Make Your Own Printing Roller out of stuff in your house!

Materials
1 toilet paper tube
At least 16" wire, 12 – 16 gauge thick, or wire coat hanger
A corrugated cardboard box or scrap
White school glue or sealant
Utility knife
Wire cutters (pliers usually have wire cutters on them)
Ruler or yardstick
1" paintbrush
Pen or pencil

When making prints, a roller – or brayer—is the best tool to evenly ink a printing plate before transferring the ink to paper. If you don't have a brayer, here is a fun way to make your own!
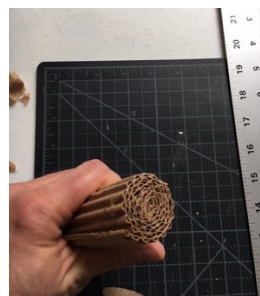
Step 1:
Measure a 4" x 24" strip of cardboard. Cut the strip with the utility knife. Be sure to put something under the cardboard that is being cut to protect your cutting surface. This could be a separate piece of cardboard, or an old magazine or newspaper.

Step 2:
Carefully peel the paper on one side of the corrugated cardboard. You may be able to get it all or most of it off at once by peeling at a slight angle. Any remaining paper stuck to the surface may be thin enough to break with your fingernail or the tip of a pen. The goal is to get as much of one side as possible so it will roll tightly.

Step 3:
Roll the cardboard as tightly as possible and insert into the toilet paper tube. Try to get as much cardboard into the tube as possible. This will increase the resistance of the roller.

Step 4:
Seal the outside of the tube by painting the glue or sealant around the outside of the tube. Be careful to fully coat. Stand on one end and let dry. (there are so many sealants that work well: Mod Podge, matte medium, polycrylic, even glossy latex paint.)

Step 5:
Cut a 16" piece of 12 – 16 gauge wire. (The lower the gauge, the thicker the wire. A coat hanger is made from 12 gauge wire.) Fold the wire to make a loop and twist at least once over itself. Bend the ends out about 4 inches apart.

Step 6:
Pop the dried and sealed cardboard tube roller into the wire handle. Bend the wire accordingly so the roller can move smoothly and freely. Gently roll back and forth on a flat surface to encourage fluid movement.

Go further!
You can make textured rollers easily. Complete steps 1 – 4 and glue on things like: low grit sandpaper, puffy stickers, leftover strips off carboard, yarn, tiny buttons, pipe cleaners, etc. Seal and let dry completely before using. Pop them onto the wire handle and roll into paint!