

***Makerspaces: A Practical Guide for Librarians.* John J. Burke. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014. 183 pp. ISBN: 9781442229679.**

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*Makerspaces: A Practical Guide for Librarians* is part of the *Practical Guides for Librarians* series published by Rowman & Littlefield. It provides an overview of the maker movement in libraries over several chapters and then delves into buckets of “creation options” that existing library makerspaces support, including audio, image, and video creation; crafts and artistic pursuits; electronics, robotics, and programming; and 3D printing and prototyping.

Author John Burke begins with an introduction to libraries’ historically unsung role as hubs of creation and collaboration for their communities. While this has become somewhat trite in the growing discourse on library makerspaces, it contextualizes discussions in subsequent chapters. Burke then provides overviews of the maker movement itself and of the breadth of variety in existing library makerspace implementations. He points out that the core of any implementation is the empowerment of communities to create products in new and needed ways, and that the lavish outfitting and cutting-edge equipment that are currently seen as hallmarks of library makerspaces are not always essential or even right for this.

Burke continues by breaking down salient aspects of starting up makerspaces, including a chapter on budgeting with some advice on funding, including grants. Each of the chapters on resources for a particular bucket of creation options includes sections on potential tools to provide, maintenance logistics, and what patrons can potentially make or learn. Much of the guidance provided in each chapter is based on data gathered from a survey that Burke conducted, covering library types, locations, funding sources, tools and equipment provided, and more. Seventeen profiles of public and academic library makerspaces appear throughout the book, providing anecdotal examples of the practices and resources that Burke discusses. The last chapters delve into staging the development of a makerspace, including suggestions for use programming, as well as information resources for tracking the maker movement as it develops in libraries.

*Makerspaces* is currently one of sixteen volumes in Rowman and Littlefield’s *Practical Guide for Librarians*, all published in 2014 and early 2015. Topics covered by other volumes in the series include digital audiovisual resources, accessibility, mobile technology, digitization, and usability testing.

Many librarians, particularly those who have encountered and followed the library maker trend in the last few years, will not consider much of the discussion in this guide new. The guide’s main strengths are its robust bibliography on making in libraries, the survey data supporting the author’s suggestions and advice (tabulated in an appendix), and the individual makerspace profiles. As a whole, those seeking new perspectives on and related to library makerspaces may not be well-served by purchasing this book, as Burke’s survey data and discussions do little more than confirm existing perspectives in the field. However, it may be useful to those just beginning to explore the concept of maker culture in libraries and those needing concrete benchmarks for modeling their new makerspaces.