



Jackson Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Madison County Library System Receives \$3,000 Donation of 3D Printers from Jackson Amateur Radio Club**

CANTON, MS – The Library System in Madison County ([mclsms.org](http://mclsms.org)) continues to grow its offerings in technology for library system patrons. The Jackson Amateur Radio Club ([msham.org](http://msham.org)), serving the metropolitan area of Jackson since 1949, donated two 3D printers in May to the Library System, a retail value of \$3,000.

Tammie Terry, MCLS Director, was excited about the donation, the second one during this year. “Thank you, Jackson Amateur Radio Club, for all you have done for our library system. We so appreciate you! The \$2,000 donation of amateur radio books a few months ago are already in circulation.” The JARC President, Jim Armstrong, a local attorney, added, “We enjoy our hobby a great deal but public service and teaching the public about it is an integral part of our 75-year history here in the Jackson metropolitan area.” Club Treasurer, Margaret McClarty of Jackson was highly supportive of this donation from the group’s own funds. “This growth by the Madison County Library System into cutting-edge technology is very exciting. It is what we ham operators so love to do.”

Jim Armstrong added, “We have worked out a formal partnership between our Club and the Madison County Library System. We are making our second donation of material

and equipment, and STEM-oriented programming to Madison County's libraries. Our intent is to make this support an ongoing project of our Club."

Dr. Frank Howell, Assistant Director for the Delta Division of the ARRL, who lives in Ridgeland, said, "This club is a national leader in partnering with public libraries. The Gallup Organization has studied libraries, finding that women and young people across the U.S. visit them at over twice the rate that they attend movie theaters. The local public library is the most common cultural crossroad in the U.S."

The MCLS recently began an initiative to enhance their "maker space" capabilities throughout the county. A "maker space" is a place where patrons can get access to specialized tools and equipment that they may not own or have access to anywhere else to design and build things. Tamra Bates, the Technology Training Specialist for MCLS, has been pioneering 3D printing capability at the Canton Administration Office. Tamra told the group that these new printers are faster and much more capable than those the Library System has now.

"We offer 3D printing services to patrons for only the cost of the resin material used to print the item. This is way below the cost of what online commercial services charge. We will build out these capabilities as we can afford to in other branch libraries. This latest donation by JARC greatly impacts our abilities to do this for our patrons." A 3D printer can "print" an object from a computer-based model in three dimensions that is sent to it from a personal computer. Bates added, "We welcome our library patrons to use this service as thousands of 3D printer files have been created and placed online for free download. The patron might not even have to create a model of an object to help them build something. We can accept the file by email or a common USB drive upon request."

MCLS Assistant Director Kristina Norman says that it's a thrill to have an area club of highly knowledgeable amateur radio operators to work with the Library System on extending their technology education to the community. "We have had Saturday morning workshops on what amateur radio is like today. Our plans are to eventually have amateur radio stations installed directly in our library branches with licensed staff to operate them in teaching STEM activities to our patrons."

David Norris of Little Rock, AR, Director for the ARRL's Delta Division comprising Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee, has promoted the Plant the Seed Initiative. "We have been very enthusiastic about the concept and program that our Assistant Director, Dr. Frank Howell, has created. This partnership concept is being promoted nationwide." The American Radio Relay League is the National Association for Amateur Radio. It is headquartered in Newington, CT.

The Jackson Amateur Radio Club (JARC) is a local area club comprised of licensed amateur radio operators, also known as "hams". Amateur radio operators are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to private individuals who own and operate radio transmitters and receivers that operate in the ham frequencies. While there are many areas of interest in amateur radio, the JARC is primarily interested in

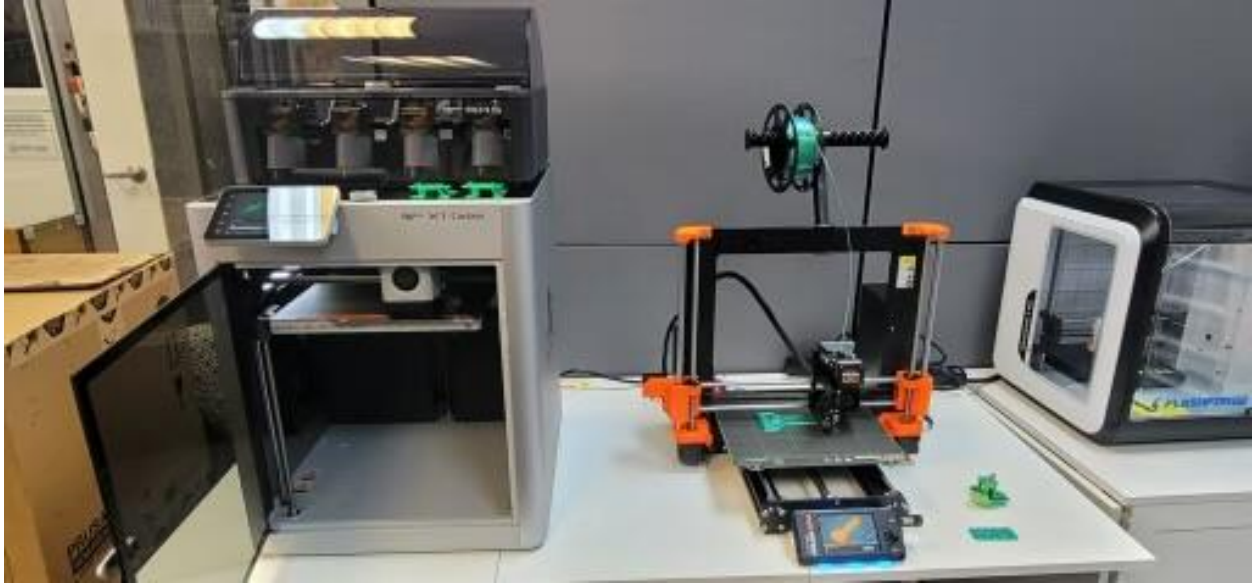
helping the public through emergency operations and public service events. It is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) as a Special Service Club, the highest recognition offered by the ARRL. JARC also presents the Annual Capital City Hamfest, a conference held at the Trade Mart located at 1200 Mississippi St, Jackson in early February each year.

The Madison County Library System (MCLS) is the public library system for Madison County, MS. The mission of the is to provide library resources and services necessary to meet the evolving informational, recreational, and cultural needs of the public, thus enhancing individual and community life. There are branches in Canton, Camden, Flora, Madison, and Ridgeland.

### **ILLUSTRATIONS:**



Caption (From left to right): Kristina Normon, Assistant Director (in training); Tammie Terry, MCLS Executive Director; Braley Reed, System Administrator (in training); Jim Armstrong, JARC President; Margaret McClarty, JARC Treasurer; Tamra Bates, MCLS Technology Training Specialist; Frank Howell, ARRL Assistant Director, Delta Division; Ray Myers, MCLS Assistant Director / System Administrator



Caption: Two new 3D printers in operation at MCLS Canton Office, the center one is printing a three-dimensional object from a computer file.