GOING BEYOND THE FIRST ZENTANGLE® LESSON

Students, faculty, and staff can enjoy library programs that revolve around using skills learned in the basic Zentangle® class. These possibilities can also be incorporated into sessions for staff development activities and team building exercises for professional development work. Find listed below suggestions for expanding upon and beefing up Zentangle in your library. I include ideas from Denise Rudd, CZT, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

- Create your own tangle pattern by observing an object or a place in nature or looking at a magazine photograph
- Use your initials or name as letters to outline and fill with tangles
- Make a tangled design of friend’s name on card stock then cut up and use an envelope to hold the pieces --- mail it to your friend!
- Outline a map of Michigan and tangle within the shapes
- Tangle on rainbow or glitter scratch paper
- Draw Artist Trading Cards (2 ½” x 3 ½”) and trade with other participants---can also use recycled playing cards, gluing plain white paper on one side of card
- Draw on top of pre-patterned paper so that the paper supplements tangle patterns; use recycled maps, gift wrap, scrapbook paper, shopping bags, newspaper, comic book or book pages
- Create radial designs or mandalas on paper plates, doilies, coffee filters, cutout paper/cardboard shapes or coasters
- Make a tangled doorknob sign with the words, “Artist at Work” or “Quiet, I’m Reading” or “Tangle On!”
- Make a flag/banner by tangling on fabric---use a recycled knitting needle, wood dowel or stick for the hanging device
- Sponsor a TANGLE DAILY challenge for one month for patrons or staff. Provide a simple journal/notebook to participants then host a display of all the journals when completed
- Take a photograph of each patron or staff member so that each person can tangle on their photo printout
- Tangle a poster or bookmark for a special holiday or celebration, i.e., National Library Week, Earth Day, Read Across America Day, Banned Books Week, National Blueberry Month, etc.
- Tangle on watercolor paper and add color with watercolor pencils, crayons or paint
- Do a group project with a giant tangle area---draw a string on a large piece of paper and hang it up on the wall. Each patron or staff member draws on the poster, appreciating the wonderful variations and drawing styles. Display project in the library when completed
- Create and print a Zentangle-inspired calendar as a fundraiser. An alternative would be to create holiday cards or cards depicting the library building
- Embellish white generic “Kleenex” boxes with tangles. These boxes can be used as prizes at a library program or event
- Tangle outdoors with sidewalk chalk
- Tangle a robot or a mermaid
- Tangle a T-shirt, canvas shoes, silk scarf, apron, pillowcase, tote bag or baseball cap with fabric markers
- Look at your favorite artist’s artwork and tangle an inspired composition
- Trace the basic outline of a photograph in a newspaper or magazine then use tracing as basis for a tangled composition
- Explore tangling in color with markers, color pencils, crayons and/or oil pastels
- Use rubber stamp image as beginning point for a tangled design
- Create a tangle design inspired by patterns occurring in butterflies or moths
- Tangle on a paper doily, circular or rectangular
- Use shrink plastic to make charms for bracelets, necklaces or key chains
- Tangle on gift bags or gift tags
- Be inspired by Gees Bend Quilts—draw divisions with strings and create fabric patterns with tangles (http://www.soulgrowndeep.org/gees-bend-quiltmakers)
- Utilize blank white jigsaw puzzles for tangling (http://www.kidscraftsplus.com/)
- Creative collaboration – draw string on a tile and trade it with a partner
- Outline your hand and fill it in with tangles
- Make folded 6-page book and enhance with tangles