



Free to Make: How the Maker Movement is Changing Our Schools, Our Jobs, and Our Minds

Dale Dougherty , Ariane Conrad (Contributor) , Tim O'Reilly (Foreword)

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Dale Dougherty, creator of "MAKE: "magazine and the Maker Faire, provides a guided tour of the international phenomenon known as the Maker Movement, a social revolution that is changing what gets made, how it's made, where it's made, and who makes it. "Free to Make" is a call to join what Dougherty calls the renaissance of making, an invitation to see ourselves as creators and shapers of the world around us. As the internet thrives and world-changing technologies like 3D printers and tiny microcontrollers become increasingly affordable, people around the world are moving away from the passivity of one-size-fits-all consumption and command-and-control models of education and business. "Free to Make" explores how making revives abandoned and neglected urban areas, reinvigorates community spaces like libraries and museums, and even impacts our personal and social development fostering a mindset that is engaged, playful, and resourceful. "Free to Make" asks us to imagine a world where making is an everyday occurrence in our schools, workplaces, and local communities, grounding us in the physical world and empowering us to solve the challenges we face."

Free to Make: How the Maker Movement is Changing Our Schools, Our Jobs, and Our Minds Details

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From Reader Review Free to Make: How the Maker Movement is Changing Our Schools, Our Jobs, and Our Minds for online ebook

Elaine says

Interesting overview of where the Maker Movement currently is and where it has come from. Similarly to others, I was interested in seeing what I could takeaway and apply for my library work, but there is less practical application and more mental and emotional takeaway for me. I also found it too long and wish it was actually two books: one about the maker philosophy and the other with all the case studies. I felt that its core message of everyone being a maker and what that means gets lost in the examples that Dougherty gives to illustrate the points. Also, Hatsune Miku being referred to as Hatsuna Miku at the end gave me a little jolt of "I wonder what other typos found its way in..." An enjoyable if slightly drawn out book.

Kira Caillouet says

I am currently reading Free to Make: How the Maker Movement is Changing Our Schools, Our Jobs, and Our Minds as a paper back book. I enjoy the book because it provides details into the international maker's movement and how the Maker's Movement affects traditional education. I have jumped in and out of reading it for the past couple of months. I am excited to finish reading it.

The author mentions his own Make Magazine, interviewers other makers, and discussing the in-depth history of making.

Russell Yarnell says

Good book that weaves the history, direction, makers, and everything together. It does take some awareness to realize the book is shifting. Good read if you want to know more about it.

Joy says

600 Doughert 9/2016 Nonfiction I was interested in what our library was creating labeled Maker. The book cleared up the concept. Then pg 214 mentioned Skills USA.. and Henry Ford Museum (Michigan connection personal)

Abby says

If you're a librarian, teacher, educator, or maker looking for information on how to go about building a makerspace or even making a case for a makerspace, you likely won't find much of use here. *Free to Make* is full of fascinating case studies, but it doesn't deliver what it advertises. Though easy to read and inspiring in many places, the contents are not what I'd lean on for any research on the topic.

Steve says

Of the popular books I have read on making for my dissertation, I like this one the best, although it is not perfect by any means.

First and foremost, I appreciate the style in which it is written, much less breathlessly boosterist and technologically determinist. Dougherty makes it clear that the practice, tools, and locations of making are thoroughly grounded in people, societies, and cultures. He also addresses the broad canvas of making and does not sacrifice the hobbyist to favor "the new entrepreneurs" as popular works by Chris Anderson and Mark Hatch do, although entrepreneurs do make a fair show in this book.

Unlike these other writers, he uses many more good qualifiers like "potential", "could", "has the capacity to" and so on. I think Dougherty has done well to write this book in collaboration with Ariane Conrad, a self-described "book doula", and I am sure she did much in helping Dougherty avoid certain technological determinist language and pitfalls and reduced the number of "excited claims" (a great coinage in an academic literature review of the making movement by Sabine Hielscher and Adrian Smith available online through SPRU). I also suspect strongly that in waiting until 2016 to publish, Dougherty has avoided the initial wave of heavy hype regarding making.

I was a little disappointed in the toy chapter, it was not as exciting as I would have hoped, and I think Dougherty could have made his case better had some of the material in the last 1/3 of the book been moved up much closer to the start. *However*, his chapter 10 on "making as care" was very good and inspirational, particularly the use of 3D printing for prosthetics and for on demand medical devices and tools in the Global South. However, most of my quibbles with the book are just that, quibbles. I don't entirely see eye to eye with Dougherty's view of the phenomenon, but I am much closer to his camp than I am to the "new entrepreneurship of Making" kind of stuff, or material that exclusively focuses on hacker/maker spaces.

If I have one key problem that I would like to put out with the book, it is this. Dougherty, like Anderson and Hatch, begins his argument with the claim that "we are all Makers". First of all, I am not so sure that is quite as true as proponents would like to think, at least not in the way it's presented. It's kind of like saying we are all artists, when in fact, it takes a *lot* of work to get there.

The problem is that Dougherty, like others, never really is able to "bridge" between broader forms of making and the specific kind of high-technology inflected making that is celebrated in the pages of the magazine that he founded: *MAKE*. He claims, for instance, that cooking is making, and yet this kind of "lo-fi DIY" (to use the term coined by Amy Spencer and the title of her book on the topic) is not so well integrated with the kind of work done in Makerspaces. What of, for instance, the vast legions of home hobbyist woodworkers, overwhelmingly, it seems, consisting of middle aged white fathers (of which I am one). There seems to be little crossover between those hobbyists and makerspaces, and much the same for knitters, canners, and so on, either in reality or in both popular and academic literature. *MAKE* tried to spin off a sibling magazine, *CRAFT*, focusing on traditional forms of making, and it failed.

There is in fact a vast gulf between various forms of DIY and craft engagement and what goes on in Making which nearly always involves a high tech component (even if often embedded in an otherwise less high tech craft, such as adding LEDs to clothing). Truth is, this is a very hard gap to bridge and I am not contemptuous of his claim that somehow, in some way, all forms of craft and making are connected. But it is not enough to

assert this position. We really **do** need some way of comprehending the whole, and we collectively aren't there yet either in the academy or outside of it.

Don't let that one big issue faze you, however. This is a much needed and highly readable book, and highly recommended.

Barb says

Review closer to publication. However, I was expecting more in the way of "how to" rather than "what is". This would be great as an argument for starting a Maker Space at a school or library, but it does not contain a lot of practical application.

bibliotekker Holman says

A fascinating romp through the world of DIY and making from one of the leaders at the center. Like Chris Anderson's *Makers: The New Industrial Revolution*, This is a book that will have you thinking differently and seeing new possibilities.

Cindy says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

I really enjoyed this! I'm currently a substitute teacher in public schools and I've been having some concerns over how much technology is used in our schools and how little creativity the students are encouraged to come up with. This book is a start in the right direction. My hope is that it will be followed up with a "how to implement" the Maker Movement. Explaining it is one thing, but I want to see how it can be put into practice!

Erika says

Fantastic book. Very inspiring. This is going on my unschooling shelf!

Karen Soanes says

A history of the maker movement with excellent resources for schools and communities interested in bringing a maker mentality to their community. I like that it keeps the focus on the process of making.

Brian Arsenault says

Nice, quick read. Almost like having 50+ mini case studies on various makers and maker businesses. You won't learn new skills here, but will hear about how others have gone down this path before.

Sarah White says

A nice overview of what the maker movement is, who is involved, what it entails and why it is vital to the future. Might not be revelatory to those who already consider themselves makers, but it would be a good one to hand to a school administrator or city official if you're trying to make a case for supporting making in your community.

Hilary says

Practical handbook and guide to those entering the world of "Making" for the first time. Written by editor of the premiere periodical "MAKE" and creator of Maker Faire. Paperback was very affordable. Readers will find this to be a "go to" book for information regarding the Makerspace Movement.

Vi says

who's who of makers and thinkers in the collaborative, diy, connected learning world
