

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Library and the Park District partnered to host an Eclipse Viewing Party in Wilder Park. Patrons had the ability to attend a program on the eclipse or enter a drawing for a chance to win glasses prior to the party. We also handed out a limited amount of glasses at the party. The weather cooperated and a couple hundred people gathered in the park to view the event.
- The Learns Committee launched a staff library-wide initiative last week to get us talking about what we're reading, watching, listening to, and playing. This is an effort to get all staff thinking about the valuable recommendation service we offer our patrons – Media Match. Media Match is the art of suggesting titles to connect others and ourselves to Library materials. Staff participated in fun learning events that helped them discover more about their individual reading style and reminded them about resources available to help patrons find their next great read, watch, listen, or play.



Displays

March displays on the 2nd floor included Start a Series, Writers' Corner, Paint! (right), Women's History Month, Seeing Green, and Your Spring Midwestern Adventure (left).



Off the Shelfie (a.k.a. outreach selfie)

In preparation for EPL's first Memory Café this summer, Hayley Rightnowar (Inclusive Services), Rachael Mason (Human Services) and Jez Layman (Program Coordinator) visited the Elgin Memory Café, a long-time successful area memory café.

A memory café is a program that is intended for those with mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's, or related dementia and their care partners to have a shared experience to socialize and participate in an activity.

EPL's first memory café will be on Monday, July 22, at 2:30-3:45p.



More Outreach

- Libby Mercado, the Teen Engagement Librarian, participated in the Youth Job & Volunteer Fair hosted by the Elmhurst Commission on Youth.
- Hayley Rightnowar and Libby Mercado hosted a visit to EPL from the Oak Park Transitions group.
- Rachael Mason attended multiple meetings with Elmhurst Rotary.
- Hayley Rightnowar attended the monthly Senior Commission meeting.
- Libby Mercado hosted meetings of the Teen Advisory Group.
- Anne Swanson, Lead Advisory Specialist, co-led a book discussion off-site at Elmhurst History Museum on Tuesday, March 19, at 7:00 p.m., partnering with Jessie Wandersee, EHM's Supervisor of Education Services, on *Our Mothers' War: American Women at Home and at the Front During World War II* by Emily Yellin.

Programs

Spring was off to a good start in the Kids' Library. We had our annual Picture Book Madness tournament, a wind tunnel from the DuPage Children's Museum, and our first-ever Family Sensory Hour.

- With a final vote of sixty to forty-one, *I Want to Be Spaghetti* won the Picture Book Madness tournament, beating out *The Cranky Book*.
- Nearly 1000 children and adults interacted with the wind tunnel during Spring Break.
- Forty-four people attended the Family Sensory Hour, a before-hours event for families of children with special needs. C.I.T.Y. of Support was on hand to offer various sensory play opportunities in the Program Room. Many families stopped in to play for a bit and then browsed collection and used the Learning Garden.



Outreach

On March 21, we hosted a field trip from Edison's multi-needs program. The students took a scavenger hunt tour and then had free time to explore the Kids' Library, try out the assistive materials collection, and visit the Nest. Afterwards, the teacher shared a thank you: *"The kids had a blast and we loved our time there :) (adults included)."*

Collection

To keep students reading throughout Spring Break, **Heather Jensen Forster** created Spring Into Reading videos to show in classroom prior to break. She also set up a display against the Program Room doors, printing the handouts to display with each set of books to help kids remember the covers and titles from the videos themselves. The display did not stay full for long.



Fiona Dolce and **Heather Jensen Forster** have been working hard to keep up with Immaculate Conception Grade School's Battle of the Books for grades 4, 5, and 6. The titles that we own have been pulled in order to fill the Homework Shelf, making it easier for students and their caregivers to find them.

Professional Development

The Kids staff continue to hone our readers' advisory skills by doing the following:

- Attending webinars such as *Crafty and Concise Book Blurbs*, an hour-long webinar about how to tailor book blurbs to your audience
- Playing Book Bingo to challenge us to read outside our comfort zones



March Marketing Topics included:

Programming: Eclipse Viewing Party and Great North American Eclipse

Learn what eclipses are, where to see them, where to look, and how to view solar eclipses safely with astronomer Michelle Nichols. Attendees received a pair of eclipse glasses to take home. Over 500 attendees joined us in Wilder Park to watch the solar eclipse!

Collection: Taxes (video available)

Many widely-used publications regarding tax preparation are available for checkout from the Library. Although the Library does carry tax forms, staff are happy to help assist you in printing forms, many of which are available on our website. Watch our YouTube video to learn more.

elmlib.org/YouTube

Services: Magazines

Save money on subscriptions! The Library's magazine collection contains current and back issues of hundreds of magazines titles. To get full color, cover-to-cover issues as soon as they are published, take advantage of thousands of digital magazines available on Libby or the Flipster App.

Inside Scoop: Chill at EPL (YouTube short) (video available)

Where do you like to hang out when you come to the Library? For some, it may be near the fireplace, or maybe in a comfy chair overlooking Wilder Park. At Elmhurst Public Library, there is a space for you. This is our very first YouTube short, featuring bite-sized videos about EPL. Subscribe to our YouTube channel so you don't miss out when new shorts or other videos are posted.

elmlib.org/YouTube

Chill at EPL



eNews from 3/28

Where do you like to hang out when you come to the Library? For some, it may be near the fireplace, or maybe in a comfy chair overlooking Wilder Park. At Elmhurst Public Library, there is a space for you.

This is our very first YouTube short, featuring bite-sized videos about EPL. [Subscribe to our YouTube Channel](#) so you don't miss out when new shorts or other videos are posted.

Watch

Eclipse Glasses at EPL



Eclipse Viewing Party

Get ready for the [solar eclipse](#) on April 8!

Starting April 1, visit elmlib.org/eclipse and enter in your name and Library card info. You will receive an email confirming you have secured a pair (one entry per person) to pick up at the Checkout Desk. While supplies last.

Join us in Wilder Park on Monday, April 8 from 1-2:30 p.m. for a **Solar Eclipse Viewing Party**. Observe the sky as the sun is slowly blocked from view, learn about what eclipses are and why they happen, and take advantage of activities, games, and snacks. Presented with Elmhurst Park District. No registration required.

More Info

Virtual Author Visit



The Hidden Gifts of Visual Thinkers with
Dr. Temple Grandin
Wed, April 3 | 7 PM

The Hidden Gifts of Visual Thinkers with
Dr. Temple Grandin
Wednesday, April 3
7-8 p.m.
Live on Zoom

Join us for a special event with Dr. Grandin, one of the world's most accomplished and well-known adults with autism. Dr. Grandin has been at the forefront of research and activism for autism and neurodiversity for decades. Her most recent book is [Visual Thinking: The Hidden Gifts of People Who Think in Pictures, Patterns, and Abstractions](#).

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



In March, people watched your videos 16,424 times



There are endless avenues to explore and discover in the Library! Thank you, Jeannette, for sharing these beautiful photos of your visit.



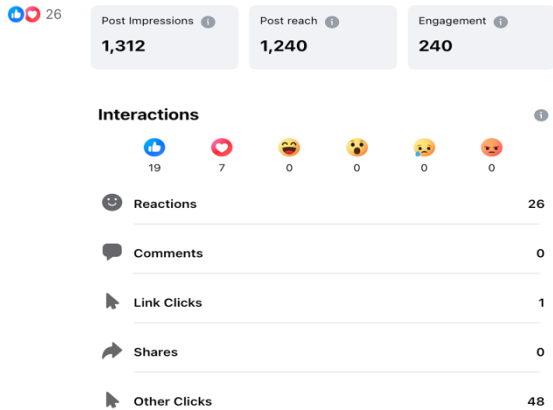
Jeannette Marie is at Elmhurst Public Library. March 24 at 8:55 PM · Elmhurst · 🌐

📍 ELMHURST- Elmhurst Public Library 📍

If you haven't been to @askelmhurst, you absolutely need to visit this incredible library! The kids area was so big, with so... See more

No insights to show

Boost a post



Fun in the Makery! Learning just a few basic macramé knots resulted in creating a key fob.



See insights and ads

Boost post

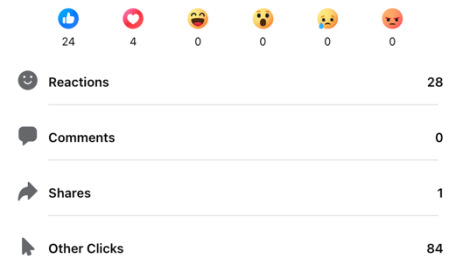
27

1 share

Like Comment Share



Interactions



MAKERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

MARCH 2024

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Door Count	770	707	719
Equipment Reservations	124	110	167
3D Prints	34	70	65



Community Outreach

Makery Specialist Audrey Staron visited Greencastle to help the residents welcome Spring with paper floral wreaths.



Maker Spotlight

A teacher needed to etch pencils for an event at her school. We helped her create a jig and she was able to etch more than 100!



Maker Spotlight

This patron's newborn nephew's name is Maverick. So, of course he needs flightsuit pajamas with his name embroidered on them!



Maker Spotlight

This little maker often visits the Makery with her grandpa. Together they laser cut and assembled this model dinosaur, among other projects.



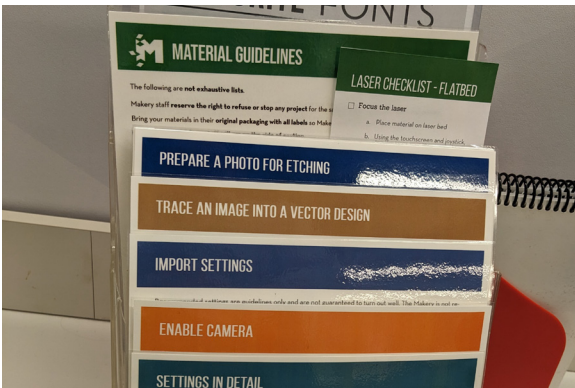
Embroidery Updates

The embroidery software got an overdue upgrade this month. Staff made swatches of the different stitches to demonstrate some of the new features.



New Makery 101 Program

This month we taught our first ever “How to Etch a Glass” class with 100% attendance! Patrons learned basic laser cutter skills and left with an etched pint glass.



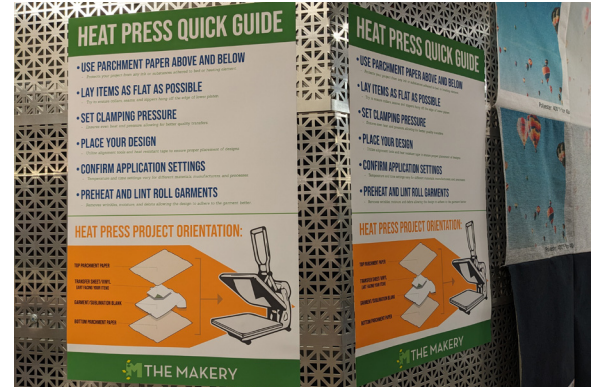
New Instructions

Makery Specialist Audrey Staron revised and color coded the laser cutter instructions. Now patrons have a checklist that they can take notes on and keep for next time.



New 3D Print Colors

The Makery added several new colors this month including Copper, Brown, and a shiny metallic Silver.



New Instructions

There’s a lot that goes into using a heat press properly! Makery Specialist Adrian Serrano designed the new quick guide for patrons to refer to as they make their sublimation shirts.



New Instructions

Threading a sewing machine can be stressful, but with the new step-by-step video instructions it’s a little easier. QR codes to the Niche Academy Videos are on all sewing machines.v



New Hat Heat Press

Decorate a hat? You bet! After years of use, the hat press needed to be replaced. The new one is up and running so patrons may continue personalized caps, bucket hats, and beanies.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

March 2024

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Acrylic Painting with Karen Exiner	Adult Program	26	1
Adult Book Discussion: Abyss by Pilar Quintana	Adult Book Discussion	11	2
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Adult Program	32	4
Bingo	Adult Program	20	1
Biomimicry: Looking to Nature to Solve Today's Problems (In-Person)	Adult Program	16	1
Biomimicry: Looking to Nature to Solve Today's Problems (Virtual)	Adult Program	11	1
Bridge & Pinochle Club	Games	77	4
Canasta	Adult Program	29	5
Chair Yoga	Seniors	43	2
Chamber Concert	Music	35	1
Ciao Italia!	Adult Program	6	1
Coloring for Mindfulness	Library Club	10	1
Crushing Interview Jitters: Practical Techniques for a Stress-Free Experience (Virtual Only)	Career	8	1
Culture Club: Conquering the Camino (In-Person)	Adult Program	13	1
Culture Club: Conquering the Camino (Virtual)	Adult Program	7	1
Discovering the Silent Cinema	Adult Program	52	1
DIY Crop Day	Create	0	1
Fake News, Real News, and How to Tell the Difference (In-Person)	Civic Engagement	18	1
Fake News, Real News, and How to Tell the Difference (Virtual)	Civic Engagement	15	1
Friday Features	Adult Program	36	5
Galaxy Coasters	Adult Program	9	1
Genealogy: Family History Research for Beginners (In-Person)	Adult Program	6	1
Genealogy: Family History Research for Beginners (Virtual)	Adult Program	4	1
Great Decisions	Adult Program	15	1
GreenMan Theatre Presents Irish Tales (In-Person)	Adult Program	41	1
GreenMan Theatre Presents Irish Tales (Virtual)	Adult Program	29	1
Historical Book Discussion: <i>Our Mothers' War: American Women at Home and at the Front During World War II</i> by Emily Yellin	Adult Book Discussion	12	1
Improving Home Accessibility (Virtual)	Inclusive	5	1
In Stitches Needleworkers	Create	5	1
Laser Engrave a Glass	Create	8	1
Library Insiders: Beginner Yoga	Library Insiders	7	1
Lyric Opera Lecture: <i>Aida</i>	Adult Program	0	1
Macrame Feather Key Fob	Makery	19	2
Next Chapter Book Club	Inclusive	28	2
Oak Park Transitions Group	Outreach (P)	14	1
Planning Your Walt Disney World Vacation (In-Person)	Adult Program	7	1
Planning Your Walt Disney World Vacation (Virtual)	Adult Program	33	1
Polymer Clay Mug	Create	16	1
Scrabble	Games	14	2
Seed Starting: Giving Your Garden a Head Start (In-Person)	Adult Program	6	1
Seed Starting: Giving Your Garden a Head Start (Virtual)	Adult Program	19	1
Singing Bird and the Importance of Native American Women in Illinois History (In-Person)	Adult Program	41	1
Singing Bird and the Importance of Native American Women in Illinois History (Virtual)	Adult Program	8	1
Staying Mentally Fit	Adult Program	12	1

Streaming Video	Technology	7	1
The Great North American Eclipse (In-Person)	Adult Program	60	1
The Great North American Eclipse (Virtual)	Adult Program	53	1
Ukulele Circle	Music	8	1
Virtual Visit: Ruth E. Carter: Interweaving Tradition and Imagination			
Through Costume Design	Author Visit	5	1
Who is an Ombudsman? (In-person)	Inclusive	5	1
Who is an Ombudsman? (Virtual)	Inclusive	3	1
York Transitions LEAP	Inclusive	20	1
TOTALS		984	71
Makery Program			
	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Sew a Lunch Bag	Create	22	2
TOTALS		22	2
Teen Programs			
	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Homeschool Explorers (Grades 6-12): Nature	Homeschool	3	1
Teen Book Talk	High School	0	1
Teen Crafternoon	High School	2	1
Teen Make & Take	High School	17	1
Youth Job Fair	High School	185	1
TOTALS		207	5
Middle School Programs			
	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Middle School Influencers	Middle School	2	1
TOTALS		2	1
Kids' Library Programs			
	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
1,000 Books Before Kindergarten	Family	16	1
Art Club	Elementary School	20	1
Baby Play Date	Storytime	14	1
Be a Book Illustrator!	Elementary School	13	1
Churchville Circle of Friends School Visit	Outreach (P)	6	1
Disgusting Critters	Elementary School	12	1
Explore Paper Airplanes	Elementary School	9	1
Family Sensory Hour	Inclusive	44	1
Fiero Coding Club	Elementary School	7	1
Fun for 3s, 4s, and 5s	Storytime	69	4
Get Ready for the Eclipse!	Elementary School	18	1
Graphic Novel Club	Elementary School	7	1
Homeschool Explorers (Grades K-5): Makery	Homeschool	20	1
Keep Unpublished EU Adaptive Storytime	Storytime	12	3
Kids' Chess Club	Elementary School	11	1
Little Wiggles	Storytime	718	9
MiniMakers: Making Stickers	Preschool	20	1
MiniMakers: Sticker Making	Preschool	21	1
Mother Goose & Me	Storytime	127	4
Open LEGO Building	Family	30	1
Outreach Elementary Edison (Multi-Needs Program)	Elementary School	20	1
Outreach Preschool AT Madison	Outreach (P)	35	1
Pop-Up Storytime	Pop In Activity	87	3
Pop-Up: Would You Rather St. Patrick's Day Edition	Pop In Activity	150	1
Read to the Dogs	Elementary School	33	1
Romp and Rhyme	Storytime	303	9
Saturday STEM	Storytime	20	1

Scout Makery Button Visit	Scout Visit (P)	7	1
Scout Makery jewelry	Scout Visit (P)	8	1
Scout Makery sewing vist NM	Scout Visit (P)	16	1
Scout visit Computer Expert	Scout Visit (P)	29	1
Scout visit Makery buttons	Scout Visit (P)	22	1
Scout visit Makery mugs	Scout Visit (P)	23	1
Spanish/English Bilingual Storytime	Storytime	21	1
Spring Break Wind Tube Fun	Family	988	1
Super Spring Break Movie: <i>DC Superhero Girls: Hero of the Year</i>	Movies	9	1
Super Spring Break Movie: <i>Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse</i>	Movies	19	1
Super Spring Break Movie: <i>The Incredibles</i>	Movies	16	1
Tot Auto Shop and Drive-in	Preschool	5	1
TOTALS		3,005	65
Passive Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Passive Programs:			
Inside Scoop: Tax Season	Adult Program	90	1
Interactive Displays:	Adult Program	46	2
Reading Adventure	Adult Program	3	1
Recording of AI and Genealogy	Adult Program	25	1
Recording of Improving Home Accessibility	Adult Program	12	1
Recording of Lilly Pulitzer	Adult Program	29	1
Recording of Plan Your Walt Disney World Vacation	Adult Program	47	1
Recording of The Great North American Eclipse	Adult Program	34	1
Social Services Folders	Adult Program	22	4
Teen Passive Programs:			
Teen Anxiety Relief Kits (passive)	High School	64	2
Middle School Passive Programs:			
Passive- Graphic Novel March Madness	Middle School	100	1
Passive- Middle School Spring Break wishes	Middle School	20	1
Kids' Passive Programs:			
Bookmark Contest March 1-31	Elementary School	35	1
Craft table - Passive	Preschool	1,120	4
March Picture Book Madness	Family	470	1
Spring Into Reading: 2nd and 3rd Grade	Family	94	1
Spring Into Reading: 4th and 5th Grade	Family	35	1
Spring Into Reading: K & 1st Grade	Family	115	1
		Attendance	Sessions
Adult Program Grand Total		1314	86
Total Passive Program Statistics		308	13
Total Program Statistics		1,006	73
Teen Program Grand Total		271	7
Total Passive Program Statistics		64	2
Total Program Statistics		207	5
Middle School Program Grand Total		122	3
Total Passive Program Statistics		120	2
Total Program Statistics		2	1
Kids' Program Grand Total		4,874	74
Total Passive Program Statistics		1,869	9
Total Program Statistics		3,005	65
Passive Program Total		2,361	26
Total Attendance		6,581	
Total Programs			170

STATISTICAL REPORT

March 2024

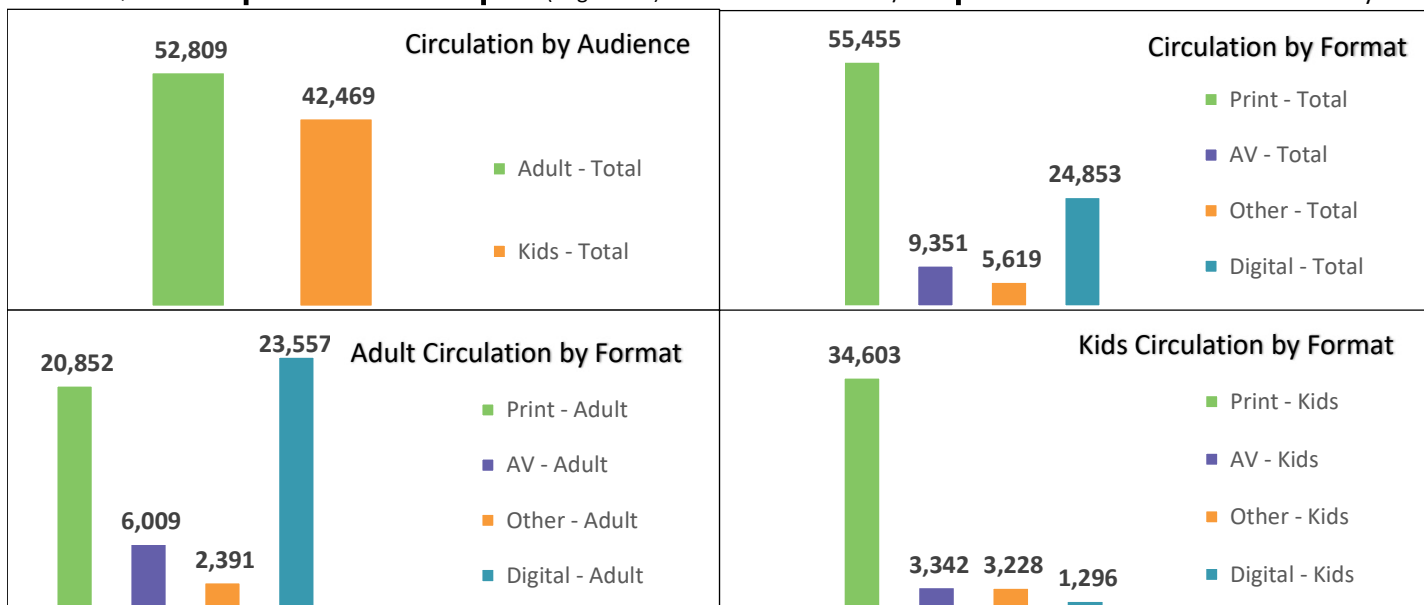
Circulation

Total Circulation
96,665 ↓ -1%
 97,410 last year
Card Holders
 25,279

Library Card Usage
9,361 ↑ 4%
 8,979 last year

Library Cards Issued
Elmhurst
 (Issued) **193** ↓ -19%
 238 last year
Reciprocal Borrower
 (Registered) **69** ↓ -5%
 73 last year

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed **1,387** ↓ -6%
 1,477 last year
Lent **609** ↓ -25%
 811 last year



Technology Usage

Public Computer Use

14,992 ↓ -15%
 17,662 last year

Website Visits

40,840 ↓ -74%
 154,930 last year

Self Checkout

(% of checkouts)
52% ↑ 8%
 48% last year

WiFi Sessions

21,173 ↓ -21%
 26,753 last year

Reference Queries

Reference Questions Total

4,350 ↑ 1%
 4,309 last year

Reference Questions

Adult
3,161 ↓ -8%
 3,446 last year

Kids
1,189 ↑ 38%
 863 last year

Meeting Room Use

Library Programs

170 ↓ -2%
 174 last year

Public Meetings

98 ↑ 5%
 93 last year

Group Study Rooms

1,914 ↓ -2%
 1,953 last year

Programs

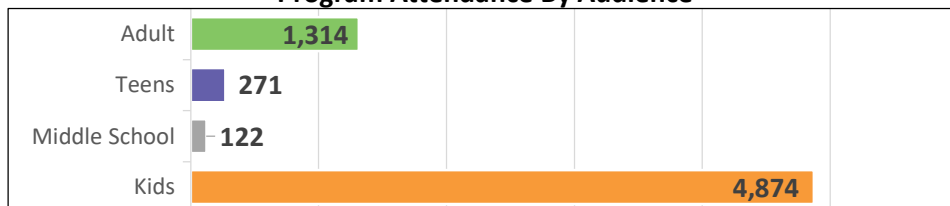
Program Attendance

6,581 ↑ 22%
 5,390 last year

Library Programs

170 ↓ -2%
 174 last year

Program Attendance By Audience



Library Visits

Total Visits

39,027 ↑ 0%
 38,883 last year

In House Visits

Makery **770** ↓ 0%
 772 last year

Walk-In
37,171 ↑ 1%
 36,796 last year

Drive-Up Visits
1,856 ↓ -11%
 2,087 last year

Creative Studio **111** ↑ 18%
 94 last year

Monthly Comparison

Total Circulation

96,665 -1%
97,410 last year

Adult Circulation

52,809 3%
51,171 last year

Kids Circulation

42,469 -5%
44,763 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,387 -6%
1,477 last year

Digital Material Circulation

24,853 29%
19,281 last year

Databases

21,362 137%
9,001 last year

Reference Questions Total

4,350 1%
4,309 last year

One on One Tutorials

34 -26%
46 last year

Number of Programs

170 -2%
174 last year

Program Attendance

6,581 22%
5,390 last year

In-Person Visitors

37,171 1%
36,796 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,856 -11%
2,087 last year

Year To Date Comparison

Total Circulation

279,432 -1%
281,087 last year

Adult Circulation

152,725 2%
149,150 last year

Kids Circulation

122,321 -4%
127,848 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

4,387 7%
4,090 last year

Digital Material Circulation

69,629 18%
58,924 last year

Databases

50,433 -26%
68,390 last year

Reference Questions Total

13,541 5%
12,889 last year

One on One Tutorials

105 -27%
143 last year

Number of Programs

514 -2%
525 last year

Program Attendance

19,927 33%
15,000 last year

In-Person Visitors

109,129 6%
102,598 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

5,513 -8%
6,024 last year

Collection Totals

Books and Magazines

176,320

Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

5,977

Audio Visual

29,293

Digital

156,669

Notable Happenings in Circulation

- We issued two *Cards for Kids* library cards.
- There are 36 active *Cards for Kids* library cards.
- One Non resident card was purchased this month for a total of \$194.79
- There are 136 active Non resident library cards (patrons living in unincorporated Elmhurst).
- We filled 5,079 holds this month.