



Learning happens everywhere-- in school and outside of school. With badges, there is an open, structured way to show evidence for learning that happens in informal spaces like libraries. Digital badges offer unique opportunities for patrons to collect and display information about what they have accomplished and what they have learned.

In 2011, the Mozilla Foundation put the pipes in place to allow anyone to issue and collect badges online. Since the concept is so new, people are still experimenting with ways to use badges in different settings. Here are two ways that you can use badges in your library:

Badges for Learning

Problem: School media specialists play an important role in their learning communities, but it is often difficult to provide evidence that demonstrates the specific knowledge and skills gained through interactions at the library.

Solution: Digital badges can link directly to a student's demonstration of critical skills and concepts. The *evidence* is the most important part of a badge in this scenario, so make sure that you have a way to collect and showcase the evidence online.

Where do I start? To make this a reality, you have to put the evidence online in some form-- through a wiki, class website, photo gallery, etc.

Next, use a badge generator, like badg.us to upload an image file and add the link to the evidence in your badge description.

Badges for Motivation

Problem: Sometimes it is difficult to motivate students or colleagues to make use of the important resources available in their school libraries.

Solution: Digital badges allow you to create challenges for people to complete in order to foster participation. This scenario relies heavily on the mechanics of *game design* to promote certain behaviors. Badges in this sense provide recognition for positive behaviors and encouraging reinforcement for prolonged engagement.

Where do I start? First, you have to set up your system of rewards. Think about the behaviors that you want to reinforce. For example, you can issue badges to teachers who have collaborated with you on projects. Greater participation can be represented by levels such as beginner, intermediate, or expert. This is just one example; check out your favorite games for more inspiration!

Use a badge generator like badg.us to create the digital badges and issue the badges via email or as stickers with QR codes.



For more information, helpful resources, and links to get you started check us out here:
badgeresources.weebly.com