

## Programming & Makerspace Librarian Report

Sarah French

May 2025

### Programs:

4/19: Music & Art Wonder Club with Noelle Larson (20)

4/21: Tea of the Month (36)

Month of April: Citizen Science Bingo (1)

Month of April: Community Puzzle Piece Mural (31)

5/2: Flowerpot painting at Mulberry Glen w/WW Arts Alliance (14)

5/5: Kids take/make craft – Kindness Sunflower (60)

Month of May: Seed Packet giveaway (50)

### Upcoming Programs:

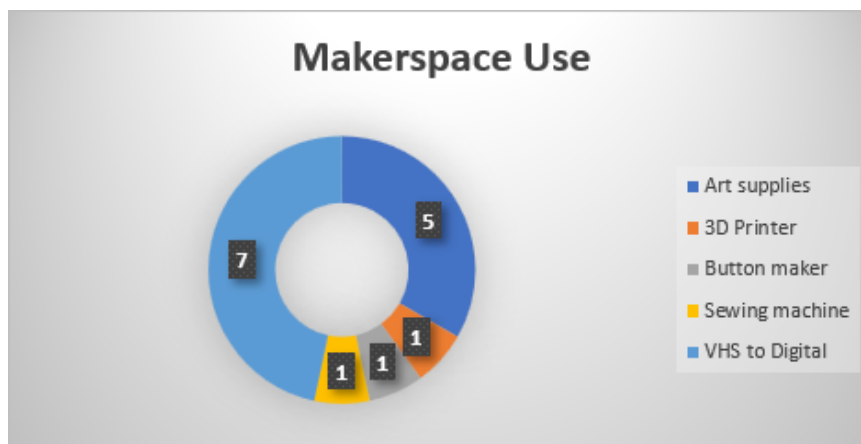
5/14: Community Helpers Storytime with a police officer

5/19: Tea of the Month Club

5/22: Financial Education Games for Homeschool Families

5/30-31: Whitewater Storytelling Festival. The library will be providing a Story Stroll on both days and Flowerpot Painting on Saturday, along with tabling and general help with the event.

June 9-August 1: Summer Reading Program! Lots of events planned. See the library's events calendar.



**Makerspace Appointments:** .5 hours

**Total Makerspace Use:** 15 (note that this number reflects only people who sign in; many don't)

### **Equipment & Technology:**

- Upgraded the cassette player. Ours was very old and didn't always work properly. The new cassette player has a built-in converter to .mp3 files, which will be much easier for patrons.
- I updated one of our old iPads and it will now be used at the circulation desk so that staff can easily help patrons reserve rooms and equipment.

### **Donations:**

- \$40 from a patron who was grateful for the VHS to digital conversion equipment.
- Donna Benedict donated a solid oak floor loom for the Makerspace worth several thousand dollars. Her husband was Albert Benedict, a local artist. She also donated one of his large ceramic sculptures, which we will put on display in the new library.

### **Strategic Goals:**

- Completed the Strategic Goal 3 activity - attending the Community Voices training.
- Continued work on Strategic Goal 4 - Friends of the Library revitalization
- Continued work on Strategic Goal 2 – new library website

### **Other Updates:**

- The gift card drawing for National Library Week had 48 participants. The winner received a \$25 gift card from The Book Teller.
- Completed the Bridges 2025 Library Improvement and Innovation Noncompetitive Grant Application. Potential \$2500 for the hearing loop installation.
- I attended the Partners in Community-Based Learning Community Breakfast at UW-Whitewater. I spoke with several potential partners about various initiatives that we can create at the library in the future. It was a very rewarding meeting, and a lot of contacts were made and ideas shared. Next steps will be further communication with potential partners.
- Working on building our homepage on Vega, which is the new library catalog interface that is being implemented through Bridges.
- Ended the Makerspace survey and assessed the results (see attached report).

### **Meetings**

- 4/16: Management meeting
- 4/23: Management meeting
- 4/25: WLA Children's Book Award Committee meeting
- 4/30: Management meeting
- 5/1: Meeting with Rachel

- 5/1: Interview with the Libraries and Resilient Communities Project (LARC) for a research project
- 5/5: Library Makers Ambassador meeting
- 5/7: Management meeting

### **Professional Development:**

- *Community Voices* training with Bridges
- *Libby for Every Reader* training
- Vega catalog trainings
- *Fundamentals of Library Supervision* by Beth McNeil (ALA Editions, 2017)
- “Beyond the Pizza Party”: A Panel Discussion on how to Maintain Staff Morale
- NEOGOV Emerging Leader Certification Program Sessions:
  - *Internal Communication for Leaders*
- *Lead the Way: Libraries at the Heart of Community Engagement* Conference sessions:
  - Opening Keynote with Kathy Barri: Ginanda Gikendaasomin Agindaasoowigamig
  - Creating Infrastructure to Support Safe & Meaningful Programming
  - Friends for a Season, Friends for a Reason: Building Resilient Library Partnerships
  - Harnessing Civic Engagement Through Library Initiatives
  - Radical Librarianship: From Theory from Practice
  - Roundtable Discussion: Community Partnerships – Creating and Maintaining Partnerships Respectfully and Responsibly.
  - Serving Seniors: Community Partnership and Outreach with Senior Living Facilities
  - Closing Keynote with Steven Jackson: A Restorative Approach to Community Engagement
  - First Nations Cultural Landscape Tour



Irvin L. Young  
Memorial Library

# MAKERSPACE SURVEY

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## REPORT

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Assessing Community Needs



Presented By :  
Sarah French  
Programming & Makerspace Librarian

May 2025

# SURVEY OVERVIEW



A makerspace survey was conducted to help the library understand what the community would like to see in the new Makerspace. The survey ran from March 1-April 30, 2025 and was offered in both online and paper formats.

## Target Audience:

- Lives in Whitewater or surrounding areas.
- Have visited the Irvin L. Young Memorial Library within the past twelve months.
- Have used the library's Makerspace in the past or are interested in using the Makerspace in the future.

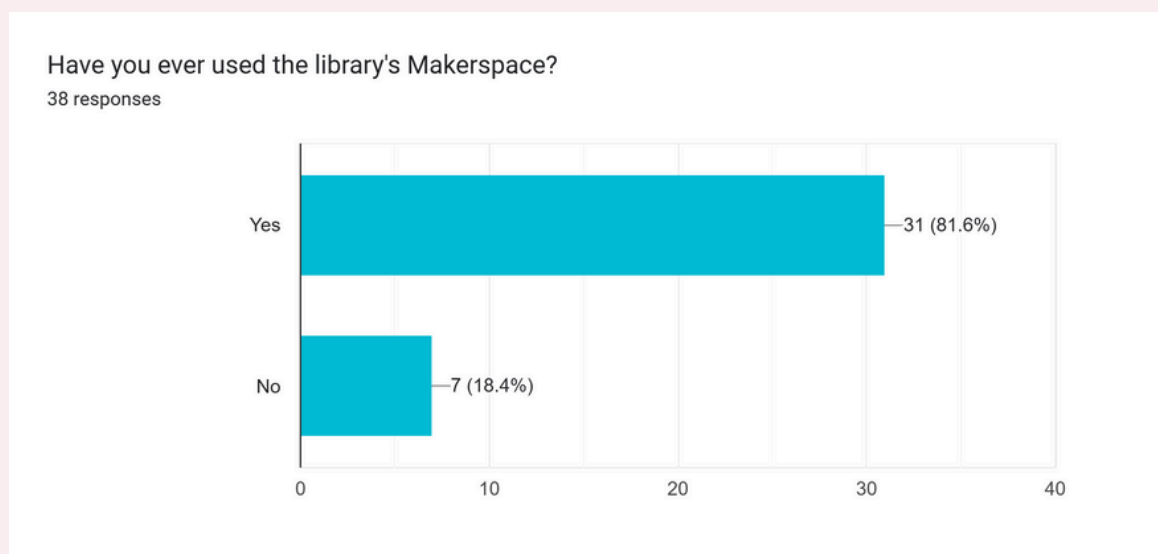




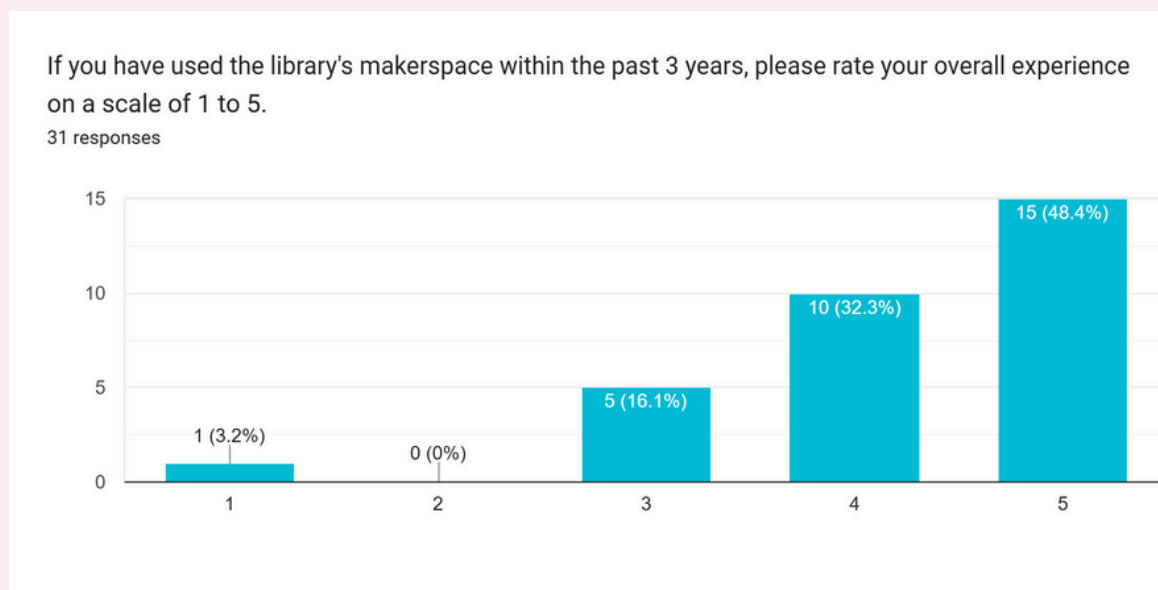
# USER EXPERIENCE

The survey received 34 online responses and 4 paper responses for a total of 38 responses.

82% of respondents have used the library's makerspace in the past.



81% of survey respondents rated the **current** overall Makerspace experience at a 4 or 5 out of 5.

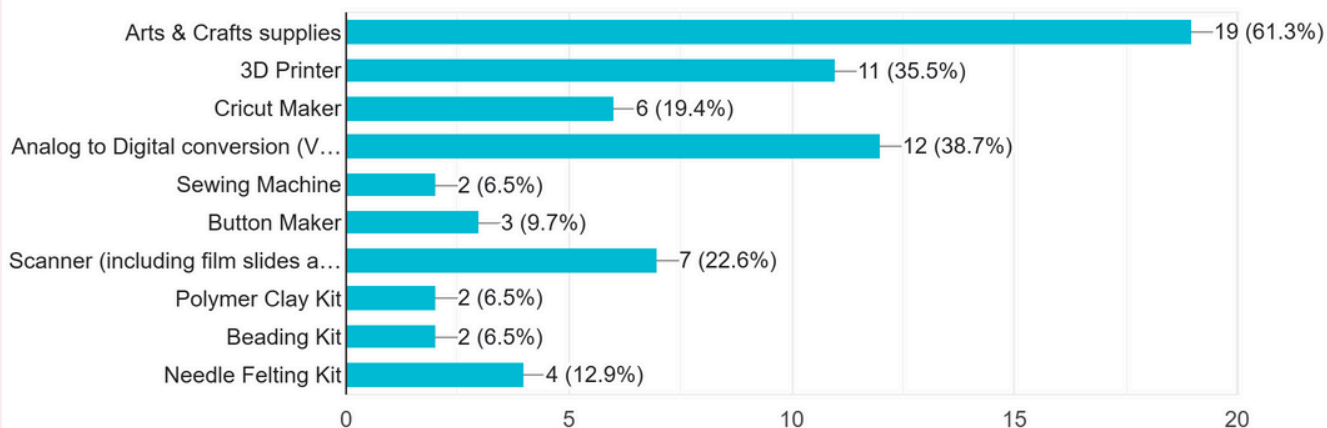


# CURRENT USAGE



If you answered yes to the question above, how have you used the Makerspace in the past? Check all boxes that apply.

31 responses



How are makerspace users currently utilizing the space?

Arts and Crafts supplies, the 3D Printer, and Analog to Digital equipment are the top usages from respondents. This aligns with data tracked from monthly reports as well.

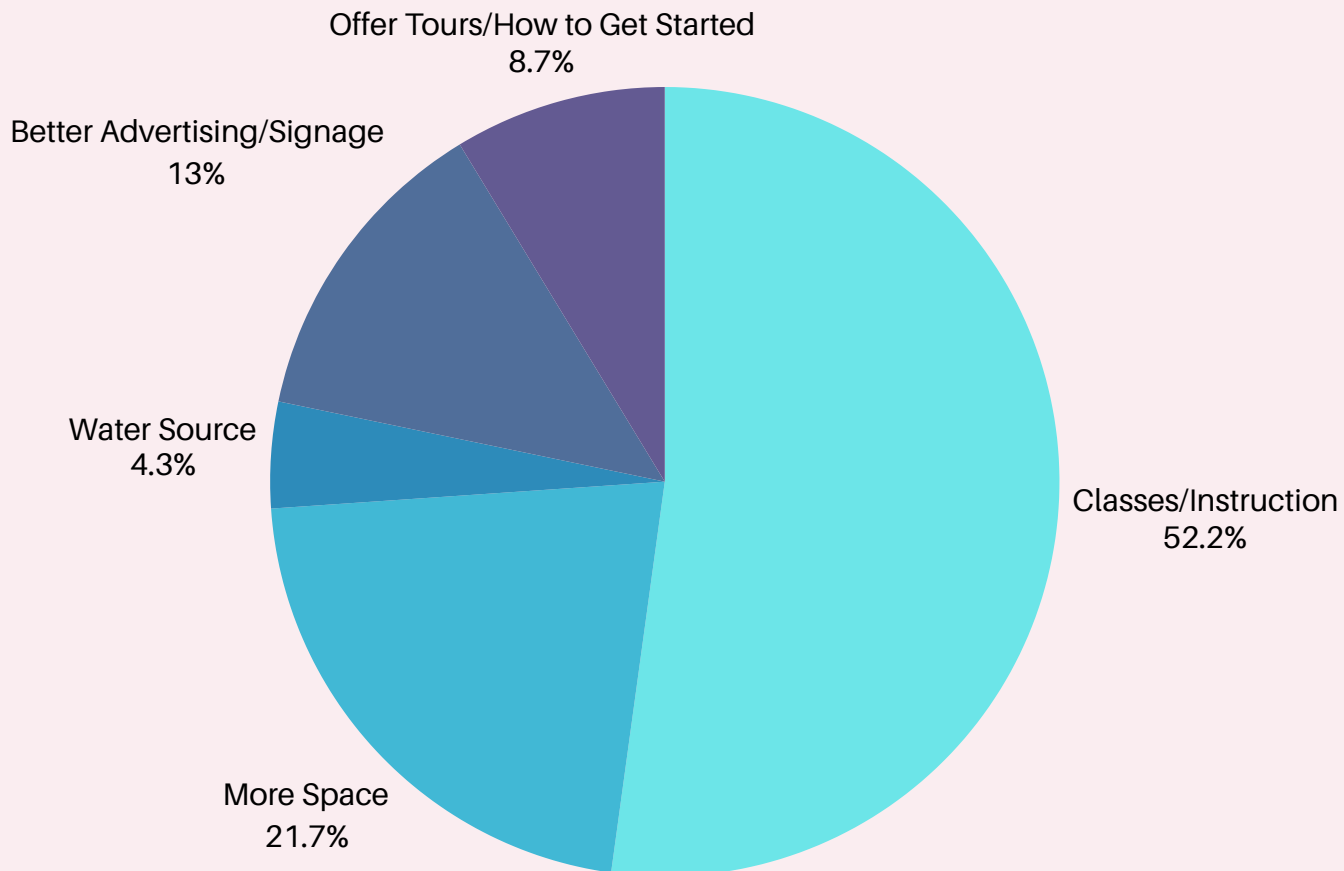
The Cricut Maker and Scanner are also popular items, followed by the Needle Felting Kit, Button Maker, Sewing Machine, Beading Kit, and Polymer Clay Kit.



# HOW CAN WE IMPROVE?



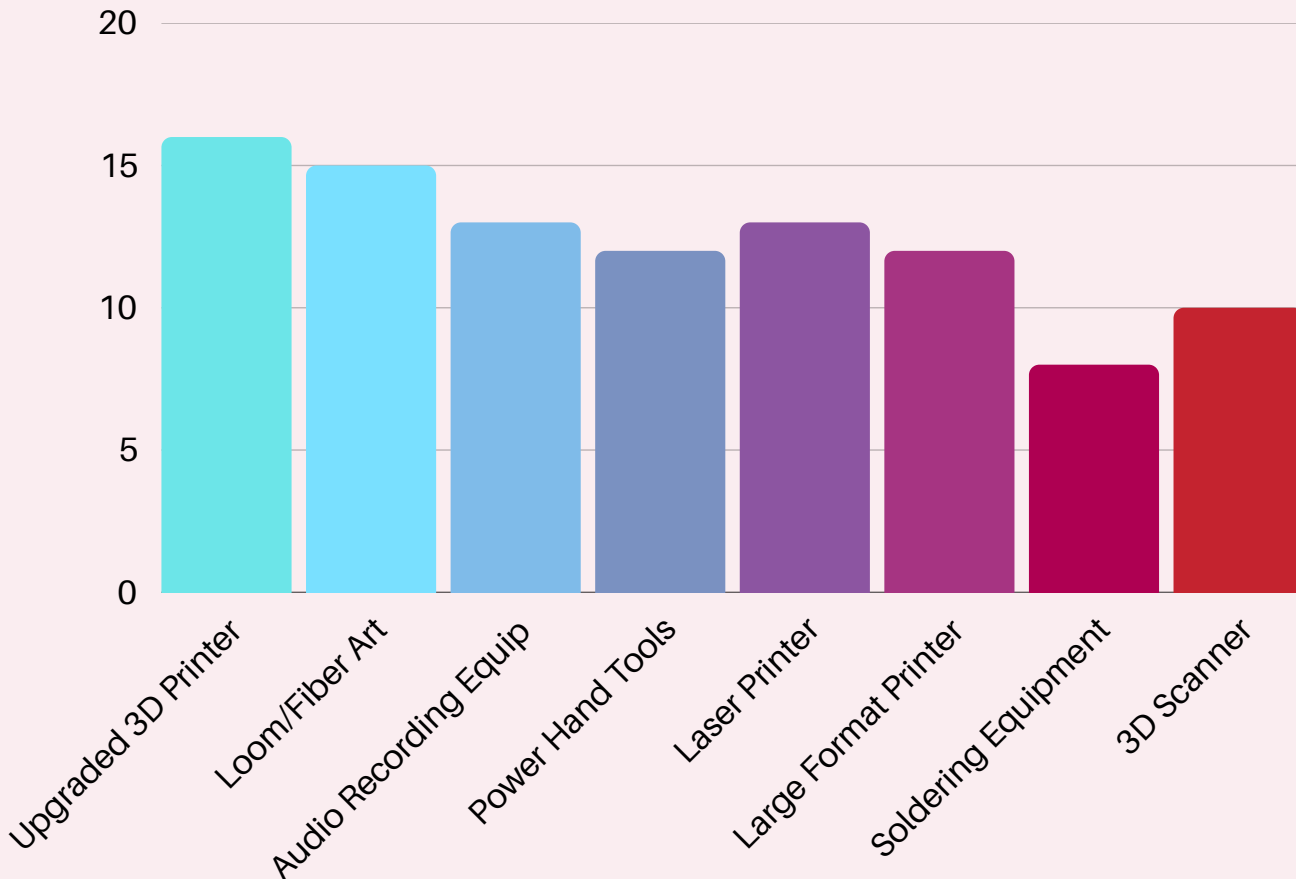
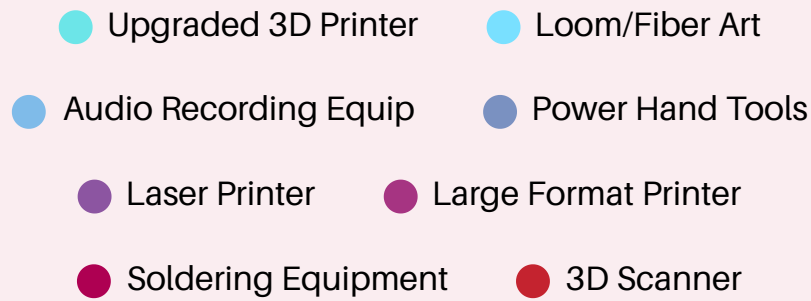
The survey asked, "What could the library do to improve your Makerspace experience?" Results below are out of 22 responses.





# WHAT PEOPLE WANT

Responses to “What kind of equipment would you most like to see the library purchase in the future?”



We also had one response each for:

- CNC machine
- T-shirt printer
- Book Binding equipment



# WHAT PEOPLE WANT

15 responses to “Are there any materials/tools that you don’t have access to that you would like to use in a library setting?”

## Possible Offerings

- Raspberry Pi projects
- Knife/Scissors sharpener
- Serger sewing machine
- Large tools for people to check out (sander, planer, table saw, etc.)
- Metal stamping for jewelry
- Woodcarving kit
- CNC Mill
- Cricut mug maker
- Large format printer

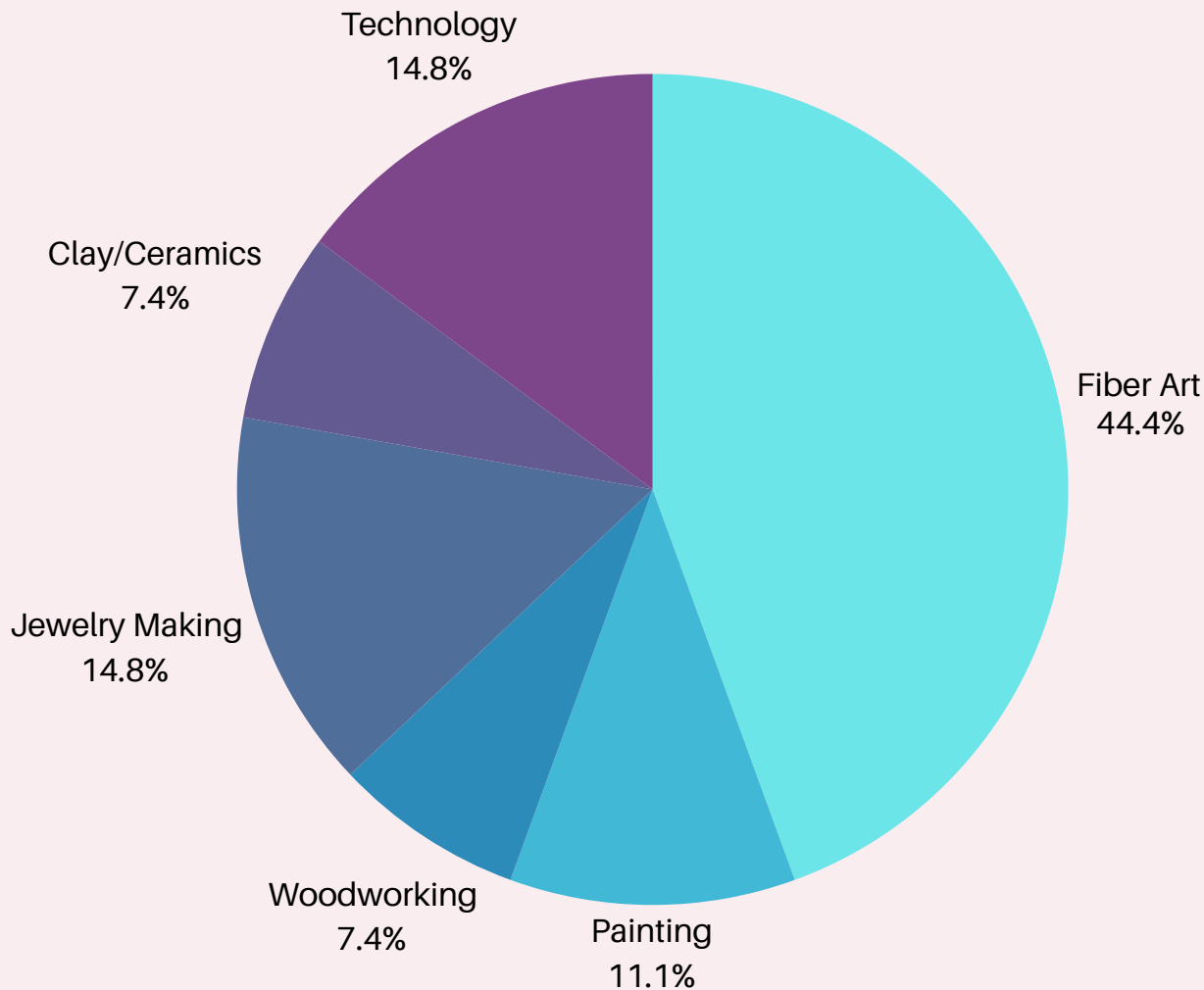
## Already Have

- Video Editing software
- Leather tools
- Crochet hooks and yarn
- Embroidery machine



# WHAT PEOPLE WANT

21 responses to “If you could make anything, what would it be?  
What new skills are you excited to learn?”



We also had one response each for:

- Astronomy
- Soap Making
- Decorate Shoes



# WHAT PEOPLE WANT

15 responses to “What type of technology training should libraries provide?”

## Possible Offerings

- Generative AI
- Video Editing
- Classes on software such as Microsoft Office products
- iPhone/Apple Watch training
- Photography/Photoshop
- Weaving software
- YouTube
- STL, SLDPRT, Tinker Cad, Fusion 360
- Digital literacy

## Already Offered

- VHS to DVD training
- How to use printer/scanner/etc.
- Convert 35 mm film to prints or digital
- Provide training on items in makerspace
- 3D printer training
- Training and projects for various age groups



# WHAT PEOPLE WANT

18 responses to "Please share any additional thoughts, ideas, comments, or suggestions about the library's Makerspace below."

Love that libraries do this just need a bigger room and maybe some classes on different things

Now that I know about Makerspace, I'm excited to attend upcoming events!

People who haven't been to the makerspace before feel intimidated and don't know how to utilize it without needing to change their identity to be a maker. How do you lower the barrier to entry for people who are interested in using the space without being labeled a certain way.

Thank you for having a Makerspace!!!!

Perhaps have a volunteer in the Maker Space with knowledge of machines. Sell 3D supplies by the spool.

Do more publicity on availability and possibilities

I would be excited to use the space..it just seems so intimidating to get started. Maybe an open house of the space where people can get an overview of what they can do. A printer that could print on 14 x 22 poster board would be awesome.

A sign for people coming in to remind them to keep things neat if they can so it stays organized and tidy

It's been great overall!!!!

I would like to see more adult arts and craft classes. Maybe you can partner with the art dept. at the High School or UW Whitewater.

Crochet and knitting classes- affordable and life lasting.

The classes offered in past have been great!

I would love to see the materials in the Makerspace available for checkout. Kits would be so helpful, because most projects take hours and I can't stay at the library until they're finished!

Thank you for having this space and these materials available to be to be creative!!

Thanks for continually seeking to keep the Maker space a resource for all.

When I have needed them, staff have been very helpful.

A larger space might be nice

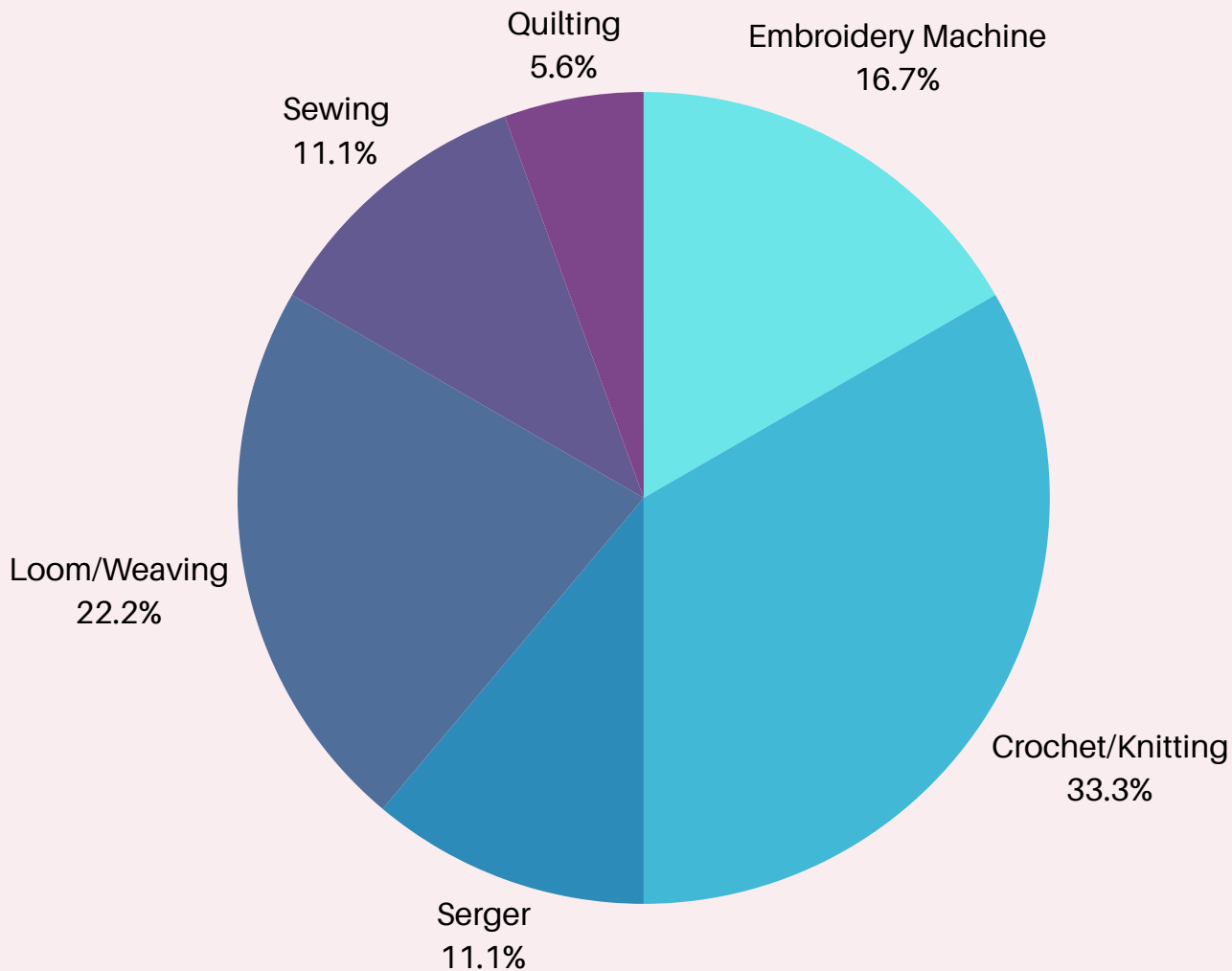
Handy place



# DIGGING DEEPER

There were many requests for Fiber Art classes, tools, and materials. What specifically are patrons asking for?

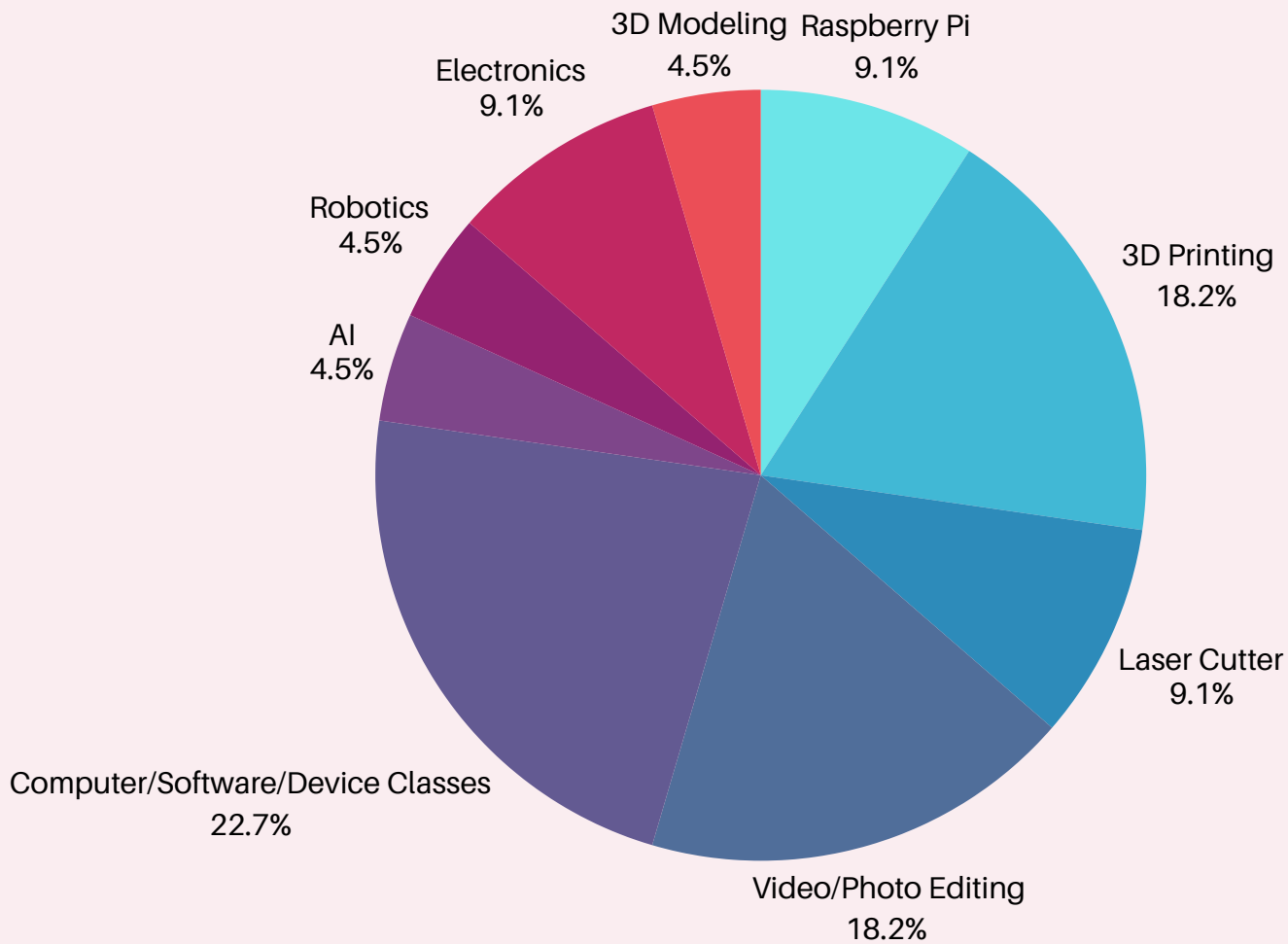
The following chart reflects the number of times a certain item was requested throughout the survey.



# DIGGING DEEPER

There were many requests for Technology classes, tools, and materials. What specifically are patrons asking for?

The following chart reflects the number of times a certain item was requested throughout the survey.



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH



## **CLASSES, WORKSHOPS, & INSTRUCTION**

Respondents overwhelmingly asked for more classes and workshops. The survey results show that many patrons would like opportunities for more arts and crafts-related projects and learning, especially Fiber Art. Technology-related instruction was also widely requested.

Respondents also asked for more instruction on the existing Makerspace equipment, requested Makerspace tours and open houses, wanted more help on how to get started, and welcoming/clarifying signage.

## **NEW OFFERINGS**

Respondents want to see a wider variety of technology, tools, and equipment in the Makerspace. This survey will help the library decide what major purchases to make next. An upgraded 3D printer and a Laser Printer are at the top of the list. Some of the requested items have already been acquired, including an embroidery machine and loom. However, space constraints will continue to be a factor, even in the new Makerspace. For example, we will not have room for a CNC machine or other large woodworking tools.

One respondent identified the need for kits that can be checked out. Several of our existing kits could be offered for circulation outside of the library, and new kits could be added.

## **ADVERTISING/VISIBILITY**

Respondents suggested some items that the Makerspace already has, so we have the opportunity to make those items more visible. We can also focus on advertising the Makerspace more widely in the community to raise awareness of the space and everything we have to offer.





# LIMITATIONS



## SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size of survey respondents compared to library users and potential library users is low. It is important to note that these survey results only reflect a small number of our patrons and/or potential Makerspace users.

# CONCLUSION



## FULL SURVEY RESULTS

The source spreadsheet may be accessed here:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1K5PTc2MyPqvviSwumsNSPWUbhV8WETyDvp\\_AlsROJPK/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1K5PTc2MyPqvviSwumsNSPWUbhV8WETyDvp_AlsROJPK/edit?usp=sharing)

## NEXT STEPS

As we get ready to move into the new Makerspace, we will utilize these survey results to help us assess how to best set up the new space, what programs and services to focus on, and what new equipment, tools, and supplies to offer.

We will continue to evaluate and assess the Makerspace and gain feedback from library users to further expand the impact of these services, aligning with the library's mission to have "the space and the stuff to do the things that you want."

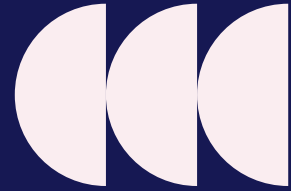




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# THANK YOU

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