3D printing at the Clayton Library

Thanks to the Clayton Community Library Foundation we are now able to offer a 3D printing experience. We can print smaller jobs (5 in x 5 in x 5 in) and you can see the printer running as we print your job or others. The frequency that the printer is in use will depend upon the number of requests we have.

If you would like to have something printed please complete the form located at: https://tinyurl.com/2jr4dtts

Printing is currently free of charge to our patrons and one print job per person may be submitted each week. (File submission frequency subject to change.) Additional policies are in the submission form. Please read it carefully.

FAQ

Q. What are the print color options?

A. Bronze, Red, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple, Black, White, and Silver. Swatches are available for viewing.

Q. How long does it take to print? When will my job be ready?

A. That depends on the size and complexity of the print job. We will not accept any jobs that take longer than 4 hours. It can take up to a week, depending upon demand, for us to print your request.

Q. Can my job be printed in multiple colors?

A. No, at the moment the library can only print single color.

Q. What kind of 3D printer do you have?

A. Our printer is a Prusa MK3S.

Q. Can the library edit my print job for me?

A. Library Staff will not edit your print job beyond adding supports. If other changes are needed for a successful print job, we will alert you so you can make the changes and resubmit.

Q. What files do you accept for 3D printing?

A. We only accept .stl files. STL is short for STereolithography. STLs are a very compact file and only contain data on the dimensions of an object and nothing else.

Q. Will the library teach me how to make 3D items?

A. Currently, the library is not able to assist users in creating their own 3D models. However, if you would like to learn on your own there are several free online tutorials, videos, and software options available. (thingverse.com and printables.com) We also hope to host workshops periodically.

Q. Can I bring in my own printer filament?

A. No, the library will only use the filament we have in stock. Feel free to suggest other colors from Prusa you would like to see available.

Q. What kind of filament do you use?

A. The library currently uses Prusa's PLA filament.

Q. How often can I print at the library?

A. You can submit one print job a week.

Q. Can I bring a print request on my own sd card?

A. No, all print jobs must be submitted via the online form. (https://tinyurl.com/2jr4dtts)

Q. Will my print job be food safe?

A. No, PLA print jobs are not considered food safe.

Q. Can I print...?

A. All print jobs must follow Contra Costa County Library 3D Printer Regulations.

Q. What happens if the print fails?

A. Library staff will check to determine if it is a printer error and retry the print job. If it fails a second time the library will let you know and you can edit and resubmit the .stl file.

Q. How big can my print job be?

A. Print jobs can be max of 5"x5"x5" and must be able to be printed within the 4-hour time limit.

Q. How long do I have to pick up my print job?

A. Patrons will receive an email when the print job is completed. They have one week from the date of the email to pick up their print job.

Q. What happens if I don't pick it up in one week?

A. Items not picked up are put in lost and found where they will be addressed in accordance with Contra Costa County Library policy.

Q. Can I print multiple items in one submission?

A. As long as the print job fits the time and size limits it's fine to have multiple items in the file.

Q. How much does it cost to 30 print at the library?

A. 3D printing at the library is free due to the support of the Friends of the Library Foundation.

Q. Do you need a library card to submit a print request?

A. No, the 3D printer is for everyone!