

3D Printing Policy

The New Ulm Public Library has a 3D printer available for use to support the ever-changing and constantly evolving technology needs of the community. 3D printing, also called additive manufacturing, means making things layer by layer according to a 3D design file. The New Ulm Public Library makes a 3D printer available to members of the public to make three-dimensional objects in plastic using a design that is uploaded from a digital computer file.

The library's 3D printer may be used only for lawful purposes. It may not be used to create weapons or materials that

- Are prohibited by local, state, or federal law;
- Are unsafe, harmful, dangerous, or which pose an immediate threat to the well-being of others;
- Are inappropriate for the library environment; or
- Violates another person's property rights. For example, the printer will not be used to reproduce objects or materials that are subject to copyright, patent, or trademark protection.

All 3D printing requests must fulfill the library's requirements

- The print file submitted must be sent in the following formats: STL OBJ, 3mf, BMP, .g, .gcode, GIF, JGP, PNG, x3d
- Only one print request per person will be accepted and printed at a time.
- Submissions by one person must not exceed one request per every two weeks.
- The print object must be smaller than 11 L x 6.0 W x 6.7 H in inches. Costs for 3D printing can be found in the library's Fines and Fees schedule.

Printing is available on a first-come, first-served basis and is coordinated by the New Ulm Public Library staff. Priority printing will be given to library programs and events.

Library staff will review every object file before it is printed, and the library reserves the right to refuse any 3D print request. The nature of 3D printing does not allow complete member privacy, but the library will not share information about a member's legal activities with third parties. The printer will only print an object in a single color. Color preferences may be submitted, but the library will determine the color of the filament based on availability. Library staff reserve the right to resize projects unless dimensions are specific in the request.

Print jobs take an average of ten days to complete. Due to the amount of time it takes to print an object, the number of requests received and staff availability, the library will not guarantee that a print job will be ready on a specific day. 3D prints will be printed in the order the requests are received, with the exception of prints related to library programming, which will take first priority.

Before a print can be built, library staff must evaluate the build both in terms of feasibility of structure and file formatting as well as for compliance with library policy. The scheduling of a 3D print job requested by a patron is influenced by the following factors as well as the time of day and day of the week on which it is requested. A variety of factors can influence how long a 3D print takes to build including the volume of the object, level of detail, need for temporary

support structures, heat settings of the extruder head, and environmental factors of temperature and humidity. In addition, some complex builds require building individual parts separately resulting in multiple print sessions to complete a single project. Depending on the complexity of the build requested and other priorities of library staff, the actual printing time of the build combined with the scheduling of staff and the 3D printer necessitate a broader time window for when a project will be completed.

The Library is not responsible for failed 3D prints, although we will do our best to assist in completing successful 3D prints.

New Ulm Public Library will not be liable for functional failure of or injuries or property damage caused by objects or materials made through the use of the 3D printer. The library strongly recommends that the 3D printer not be used to make things that could prove harmful, or that would result in significant cost to the user if they fail.

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