

FAQs

3D Printing

Q: What is 3D Printing?

A: 3D printing is the process of making a physical object from a digital model by using melted plastic. The object is built one layer at a time, from the bottom up.

Q: What kind of 3D printer does the library have?

A: We have a Prusa i3 3D printer.

Q: Who can use the 3D Printer?

A: Any library cardholder who has signed our Studio waiver may submit a design for printing.

Q: Where can I find a 3D file to print on the 3D Printers?

A: You may:

- Find a premade file online from a website like [Thingiverse.com](https://www.thingiverse.com) or [GrabCAD.com](https://www.grabcad.com), or
- Create your own 3D file by using a CAD (computer assisted design) program. For 3D design beginners, we recommend [tinkercad.com](https://www.tinkercad.com) as a free, easy to use, web-based program.

Q: How can I learn more about 3D Printing?

A: Instructional guides and videos for the machines and software can typically be found on the manufacturer's website, [Lynda.com](https://www.lynda.com), or on YouTube – please ask a staff member if you need help finding them.

Q: Can I send files for 3D printing without coming into the library?

A: As long as the file types are appropriate (STL or OBJ format), you can email files to studio@winnetkalibrary.org for printing. Library staff will tell you the cost of the print job and then add that amount to your library account to be paid, either online through our catalog or when you come to pick up the print.

Q: When is the 3D Printer available?

A: Generally, the 3D Printers are available for use from the time the Library opens until 60 minutes before the Library closes.

Please note that:

- All jobs must be approved by authorized library staff, and the printer is available on a first come, first served basis.
- The Library reserves the right to refuse any 3D printing request.

Q: How long will my print job take?

A: Print times can vary drastically. Smaller print jobs may be finished in as little as 15 minutes and larger print jobs may take hours. We can give you an estimated time for your print before adding it to the queue.

Q: Is there limits to the amount of time my 3D print can take?

A: The total print time of each individual job may not exceed six (6) hours. Users may submit no more than three (3) print jobs per week.

Q: Can I choose my filament color?

A: Yes, there are a variety of colors available on the “Filament Color” list on our website. Please select the color that is best for your object.

Q: Is there a fee for using the 3D Printer?

A: Yes, the Library charges \$0.10 per gram of filament used.

Q: Will a librarian help me with my print?

A: Librarians can assist with the basic operation of the machinery and Makerbot software. Librarians will not remove [rafts](#) and [support materials](#) from your print, and may not be able to offer guidance on more advanced topics.