



An Exploration of Trends in Academic Library Makerspaces

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Introduction

The purpose of this presentation is to share the findings of a recently conducted research project. The research focused on discovering current trends in academic library makerspaces.



Purpose and Objectives of the Study

The purpose of the study was to explore the technologies, services and operational practices that are available and in use in academic library makerspaces. The primary objective was to identify common trends and translate those trends into recommendations for academic libraries who may consider establishing makerspaces within their facilities.

Research Questions

What are the common technologies in academic library makerspaces?

What are the common operational practices among academic library makerspaces?

of space	Descriptors	Resources
s 3D and pace	<p data-bbox="369 214 1579 285">http://guides.lib.ua.edu/makerspaces</p> <ol data-bbox="484 399 2089 1313" style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training and Workshops 2. Written Standard Operating Procedure Guide 3. Costs paid through student accounts 4. Signed User Agreement required 5. Offers info on other makerspace resources 6. Managed by staff 7. No indication of Technology Librarian 8. No indication that equipment may be loaned 9. Appointments required/Online form 10. Students, staff, and faculty 	<p data-bbox="2178 214 2548 285">3D Printing</p> <p data-bbox="2178 299 2548 371">3D Scanning</p> <p data-bbox="2178 385 2548 456">Laser Cutting</p> <p data-bbox="2178 471 2548 542">Electronics</p> <p data-bbox="2178 556 2548 628">Programming</p> <p data-bbox="2178 642 2548 714">Electronics</p> <p data-bbox="2178 728 2548 799">Raspberry Pi</p> <p data-bbox="2178 813 2548 885">Fabrication</p> <p data-bbox="2178 899 2548 971">Training W</p> <p data-bbox="2178 985 2548 1056">DIY 3D Pr</p>

Methodology

Methodology Continued

Organized
by
Theme
into
4
Descriptors

1	Information and Training
2	Written Policies
3	Staffing Model
4	Access



Findings

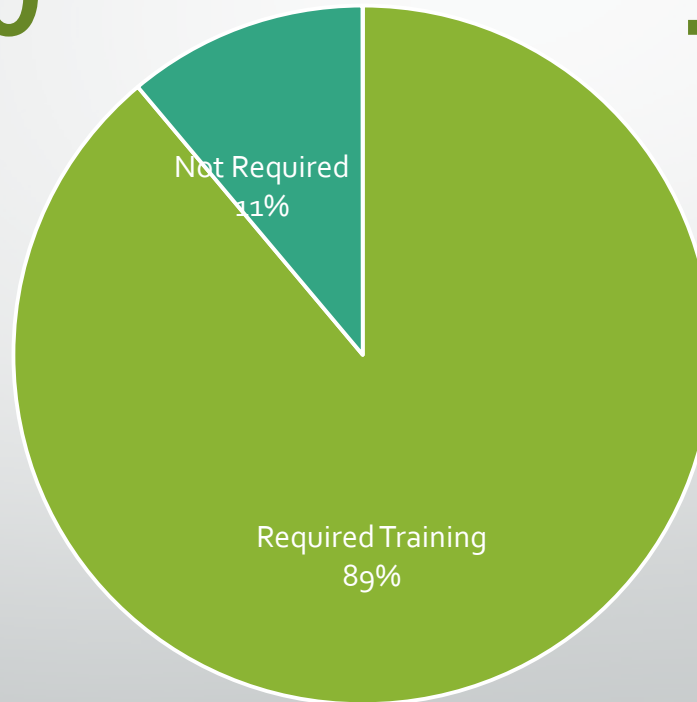
Findings: Information and Training

Required Training

Not Required

89%

11%



■ Training is required ■ Training is not required

Findings: Written Policies

Written Usage Policy

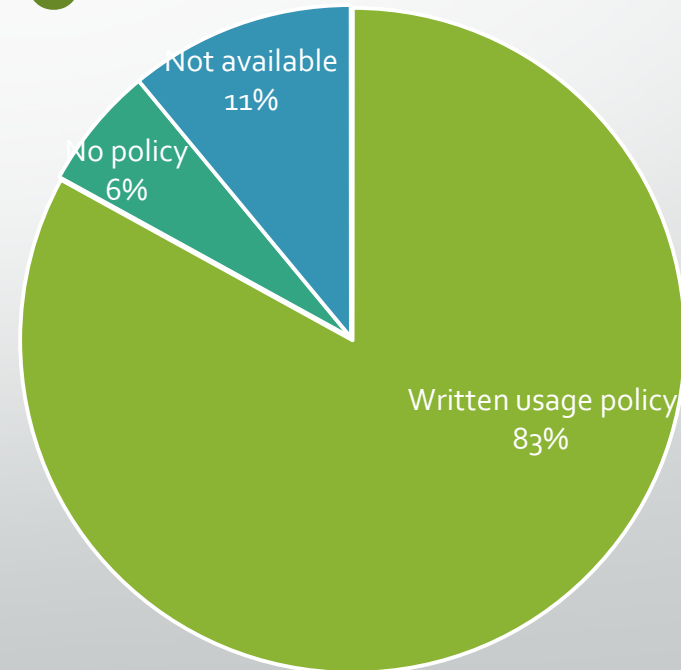
No Written Policy

Not available

83%

6%

11%



■ Written usage policy ■ No usage policy ■ Not Available

Findings: Staffing Model

Library Staff

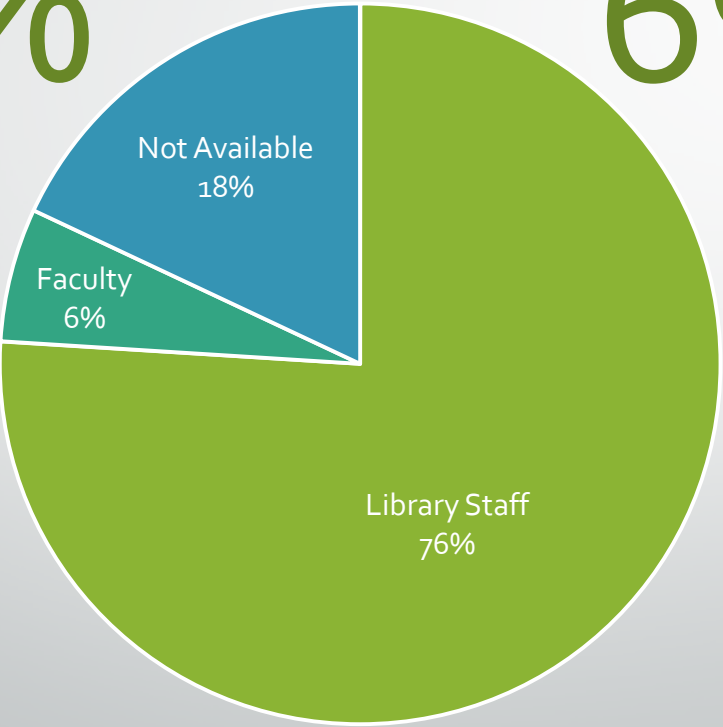
Faculty

Not available

76%

6%

18%



■ Managed by library staff ■ Managed by faculty ■ Information not available

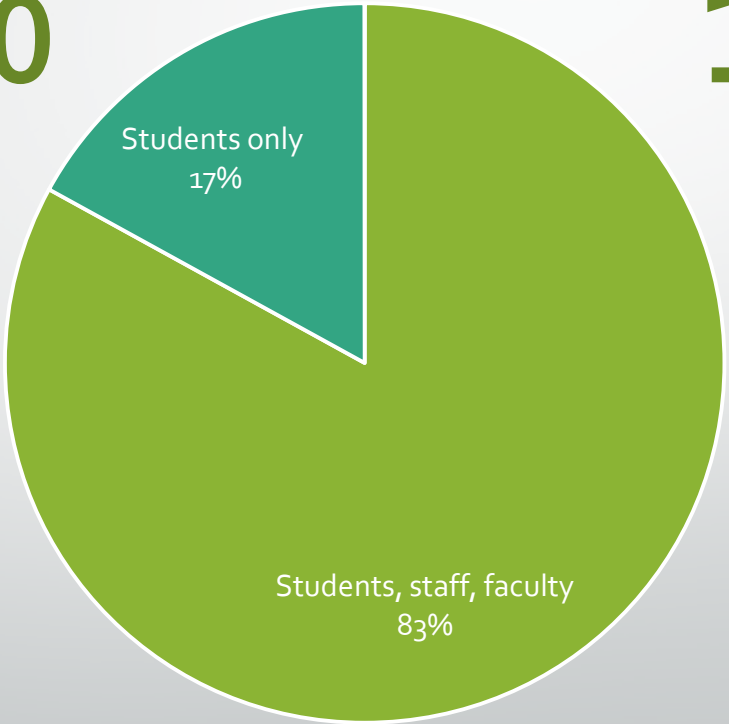
Findings: Access

Students, Staff, Faculty

Students Only

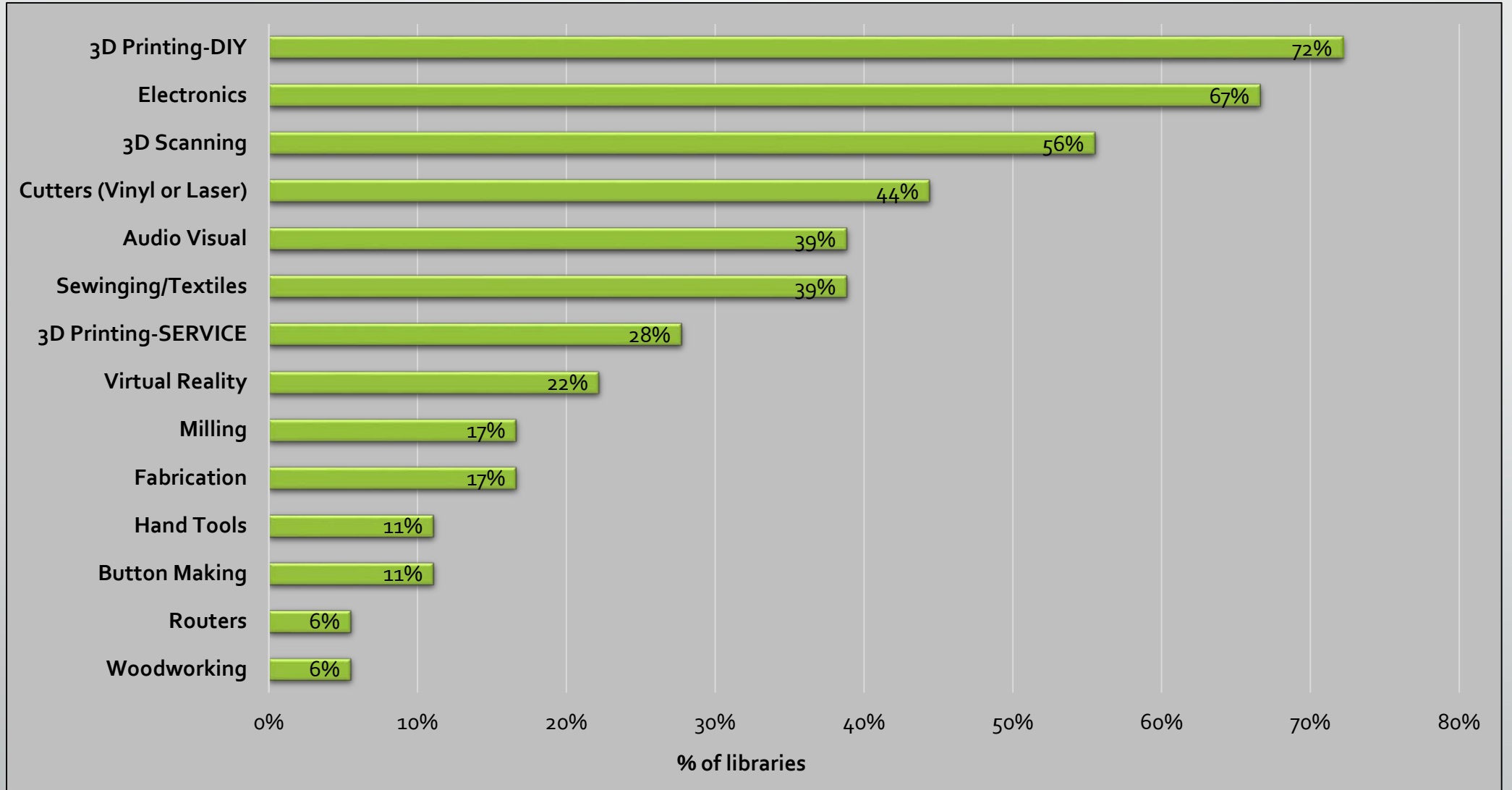
83%

17%

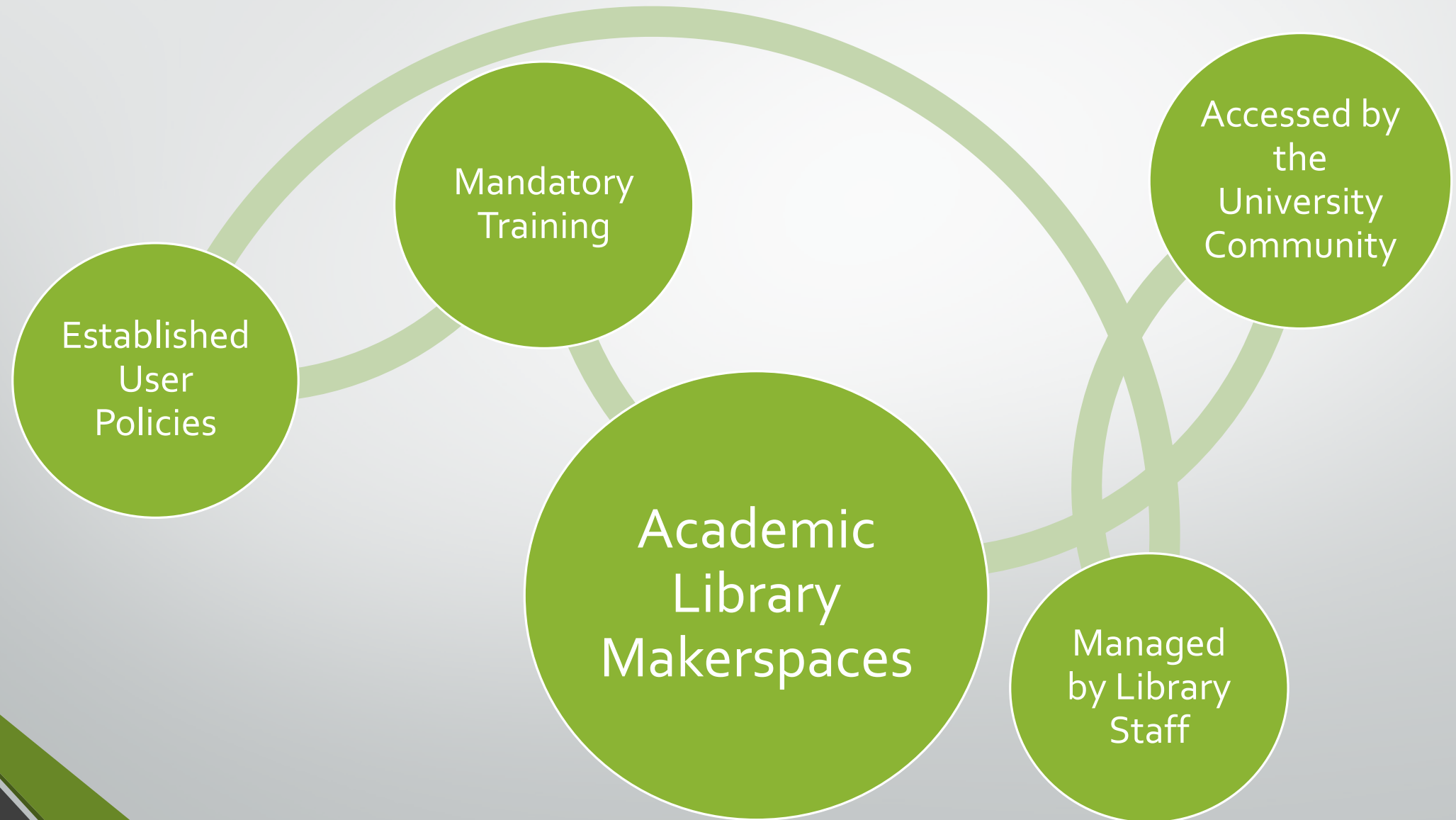


■ Students, staff, faculty ■ Students only

Findings: Technologies



Common Operational Practices



Challenges to Establishing Makerspaces in Academic Libraries

- What is its purpose?
- How will it be paid for?
- Where will it be located?
- What are the policies?
- Who will staff it?
- Is it sustainable?
- Who are the eligible users?



Cost Considerations

- Expenditures: One time start-up costs
 - Building or Space Renovation
 - Furniture
 - 3D Printers
 - Vinyl Cutters
 - Laser Cutters
 - Plotters
 - Computers
 - Software
 - Hand Tools
 - etc.



Recommendations for Future Studies

- Assessment
 - Utilization statistics
 - Satisfaction surveys
- Reporting and Accountability
 - Library administration
 - Parent institution
 - Grant committees
 - Donors

Conclusion & Recommendations

- Establish written usage and user policies
- Develop a strategy for information dissemination and user training
- Train and or hire specific staff to manage the space; Technology Librarian
- Consider allowing access to faculty and staff
- Know the sources of funding in the planning stage for maximum sustainability

Recap

- An exploration of trends in academic library makerspaces
- Content Analysis of university websites
- Identified common occurrences of technologies and operational practices
- Data analysis produced 4 main categories of operational practices
- Data analysis showed 3D technologies and electronics as frontrunners
- Importance of identifying initial and ongoing funding

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