

Mike Cipriani
Digital Media Foundations
Prof. Schaeffer

3D Printing

3D printing is a printing process that creates physical three dimensional objects instead of two dimensional images on a given surface like normal printing. Since its introduction back in the mid 1980's, it has made much progress in terms of usefulness and functionality.

3D printing works by layering material on top of itself to create a desired object. This technique is an example of additive manufacturing. The opposite of this would be having a solid object already made and removing parts of it to get a new desired object, like shaving ice into sculptures. In order to 3D print something, you first need to have something to print. There are many programs or even websites that allow you to make 3D models, such as Blender or sketchfab. After you have your model, it needs to be "sliced" into individual layers so that the printer can print those layers. The material of the final product is essentially plastic, but can vary. The most popular 3D printing filaments are ABS and PLA, which stand for Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene and Polylactic Acid, respectively. This process is much easier said than done. Some prints require you to print each part of a project individually and put them together, and others require you to smooth out the printed piece in order for it to get the right look. The printing process itself can also take minutes, hours, or even days depending on what is being printed.

3D printing has definitely come a long way since it's modernization in the early 2010's. There is no doubt that this printing method will continue to develop and be a major source of innovation throughout history.

Source

"What Is 3D Printing? How Does 3D Printing Work?" MakeShaper,
www.makeshaper.com/what-is-3d-printing-how-does-3d-printing-work/.