Making for Teachers: a New Chance for Simple Physical Learning Objects

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This contribution considers how digital manufacturing technologies such as 3D printing and laser cutting could contribute to enrich teacher-made teaching and learning tools. Until now, "making" technologies have been presented and studied as a medium for learning activities or as a subject to be taught but not as a means for teachers to create tangible objects for learners. We shall discuss the experience of two project-based courses where participants made "constructive kits" and "tools for group activities" with a 3D printer and a laser cutter. Based on these field trials we shall examine affordances of these technologies for teacher-created materials. We also will discuss how teachers could be trained and whether "making for teaching" has the potential to transform existing teaching practice.