

## Appendix 5. Learning Experience of a 3D modeling software, Google SketchUp

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Over a period of about 90 days, we (an IT Support Specialist and a Reference Desk Technician) were tasked with learning the SketchUp software. One person had previous experience with the software, while the other was just beginning to use it.

Along with SketchUp, we tested Tinkercad and found that it had limited functionality as compared to SketchUp. About halfway through the process, it was decided to eliminate Tinkercad altogether.

As we met (about six hours/week) and began to use SketchUp, we determined there would be a big learning curve for our users unless a user had previous CAD (computer aided design) experience, and it was also decided that what we can offer assistance with would be more beneficial if we knew what our users *want* to design.

Depending on which types of 3D printers are selected, many file types can be supported, but Sketchup as a standalone application only supports .stl files (this may differ in the PRO version).

In conclusion, further testing with the software is needed, and once the Makerspace has been implemented, we will be able to determine the best methods in offering patron support with the software.