3D Designer Tools

3D Builder
- Microsoft web-based beginner platform allows you to view, capture, personalize, & print models
- Save and download 3MF, STL, PLY, or OBJ files
- Take a picture with your webcam and make it 3D or personalize model by embossing your name
- Combine models and pieces

Sculptris
- Beginner digital sculpting tool
- Stepping stone for more advanced digital sculpting software, like Zbrush

Tinkercad
- Web-based beginner design platform
- Includes lesson modules that lead you through 3D design basics

MakerBot Desktop
- 3D printing solution for discovering, managing, and sharing your 3D prints
- Supported file types include .STL, .SLDPRT, .SLDASM, .IPT, .IAM, .IGES, .IGS, .STEP, .STP, .OBJ, .PAR, .ASM, .WRL

Blender
- 3D animation suite
- Supports the entirety of the 3D pipeline—modeling, rigging, animation, simulation, rendering, compositing and motion tracking, even video editing and game creation

Sketchup
- Easy-to-learn program with a few simple tools
- Add details, textures, and glass to your models, and design with dimensional accuracy.
- Place finished models in Google Earth or share by posting to the 3D Warehouse

Print-Ready 3D Designs

Thingiverse
- Free pre-designed print library with over 100,000 3D models
- Design community for discovering, making, and sharing 3D printable things.

Shapeways
- 3D design and print marketplace (similar to Etsy)
- Buy designs directly from 3D designers or work with a designer to create custom 3D print job
- Order prints in a variety of filaments – castable wax, ceramics, sandstone, metals, & plastics

YouMagine
- Browse through over 13.000 designs that are ready to print.
- An online community of 3D printing enthusiasts who wish to work together to share, remix, and make better 3D printed things.
- Primarily a vehicle for supporting open source creation and wants to be a force multiplier for the entire 3D printing community.

- Focused on building the entire end to end open source software toolchain to make things malleable.

MyMiniFactory
- Home to 40,000 3D printable objects and more than 7,000 designers. The world's leading curated social platform for 3D printable objects
- 3D designs ready for you to download for free that will work with any desktop 3D printer
- Values quality and openness: quality with curation to assure all the models are printable, and openness with free downloads on all printable objects

Cookie Caster
- Design, share and create custom 3D cookie cutters
- Place an existing image on the drawing board and the trace feature will create an editable model automatically
- Designs can be showcased for fellow cookie cutter enthusiasts in its gallery
- Download your model for printing at home or through a commercial printing site

Slicing Tools

MakerWare / Makerbot Print
- MakerWare / MakerBot Print is free and dedicated to the MakerBot line of 3D printers
- Easy to use for beginner and advanced users will appreciate the help in large scale printing
- When preparing a whole series of components, it will automatically arrange meshes across one or more build plates
- Access and print Thingiverse objects from within the program
- Monitor and control your 3D printer via webcam built into your printer

Cura
- Free software suited for 3D printing beginners and semi-pros
- Supports STL, 3MF, and OBJ file formats which the 3D slicer software will also repair if needed
- Show a toolpath, printing time, and material estimates
- Graphical user interface is fast and you can even handle dual material prints
- Print time estimates are sometimes off around 10 – 20 percent.

Simplify 3D
- Supports nearly all available 3D printers and formats
- Allows you to import, scale, rotate and repair your 3D model.
- Allows adjusting and saving of a variety of settings.
- Requires experience with a 3D printer.

NOTE The Library does not endorse any of the listed software or provide training for any of the software.

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