

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Kids' Library staff are working on making the Kids' Department more inclusive with two new services. The Nest opened in January and is a place for those who need a quieter, calming space or privacy to nurse. The room contains a plush chair for nursing moms, a beanbag, subdued lighting, and a variety of sensory friendly items such as visual signage, a weighted blanket, a weighted teddy bear, fidgets, visual timers, and light-up squares. The space is in one of the Kids' study rooms and will be evaluated this year to see how much it's used.

The other new service caters to families with kids who need a quieter atmosphere to be able visit the Library. Once a month on Sundays, the Kids' Library will open to these families for one hour before the Library officially opens at 1:00. Staff consulted with a local organization called C.I.T.Y. of Support (Children in Therapy and You) for information and ideas on how best to implement these services.

- Eva Bialecki in the Marketing Department, produced another incredible video advertising streaming services available with a library card. The video includes the many ways the Library can help patrons save money by using streaming products from the Library instead of paying for services. To view, visit [Inside Scoop at EPL: Rethink Your Subscriptions - Use Your Library Card Instead! \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

Winter Reading Challenge

The Winter Reading Challenge is continuing through the end of February. By the end of January, 60 patrons had participated.

Reaching Outward

ADS staff reached out of the building in numerous ways this month. Here are some examples:

- Hayley Rightnowar presented to the Elmhurst Rotarians about Inclusive Services at the Library. She also attended the Elmhurst Senior Citizens Commission meeting, did some programming at Chapters and hosted the Elmhurst D205 Transitions Group. She also collaborated on the committee that is developing the Reaching Forward Conference this year.
- Rachael Mason attended Rotary meetings, met with the Elmhurst Walk-in Assistance Network and coordinated with a local pharmacist educator who shared information about Narcan at a lobby table.
- Christi Hawn attended both a Kiwanis meeting and attended an Adult Reading Round Table meeting and helping to coordinate an ongoing genre study about relationship fiction.
- Bryan Blank attended an Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition meeting.
- Libby Mercado and Kelsey Wilcoxon hosted a student who job shadowed them.

Displays:

This month staff put together displays on new year's resolutions, national parks, style, resume writing, the strange and unusual, nearly new teen titles, teen retold fairy tales, teen romance and more.



Programs

Storytime demand has shifted slightly with more room available in the Little Wiggles program for ages 1-5 year-olds, but full to overflowing Romp & Rhyme storytimes for ages 1-2 year-olds. To meet demand, staff are holding pop-up storytimes in the Learning Garden. The drop-in craft table also continues to be incredibly popular with staff preparing as many as 400 items per week.

Other popular programs this month featured STEM skills and upcycling. For the Bridge Builders Challenge, K-2nd graders analyzed distance, strength, and materials to build different types of bridges. During LEGO Engineering, 3rd-5th graders kids made catapults with rubber bands and LEGOs. They tested their prototypes to see how high and far they could launch the LEGO people. For Project Trashion, middle schoolers created a garment using recycled materials.



Bridge Builders Challenge



LEGO Engineers



Project Trashion

Collection

Readers advisory and the displays are two ways in which we market the collection. While patrons enjoy hearing about what staff are reading, they are even more interested in what their peers like. To that end, this month's middle school influencer designed and put up her own book display. She had a lot of fun and liked getting to learn about the collection while also using her creativity.

As well as readers advisory and reference help, staff also spend time playing book detective. One success story this month was as follows:

A patron called and wanted the name of a chapter book where a boy participated in an around-the-world race that couldn't include flying. If he broke the rules, he had to stay in a detention center. Staff found the answer using Novelist. The book was *The Magellan Voyage Project* by Evans. The patron was surprised we found the title and happy to learn about Novelist.

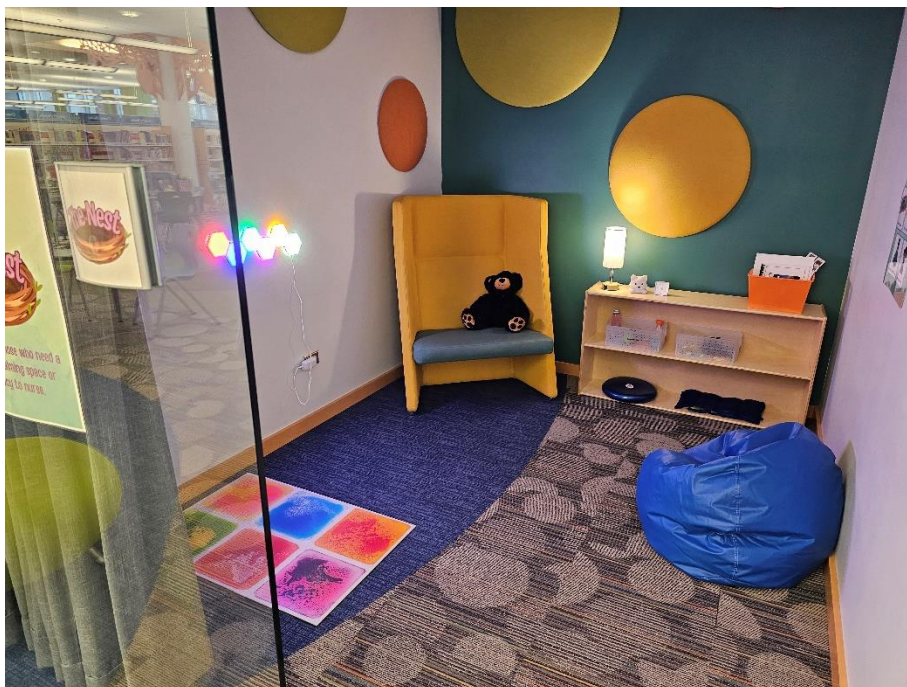


Fun Patron Interaction

One of our 2023 summer reading prizes was a special one-on-one Makery visit with Kids staff. The winner finally redeemed her prize and was able to work with **Nuala Maloney-Murphy** to create a design in Canva which she then put on a mug and a t-shirt.

New Space

We have repurposed Study Room B to be a place for those who need a quiet place to calm themselves, nurse, or step away from an overstimulating environment. We are calling it The Nest. It contains low lighting, a comfortable chair, a bean bag chair, and a variety of sensory items such as colorful squishable floor tiles, a weighted blanket, noise-cancelling headphones, and fidgets.



MARKETING DEPARTMENT REPORT

January 2024

January Marketing Topics included:

Programming: Learn to Play

Thinking of coming to one of our weekly game programs? Attend a Learn to Play session! We'll bring you up to speed by teaching you the basic rules of the game.

Collection: Vinyl Records and Turntable (video available)

Add ambience to any setting by borrowing albums from our expertly curated record collection on the second floor.

elmlib.org/YouTube

Services: Download and Stream

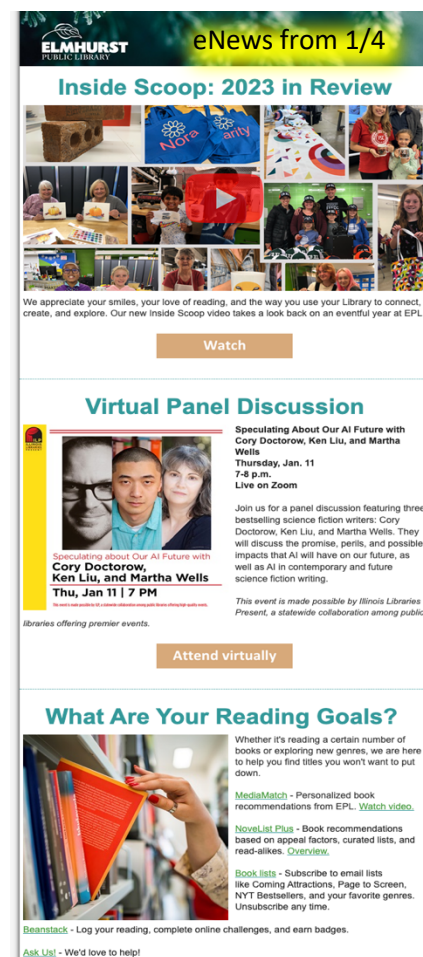
The Library offers an impressive lineup of digital books, audiobooks, magazines, music, newspapers, and videos you can access with your Library card at home or on your mobile device.

Inside Scoop: Year in Review (video available)

Take a look back on 2023 with EPL! Featuring highlights such as our 5-star library rating for the sixth year in row by Library Journal, completed our new Strategic Plan, 20 years in the "new" building, new virtual tour, and One Book, One Elmhurst author event with Dawn Turner.

elmlib.org/YouTube

Here are some sample screenshots of our online presence from January:



In January, people watched your videos 16,782 times



**Elmhurst Public Library**

Published by Carol Schlundt Pavlik · January 10 ·

It's a good day at the Library when you find a book that grabs your attention and makes you want to sit down and start reading immediately ...

[See insights and ads](#)[Boost post](#)

41

1 comment



It's a good day at the Library when you find a book that grabs your attention and makes you want to sit down a...

Published by Carol Schlundt Pavlik · January 10 ·

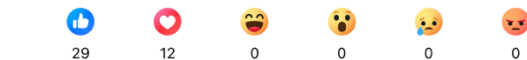
Post Impressions

1,808

Post reach

1,799

Engagement

60**Interactions****Reactions** 41**Comments** 1**Photo Views** 4**Shares** 0**Other Clicks** 14**Elmhurst Public Library**

Published by Carol Schlundt Pavlik · January 25 at 10:54 AM ·

Library Story: "My son wanted his 7th birthday to be Hamilton-themed, so I made him some shoes for the day! Thanks to EPL and the Makery for the support on my first time doing something like this. It was a journey, but we got it done." -Michael

Tell us your story: MyLibraryStory@elmplib.org

[See insights and ads](#)[Boost post](#)

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Post Insights

Library Story: "My son wanted his 7th birthday to be Hamilton-themed, so I made him some shoes for the..."

Published by Carol Schlundt Pavlik · January 25 at 10:54 AM ·

Post Impressions

1,269

Post reach

1,212

Engagement

85**Interactions****Reactions** 30**Comments** 0**Shares** 0**Other Clicks** 5

MAKERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

JANUARY 2024

Elevator Count	Equipment Reservations	3D Prints
foot traffic	major equipment (e.g. laser, embroidery)	requested by patrons
793	121	68



Drop-In 3D Prints

After a soft rollout, drop-in 3D printing has grown so popular we had to create a signup sheet! Kids especially like the hands-on experience with the 3D printer. A full rollout and promotion is forthcoming.



Maker Spotlight

This patron was all smiles after embroidering a jean jacket as a gift for a young relative. Embroidery can be tricky, especially with tough material like denim. Makery Specialist Audrey Staron helped this patron design and embroider the jean jacket flawlessly.



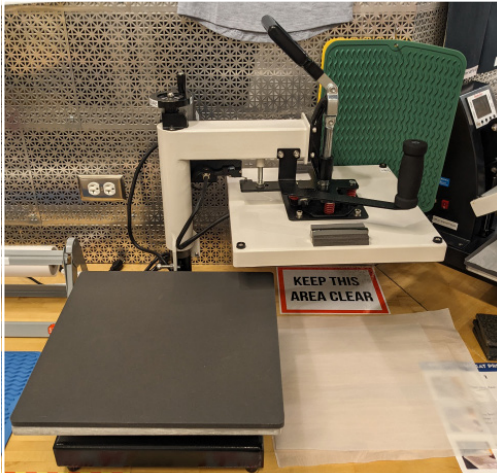
More Equipment Maintenance

After years of heavy use, the sublimation printer began to malfunction and print quality suffered. It was overdue for some maintenance. After several rounds of deep cleaning, the issue has improved but hasn't fully resolved. We expect a replacement may be due in the near future.



Creative Problem Solving

Wherever possible, we like to use the tools at our disposal to make something before we buy it. This month we laser cut leftover EVA foam to make a new organizer for the embroidery supplies and 3D printed a new rack for Makery keys. This practice gives staff more experience with the equipment and shows patrons what's possible.



New Heat Press

After several attempts, we were unable to repair the old heat press. So, it was time for an upgrade! The new heat press allows patrons to put designs onto thicker objects such as coasters and tiles. It also has more customizable settings and is safer to use.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

January 2024

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
135 Years of Genealogy Gems at the Newberry Library (In-Person)	Genealogy	7	1
135 Years of Genealogy Gems at the Newberry Library (Virtual)	Genealogy	8	1
Abstract Painting with Karen Exiner	Create	24	1
Adult Book Discussion: The Last House on the Street: A Novel by Diane Chamberlain	Adult Book Discussion	3	1
Adult Book Discussion: <i>The Last House on the Street: A Novel</i> by Diane Chamberlain	Adult Book Discussion	10	1
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Adult Program	23	4
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Adult Program	8	1
Avoiding Home Repair Scams (In-Person)	Consumer	6	1
Avoiding Home Repair Scams (Virtual)	Consumer	12	1
Bridge & Pinochle Club	Games	66	5
Buy Your First Home (In-Person)	Adult Program	5	1
Buy Your First Home (Virtual)	Adult Program	10	1
Can You Afford to Retire? (In-Person)	Consumer	7	1
Can You Afford to Retire? (Virtual)	Consumer	23	1
Canasta	Adult Program	17	3
Chair Yoga	Adult Program	20	1
Ciao Italia!	Adult Program	9	1
Coloring for Mindfulness	Library Club	2	1
Culture Club: Legendary London (In-Person)	Adult Program	16	1
Culture Club: Legendary London (Virtual)	Adult Program	16	1
DIY Crop Day	Create	0	1
Drop-in Device Help	Technology	2	1
Elmhurst Helping Hands	Adult Program	22	1
Emotional Intelligence: What It Is and Why It Matters (In-Person)	Adult Program	4	1
Emotional Intelligence: What It Is and Why It Matters (Virtual)	Adult Program	22	1
Excel Intermediate	Technology	5	1
Exploring Experimental Fashion (Virtual)	Common Connection	11	1
Friday Features	Adult Program	36	3
Great Decisions	Adult Program	15	1
Houseplant Propagation (In-Person)	Adult Program	14	1
Houseplant Propagation (Virtual)	Adult Program	24	1
In Stitches Needleworkers	Create	6	1
Learn & Grow Book Discussion: Dress Codes: How the Laws of Fashion Made History by Richard Thompson Ford	Adult Program	10	1
Learn to Play Bridge	Adult Program	8	1
Learn to Play Canasta	Adult Program	12	1
Learn to Play Mah Jongg	Adult Program	13	1
Learn to Play Pickleball	Adult Program	32	1
LEGO Open Play (for 20-30somethings)	20 and 30 Somethings	8	1
Library Insiders: Yarn Snowball Craft	Library Insiders	6	1
Lyric Opera Lecture:	Adult Program	4	2
Mason Jar Snow Globe	Create	20	2
Next Chapter Book Club	Inclusive	44	3

Outreach: Memory Care Program at Chapters Living	Outreach (P)	22	1
Plug In & Play (for 20-30somethings)	20 and 30 Somethings	11	1
Puzzle Speed Challenge	Games	49	1
Restarting Your Job Search (Virtual)	Business	14	1
Rita's Quilt (In-Person)	Common Connection	7	1
Rita's Quilt (Virtual)	Common Connection	21	1
Scrabble	Games	6	1
Speculating About Our AI Future with Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells (Virtual)	Author Visit	10	1
Staying Mentally Fit	Adult Program	9	1
Streaming Video	Technology	3	1
Tile Coasters	Create	12	1
Ukulele Circle	Music	14	1
Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia (In-Person)	Adult Program	14	1
Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia (Virtual)	Adult Program	8	1
York Transitions LEAP	Inclusive	20	1
TOTALS		830	72
Teen Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Teen Advisory Group	High School	8	1
Teen BYOB (Bring Your Own Book)	High School	2	1
TOTALS		10	2
Middle School Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Middle School Library Influencers	Middle School	1	1
Middle School Mini Golf Night	Middle School	12	1
Project: Trashion	Middle School	5	1
Scout visit Makery keepsake box	Scout Visit (P)	4	1
TOTALS		22	4
Kids' Library Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Baby Play Date!	Storytime	8	1
Bridge Builder's Challenge	Elementary School	15	1
CC Winter Fun Scavenger Hunt	Family	15	1
Family Chess Open Play	Family	9	1
Fiero Coding Club	Elementary School	9	1
Fun for 3s, 4s, and 5s	Storytime	56	4
Homeschool Explorers (Grades K-12): LEGO Challenge	Homeschool	20	1
Kids' Chess Club	Elementary School	14	1
LEGO Club	Elementary School	10	1
LEGO Engineering	Elementary School	16	1
Little Wiggles	Storytime	415	7
Maker Kids: Laser-cut Pendants	Elementary School	15	2
MiniMakers: Tot and a Grownup Metal Stamping	Preschool	28	2
Mother Goose & Me	Storytime	73	4
Outreach Preschool AT Elmhurst Preparatory Academy	Preschool	28	3
Outreach Preschool AT Tree Town	Storytime	25	2
Owl Diaries Party	Elementary School	13	1
Pop Up Romp and Rhyme	Storytime	35	1
Pop Up Storytime	Storytime	60	2
Read to the Dogs	Elementary School	22	1
Romp and Rhyme	Storytime	297	8
Saturday STEM	Storytime	11	1

Scout visit - Digital Photography	Scout Visit (P)	6	1
Scout visit - tour EPL	Scout Visit (P)	24	1
Scout Visit Makery buttons	Scout Visit (P)	30	3
Scout visit Makery mugs	Scout Visit (P)	15	1
Spanish/English Bilingual Storytime	Storytime	19	1
Winter Break Movie Day	Family	50	3
TOTALS		1,338	57
Passive Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Passive Programs:			
Coloring Books	Arts and Culture	0	0
Collections: Music		76	1
Inside Scoop: 2023 Year in Review		120	1
Interactive Displays:	Arts and Culture	0	0
Narcan Passive Lobby Table	Social Services	21	1
Reading Adventure	Arts and Culture	4	1
Recording of avoiding Home Repair Scams		14	1
Recording of Buy Your First Home		10	1
Recording of Can You Afford to Retire		103	1
Recording of Legendary London		6	1
Recording of Newberry Library Genealogy		42	1
Recording of Social Media for Business		33	1
Recording of What Is Elder Law		5	1
Social Services Folders	Arts and Culture	22	4
Winter Stitch-Along	Adult Program	657	4
Teen Passive Programs:			
DIY Lip Balm Kit (Passive)	High School	10	1
Middle School Passive Programs:			
Passive- Middle School 2024 Goals	Middle School	10	1
Kids' Passive Programs:			
1,000 Books Before Kindergarten	Family	19	1
Craft table - Passive	Preschool	1,564	5
LEGO - Passive	Elementary School	45	2
		Attendance	Sessions
Adult Program Grand Total		1943	91
Total Passive Program Statistics		1,113	19
Total Program Statistics		830	72
Teen Program Grand Total		20	3
Total Passive Program Statistics		10	1
Total Program Statistics		10	2
Middle School Program Grand Total		32	5
Total Passive Program Statistics		10	1
Total Program Statistics		22	4
Kids' Program Grand Total		2,966	65
Total Passive Program Statistics		1,628	8
Total Program Statistics		1,338	57
Passive Program Total		2,761	29
Total Attendance		4,961	
Total Programs			164

STATISTICAL REPORT

January 2024

Circulation

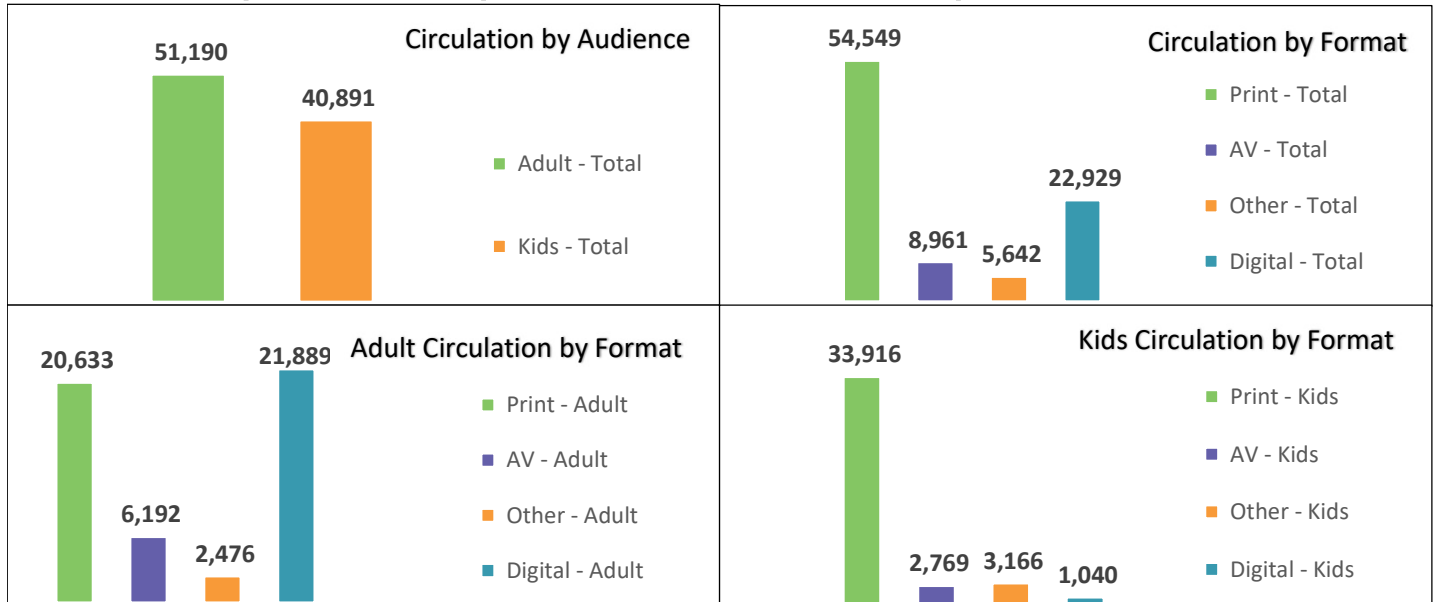
Total Circulation
93,550 ↓ -2%
 95,627 last year
Card Holders
 25,429

Library Card Usage
9,299 ↑ 5%
 8,869 last year

Library Cards Issued
Elmhurst
 (Issued)
Reciprocal Borrower
 (Registered)

187 ↓ -27%
 255 last year
48 ↓ -25%
 64 last year

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed **1,469** ↑ 16%
 1,271 last year
Lent **729** ↓ -9%
 802 last year



Technology Usage

Public Computer Use

15,503 ↓ -8%
 16,768 last year

Website Visits

43,770 ↓ -73%
 161,180 last year

Self Checkout

(% of checkouts)

50% ↑ 6%
 47% last year

WiFi Sessions

20,429 ↓ -13%
 23,591 last year

Reference Queries

Reference Questions Total

4,724 ↑ 8%
 4,391 last year

Reference Questions

Adult
3,403 ↑ 3%
 3,302 last year

Kids
1,321 ↑ 21%
 1,089 last year

Meeting Room Use

Library Programs

164 ↓ -7%
 176 last year

Public Meetings

75 ↓ -13%
 86 last year

Group Study Rooms

1,802 ↓ -1%
 1,819 last year

Programs

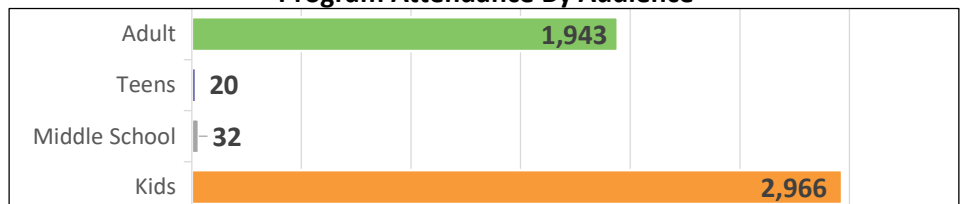
Program Attendance

4,961 ↑ 24%
 4,013 last year

Library Programs

164 ↓ -7%
 176 last year

Program Attendance By Audience



Library Visits

Total Visits

34,364 ↓ 0%
 34,420 last year

In House Visits

Makery **793** ↑ 10%
 723 last year

Walk-In
32,449 ↑ 0%
 32,381 last year

Drive-Up Visits
1,915 ↓ -6%
 2,039 last year

Creative Studio

98 ↑ 5%
 93 last year

Monthly Comparison

Total Circulation

93,550  -2%
95,627 last year

Adult Circulation

51,190  0%
51,347 last year

Kids Circulation

40,891  -5%
43,009 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,469  16%
1,271 last year

Digital Material Circulation

22,929  7%
21,426 last year


Databases

10,236  -71%
34,778 last year

Reference Questions Total

4,724  8%
4,391 last year

One on One Tutorials

38  -25%
51 last year

Number of Programs

164  -7%
176 last year


Program Attendance

4,961  24%
4,013 last year

In-Person Visitors

32,449  0%
32,381 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,915  -6%
2,039 last year

Year To Date Comparison

Total Circulation

93,550  -2%
95,627 last year

Adult Circulation

51,190  0%
51,347 last year

Kids Circulation

40,891  -5%
43,009 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,469  16%
1,271 last year

Digital Material Circulation

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21,426 last year


Databases

10,236  -71%
34,778 last year

Reference Questions Total

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4,391 last year

One on One Tutorials

38  -25%
51 last year

Number of Programs

164  -7%
176 last year

Program Attendance

4,961  24%
4,013 last year

In-Person Visitors

32,449  0%
32,381 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,915  -6%
2,039 last year

Collection Totals

Books and Magazines

177,586

Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

5,957

Audio Visual

29,902

Digital

153,306

Notable Happenings in Circulation

- No *Cards for Kids* library cards were issued or renewed.
- There are 34 active *Cards for Kids* library cards.
- Five Non resident cards were purchased this month for a total of \$890.15
- There are 141 active Non resident library cards (patrons living in unincorporated Elmhurst).
- We filled 45,113 holds this month.
- The Library closed Friday, January 12 and opened 4 hours late on Saturday, January 13 due to weather.