The theme of this year’s conference was “Library Labs: Research, Innovation & Imagination”. I attended a variety of sessions in the Creative Communities and Makerspaces track.

"Maker Space & Entrepreneur Incubator” looked at two university libraries' different approaches to creating makerspaces. One library brought 3D printers, 3D scanners, and other devices into the library. They invited the faculty from different departments to use them for academic purposes. The library took a leadership role in promoting creative technology on campus. The other library was an early adapter of maker technology in and shared its methods of inspiring creativity in many ways. Both presenters spoke about their experience of getting started, their challenges, and their vision for the future of makerspaces.

“Holding a Successful Hack-a-Thon" Two librarians from the Cupertino Library spoke about putting on the first ever hack-a-thon for teenagers in a public library. The teens were given 12 hours to collaborate on, design, and code applications to create social, educational, or gaming applications to help teens balance responsibilities, recreation, and improve their quality of life.

“Building Community & Global Partnerships" Two librarians from the Half Hollow Hills Community Library discussed their partnership with E-Nable to create kits for assembling prosthetic hands for needy children. The kits have all the necessary parts for local teens to take home and put together for community service credit. The library then sends the completed hands on to E-Nable to distribute worldwide.

I got many ideas from this conference, and appreciate the opportunity to attend it.