerspace learning area have found them to be instrumental in support of the STEM (science, technology, engineering arts, and math) initiatives.

The many ways the library provides access is demonstrated in this service as well. With the guidance of staff, and the availability of the equipment and training, the use of the technology becomes accessible to the novice student wanting to discover and use the computer programs that exist in databases. From this the student learns the application of this type of information in the operation of equipment such as 3D printers. As students advance, they will find computer components that can create mechanized objects to create a prototype or solve a particular problem. By removing a barrier to access to training, the equipment and a collaborative space, other libraries have seen curriculum expand the scope of classroom assignments to include innovative solutions and prototyping.

Like any new service, we will be testing assumptions and assessing our services and we invite faculty feedback. The selection of equipment to date has been informed by a number of webinars, consultations, and research. On campus we have been working with the student Makerspace Club and reaching out to faculty in a number of departments as we created a launch plan. All have provided encouragement and even excitement for this new resource. As we establish cost and a sustainable service model, the Makerspace will be restricted to students and faculty.

Getting started:
For each piece of equipment, students will be required to successfully pass a basic instruction session to certify their safe operation of the equipment. These sessions will start with the 3D printers. Use of the equipment and consultation is restricted to students.

The Makerspace will be open at the start of classes, watch for a “grand opening” celebration after fall break in October.

Please contact: Neal McClain at Neal.McClain@mtsu.edu for additional information.

#MakingAMakerspace

CNC Machine  Resin Printer  3D Printers
AR & VR Technology  Laser Cutter  Vinyl Cutter
Digital Opportunities at Walker Library

Last year the team developed the Digital Humanities (DH) Seminar Series to provide faculty and students a venue to learn and explore DH topics. This will continue through the 2016-2017 year and takes place on select Fridays. Additional program developments include GIS and Mapping Workshops that will be offered this fall at the library.

Are you interested in starting your own digital project? The Digital Seed Grant was developed to encourage and create opportunities for MTSU faculty members and researchers to use digital technologies in their research or teaching. Applications are due December 1, 2016.

For updated schedules and details, please visit dsi.mtsu.edu.

MTSU started as a teacher education college in 1911, and the tradition of educating the area’s teachers continues today. One resource available is the Womack Curriculum Collection.

The Walker Library has an entire area dedicated to K-12 resources such as children’s fiction and nonfiction, textbooks, games, manipulatives, and curricular materials. A recent library policy change has made these materials available for check-out by Tennessee K-12 teachers, librarians, and administrators.

This summer the Library hosted 25 school librarians for a one-day workshop to see the Womack Curriculum Collection and learn more about our new lending policy to K-12 educators.

They listened to presentations on topics pertaining to reading and literacy, learned about integrating STEM resources into the school library and engaged in a panel session examining the future of school librarian accountability measures.

Contact Karen Reed, Education Librarian, at Karen.Reed@mtsu.edu for more information.

New Library Resources

You now have access to these digital historical archives:

- Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842–2003
- The Times (London) Digital Archive, 1785–2010
- The Times Literary Supplement Historical Archive—1902–2011
- The Sunday Times Digital Archive—1822–2066
- African American Historical Serials Collection—Digitized periodicals, reports, and annuals documenting history of African American life and religious organizations between 1829 and 1922.

And the new versions of:


Excel spreadsheets and PDF-based tables for the Statistical Abstract of the United States published by the Census Bureau from 1878–2012. Content is searchable with the current Statistical Abstracts data. Comprehensive summary of statistics on the social, political, and economic organization of the United States. Full content available for annual issues from 1878 to present.

Get to these new resources with fewer clicks! http://libraryguides.mtsu.edu/new
Faculty and Staff Additions

Jason Martin, Associate Dean, is overseeing the library’s assessment program. He has more than 14 years of experience in academic libraries and most recently served as the Head of Public Services at the duPont-Ball Library at Stetson University. He has a B.A. in History from the University of South Florida, a M.A. in Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Central Florida. His research interests include leadership and organizational culture, and he is the outgoing chair of ACRL’s University Libraries Section.

Denise Quintel, Discovery Services Librarian, comes to Walker Library from the University of Alabama. She earned her Master of Science, Library and Information Science from University of Tennessee–Knoxville and a Bachelor of Arts English Language and Literature from Northeastern University.

Wendy Jones and Anne Sayakhom joined the Acquisitions staff in the Spring. James Brummett joined the Administrative Office as Social Media Coordinator in January.

Fall Library Events

New Faculty Orientation: Aug. 17, 9–1 p.m., LIB 446, 264A, and 348
Library Open: Aug. 21, 2–10 p.m., Fall Classes Begin: Aug. 22
Library Question Tent: Aug. 22 and 23, 7 a.m.–10 p.m., Quad
International Student Orientation: Aug 24 and 25, 3–4 p.m.
Grad Student Orientation: Aug. 26, 1–3 p.m., Library, 1st Floor
Makerspace Grand Opening: Oct. 2016, Library DMS, 2nd floor

Check mtsu.libcal.com/events for more info.

Library Grant Winner

Dr. Mary Beth Asbury, Assistant Professor, Communication Studies and Organizational Communication, is the 2016 recipient of the Walker Library's new Information Literacy Curriculum Integration Grant.

This $2,000 award is given to support MTSU faculty who purposefully integrate library research and information concepts into a new or existing course. Dr. Asbury will work with Sharon Parente, Assistant Professor, User Services, to revise her Organizational Communication Analysis course (ORCO 3750) for the fall 2016 semester.

More information on the library's Information Literacy Curriculum Integration Grant can be found at http://libraryguides.mtsu.edu/infolitgrant or by contacting Jason Vance at Jason.Vance@mtsu.edu.

Advancement Corner

February was the month of love. Many people donated to the Walker Library in support of all students on campus, raising funds for collections, technology, and support. At MTSU, our relationship with our faculty and students is one we cherish, and we invite you to support the heart of MTSU, the James E. Walker Library.

LOVE YOUR LIBRARY
To donate by mail: Walker Library, MTSU Box 13, Murfreesboro, TN 37132
(Make checks payable to the MTSU Foundation—Walker Library.)
To donate online: Visit: www.mtsu.edu/supportlibrary or contact Kristen at 615-898-5376 or by email at kristen.keene@mtsu.edu.