

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Grants Committee**

Each year I work with City of Elmhurst staff to review Explore Elmhurst Grant submissions. The grants committee reviews grant submissions from local organizations and suggests grant awards to be presented to City Council for approval. The committee met on February 12th and 13th and we heard from local organizations hoping to receive a grant. The goal of the grant is fund local events and cultural activities that attract visitors and overnight guests to the City of Elmhurst.

- **Programming Strategic Planning Meeting**

Staff who plan and conduct programs assembled for a programming strategic planning meeting on Thursday, February 6. During the half-day meeting we talked about programming statistics and how to analyze data, discussed ways to “think outside the box” and be even more creative, and we checked in with the overall strategic plan to make sure we are on target to meet our goals.

- **Snow**

We had our first significant snow fall of the season. We’re always grateful for the Ventrac snow machine. Facilities staff are able to keep up with the snow fall while protected from the elements. The City plows our parking lots but we are responsible for all the walkways.

ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jan 2025



Artificial Intelligence

Twenty patrons stopped by to interact with Christina Racibozynski, Alyssa Murphy and Angie McCarver during the lobby table about AI in January. One patron followed up with the comment, "Please thank the ladies in the lobby doing the AI demonstration. I came home and installed Microsoft Designer on my phone and already I'm having so

much fun with it. Actually, I laughed so hard I couldn't see. Also installed ChatGPT and planned a trip to Hawaii."



Death Café

Hayley Rightnowar planned EPL's very successful Death Cafe. Nancy Betker and Michelle Fleury, volunteers with Compassion & Choices, led an almost full room of eager attendees. Topics discussed included ways to express sympathy, end-of-life preparations, writing an obituary, NOK boxes, and how to further your education on the biology of death.

No Shush Movies

Hayley Rightnowar and Lauren Watson led our first no-shush movie and craft for Library Insiders. (right) The program was so successful that we'll be booking a larger room next time.

Snowman Pepakura Craft

Christina Racibozynski led patrons in creating a snowman using pepakura, a style of 3D papercrafting. (below)



Programming

To give children and caregivers a different way to engage with each other, we introduced the **Imagination Station**. Families will encounter a Stay and Play or a Make and Take activity in alternating weeks. It has been great to see families interacting with our Stay and Play activity which this month included “Let’s Build Together”, a block activity and “Balance Buckets,” an activity that gave little ones a chance to develop their estimation skills as they weighed assorted items in our play scales. This new take on our craft table is something the entire department is excited about, and a good example of how we continue to assess and improve opportunities for patrons to use our spaces.

Makery programs continue to be popular, and the middle school Cake and Canvas program was a big success! Feeding middle schoolers continues to be a great way to get them to attend a program at EPL! Other programs of note included Ultimate Mad Libs, Awesome Axolotls, and Puzzle Palooza. Eighteen enthusiastic K-2nd graders attended the axolotl program, which included creating a habitat and learning about Mexican and Aztec folklore. One participant was so thrilled with her habitat that she brought it to school for show-and-tell the next day. Approximately 57 patrons dropped in to work on the variety of puzzles in the programming room. There were simple wooden puzzles, floor puzzles, and jigsaw puzzles with 100 or more pieces.



Stay and Play: Let’s Build Together



Awesome Axolotls

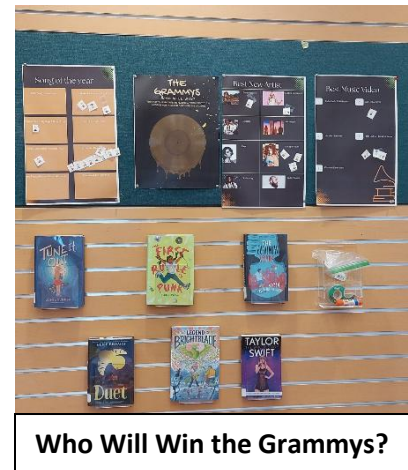
Collection

Work continues on learning new systems, finetuning processes, and analyzing the collection to ensure we are meeting patron needs. Full-time Kids selectors switched to ordering primarily from Ingram after **Erin Emerick** reviewed the procedures with them. In addition, the Libraria representative reviewed that ordering system during the Kids department meeting.

Middle School Happenings

Angela Caringella hosted Cakes and Canvases. Eleven budding artists attended. After the paintings were completed, they switched seats and shared what they liked about someone else's canvas. They all had such sweet things to say about each other.

The display in the middle school hangout space featured music books and a chance to vote which artist they thought would win the Grammys. Twenty-three votes were posted.



The winter volunteer program had 8 middle schoolers with a total of 24 hours. Tasks included pulling book lists, prepping supplies and prizes for WRP, setting/cleaning up programs, and folding booklists.

20 and 40 day prizes were sent to Churchville for the outreach Winter Reading Program. School librarian Maria Gargano provided the following feedback about the program this year:

"We have great participation when we do the winter program because we can count school reading, and our teachers can support the program as well. The way it is set up to have the school personnel help manage is a great help for our kids. It is hard for our students to get to the other side of town to go to the library."

Special Project

Teacher Technology Kits have been updated and renamed to Program and Outreach Kits. The new kits contain items such as a Cubetto STEM bundle and Intelino Smart Train Starter set, which can be used at outreach STEM events and for in-house programming. All of the kits are now housed between two bays of shelves in the Kids' Workroom.

Patron Story

Two girls who were participating in our new Stamp-portunities passive program were very excited to get a stamp for finding a book about a place they would like to visit. One found a book from New Mexico and shared when she got to New Mexico she would rent a car and drive to Mexico City so she could find Axolotls in the lake there. She was signed up for our Axolotl program and looking forward to it.



MARKETING DEPARTMENT REPORT

January 2025

January Marketing Topics included:

Programming: MLK Jr. Day of Service

Honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by building community through service projects. Hand-on activities were available for all ages and ability levels. Focused around the theme of creating warmth. Over 100 were in attendance!

Collections: DIY at EPL

Each turn of the calendar feels like the right time to tackle the projects that have been on the back burner. We have tools and digital equipment to use in the Library or take home with you. Creativebug offers online video of arts and crafts workshops and techniques that you can watch at your pace. Plus, the Library offers space to spread out, apart from distractions at home and get things done.

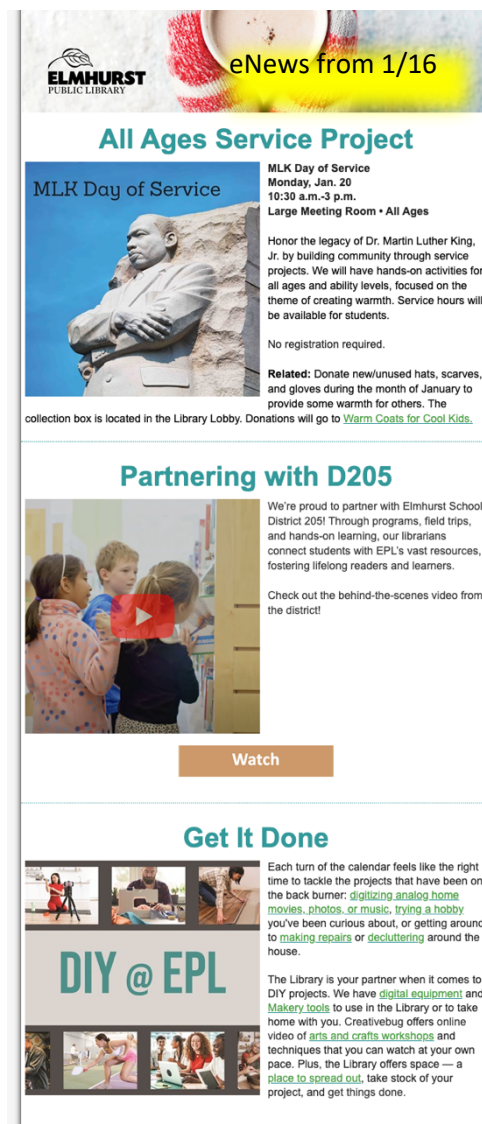
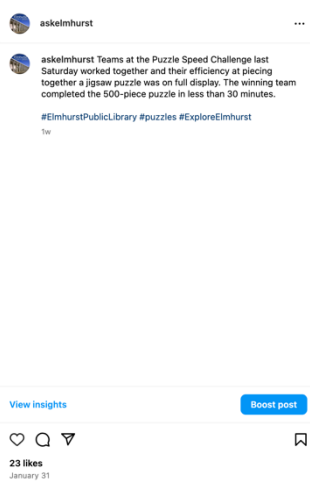
Services: Book Club Services (video)

The Library can support your book club by offering multiple copies of titles in a variety of formats. Ask our staff or browse Readers Central on the 2nd floor. Learn more about Book Club services online at elmlib.org/bookclub or watch our latest Library Services video on local book clubs at elmlib.org/youtube

Inside Scoop: Year in Review (video)

Our Inside Scoop video takes a look back at 2024 and the eventful year we shared. Thank you for making great memories with us!
elmlib.org/youtube

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



In January, people watched your videos 18,926 times





Views1

1,406,841

Reach1

982,198

Interactions1

2,523

Link clicks1

727

Views

Followers vs. non-followers

0%Followers

100%Non-followers

Interactions1

Reactions1,370

Comments85

Shares126

Saves942

1.4K

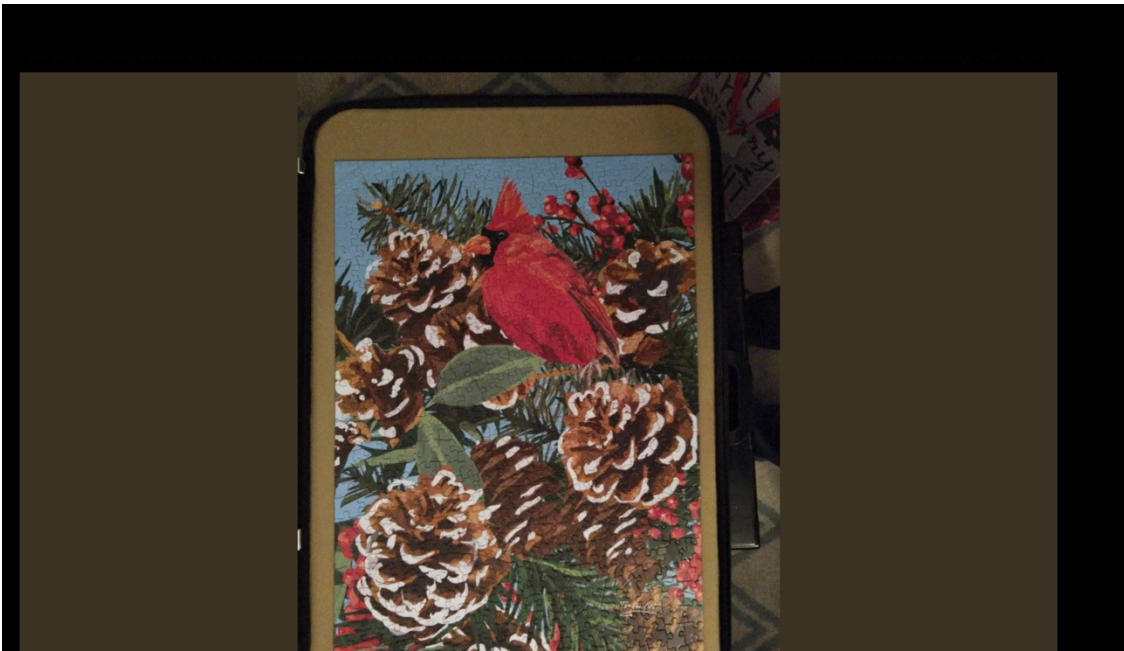
154

0

0

0

0



Views1

6,625

Reach1

4,913

Interactions1

26

Link clicks1

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Views

Followers vs. non-followers

13%Followers

87%Non-followers

Interactions1

Reactions25

Comments0

Shares1

Saves0

22

3

0

0

0

0

MAKERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

JANUARY 2025

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
People Counter	1,832	1,998	1,753
Equipment Reservations	195	457	164
3D Prints	86	77	83



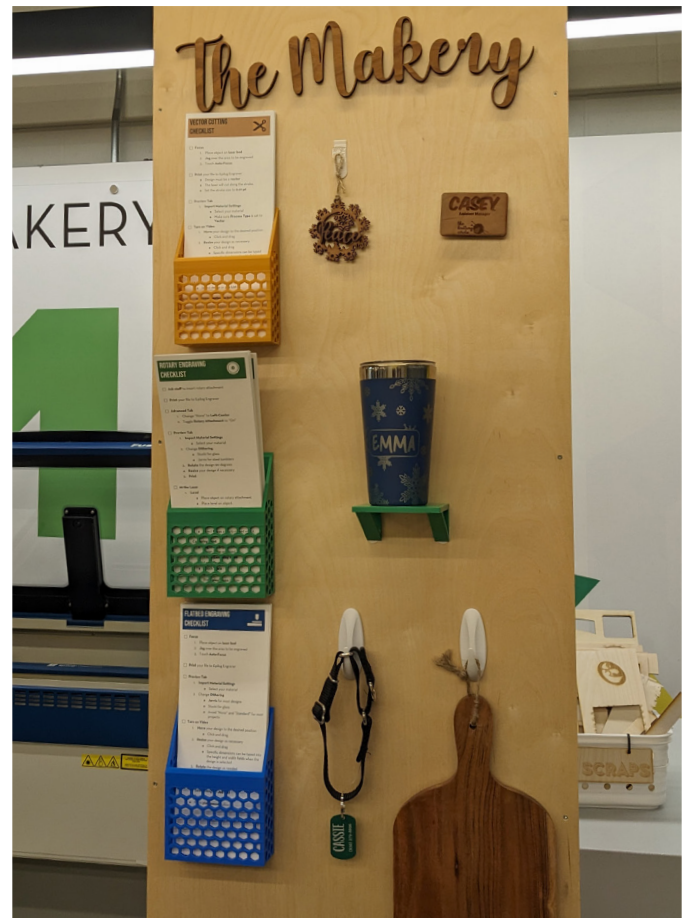
New Serger Guide

Makery staff created a flip chart of serger examples that show the different stitches the serger is capable of. Each stitch is paired with threading instructions for that particular stitch and direct the user to the page in the user manual for details.



Fiber Arts Pop Up

Makery staff Jen Kryczka and Angelina Mazenko hosted a pop-up program in the Lobby. They demonstrated the knitting machines and promoted fiber arts items available for checkout.



Updated Laser Display

The new display features step-by-step checklists for the three most common uses of the laser. The checklists are color coordinated with their 3D printed holders and are accompanied by examples.



Maker Spotlight

This family used the embroidery machine to make a crown for Lee's 1st birthday. Happy birthday, Lee!

PROGRAM STATISTICS

January 2025

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Book Discussion: <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen	Book Discussion	12	1
Adult Book Discussion: <i>The First Ladies</i> : A Novel by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray	Book Discussion	17	2
AI popup		20	1
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Games	36	4
Android Basics	Technology	3	1
Art Therapy Night	Create	26	1
Bingo	Games	4	1
Bridge and Pinochle	Games	73	4
Canasta: Open Play	Games	53	4
Cash in on Decluttering	Consumer	98	1
Celebrate International Puzzle Day	Enrich	6	1
Celebrate the Lunar New Year	Enrich	27	1
Chair Yoga	Gather	46	2
Chamber Concert	Gather	71	1
Chocolate Desserts	Enrich	71	1
Ciao Italia	Enrich	8	1
Coloring for Mindfulness		2	1
Culture Club: Mississippi River Adventures	Enrich	33	1
Death Cafe	Enrich	10	1
Family History 101: Beginning Your Investigation	Enrich	8	1
Friday Features: As Good as It Gets	Movies	53	5
Getting Started with Streaming Services	Technology	4	1
Great Decisions	Enrich	13	1
Identity Theft Scams and Tips	Consumer	30	1
Illinois Libraries Present: Chicago Pizza: Past, Present & Future with Steve Dolinsky	Books and Authors	25	1
Illinois Libraries Present: Love and Laughs with Michelle Buteau	Books and Authors	5	1
In Stitches Needleworkers	Create	5	1
Interview Anxiety: What It Is and How to Manage It	Career & Job Hunting	8	1
Introduction to QuickBooks Online for Business	Business	6	1
iPhone iOS	Technology	11	1
Learn to Play American Mah Jongg	Enrich	20	1
Learn to Play Canasta	Enrich	10	1
LEGO Remembered: History and Values	Enrich	31	1
Library Insiders: Chair Yoga	Library Insiders	8	1
Library Insiders: Daytime Movie	Library Insiders	19	1
Memory Cafe: Winter Wonderland	Enrich, Inclusive, Seniors	0	1
MLK Day of Service	Enrich	103	1
Music of the 1990s	Common Connection	12	1
Next Chapter Book Club	Library Insiders	31	2
Outreach R@SC tech help	Community Outreach	10	1
Photoshop Elements	Technology	6	1
Puzzle Speed Challenge	Enrich	48	1
Resume Review	Career & Job Hunting	5	1
Retro Video Games	Enrich	8	1
Scrabble	Games	13	2

Sensory Self-Care	Create	19	2
Snowman Pepakura	Create	19	2
Staying Mentally Fit	Gather	7	1
The History of PC Video Games	Enrich, Games	6	1
Through the Eyes of the Hubble Telescope	Common Connection	34	1
Ukulele Circle	Gather	12	1
Winter Stitch-Along	Create	693	4
TOTALS		1,898	74
Makery Program	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Makery Library of Extraordinary Things Pop-Up	Create	63	1
TOTALS		63	1
Teen Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
New Year, New Me: Vision Board	Create	3	1
TAG Rescheduled	Teen Program	4	1
Teen Crafternoon: Shrinky Dink Flair Pins	Create	3	1
Timothy Christian Visit	Outreach	39	2
TOTALS		49	5
Middle School Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Middle School Hangout Passive & Pop-Up		15	1
TOTALS		15	1
Kids' Library Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Awesome Axolotls	Science	18	1
3D Printing	STEAM	12	1
After School Gaming	Games	18	1
Cake and Canvas	Create	11	1
Dig in to Play: Toddler Sensory Time		50	1
Drop-in Craft	STEAM	124	2
Kids' Chess Club	Games	18	1
Make an Origami Yoda	Create	8	1
Make with Me: Ice Painting	Makery	42	2
Mandarin/English Storytime	Storytime	26	1
Middle School Influencers	Middle School Influencers	2	1
Middle School Movie Night	Movies	2	1
Puzzle-Palooza	STEAM	57	1
Read to the Dogs	STEAM	31	1
Ultimate Mad Libs	Games	8	1
Homeschool Explorers	Homeschool	20	1
Scout Makery mugs	Outreach	5	1
Scout Makery visit buttons		16	1
Scout Visit Button making	Outreach	13	1
Scout Visit Digital Photography	Outreach	9	1
Scout Visit Makery keepsake box	Outreach	7	1
Scout Visit Makery sewing	Outreach	12	1
Pop-Up Storytime	Storytime	15	1
Baby Play Date	Family	0	1
C.I.T.Y. of Support Playgroup	Family	17	1
Family Sensory Hour	Family	19	1
Fun for 3s, 4s, and 5s	Storytime	57	4
Little Wigglers	Storytime	626	9

Mother Goose & Me	Storytime	84	4
OUTREACH Preschool AT Elmhurst Preparatory	Outreach	29	3
OUTREACH Preschool Madison Parent Event	Outreach	32	1
Romp & Rhyme	Storytime	307	8
Saturday STEM	STEAM	21	1
TOTALS		1,716	58
Passive Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Passive Programs:			
2024 Year in Review (Online)		193	1
Recording of History of PC Gaming (Online)		49	1
Recording of Mississippi River Adventures (Online)		27	1
Recording of Cash in on Decluttering (Online)		13	1
Recording of Local Book Club Resources (Online)		74	1
Winter Reading		39	1
Puzzles:		32	1
Entertainment Station		23	5
Kids' Passive Programs:			
Craft Table-Passive		931	4
		Attendance	Sessions
Adult Program Grand Total		2411	87
Total Passive Program Statistics		450	12
Total Program Statistics		1,961	75
Teen Program Grand Total		49	5
Total Passive Program Statistics		0	0
Total Program Statistics		49	5
Middle School Program Grand Total		15	1
Total Passive Program Statistics		0	0
Total Program Statistics		15	1
Kids' Program Grand Total		2,647	62
Total Passive Program Statistics		931	4
Total Program Statistics		1,716	58
Passive Program Total		1,381	16
Total Attendance		5,122	
Total Programs			155

STATISTICAL REPORT

January 2025

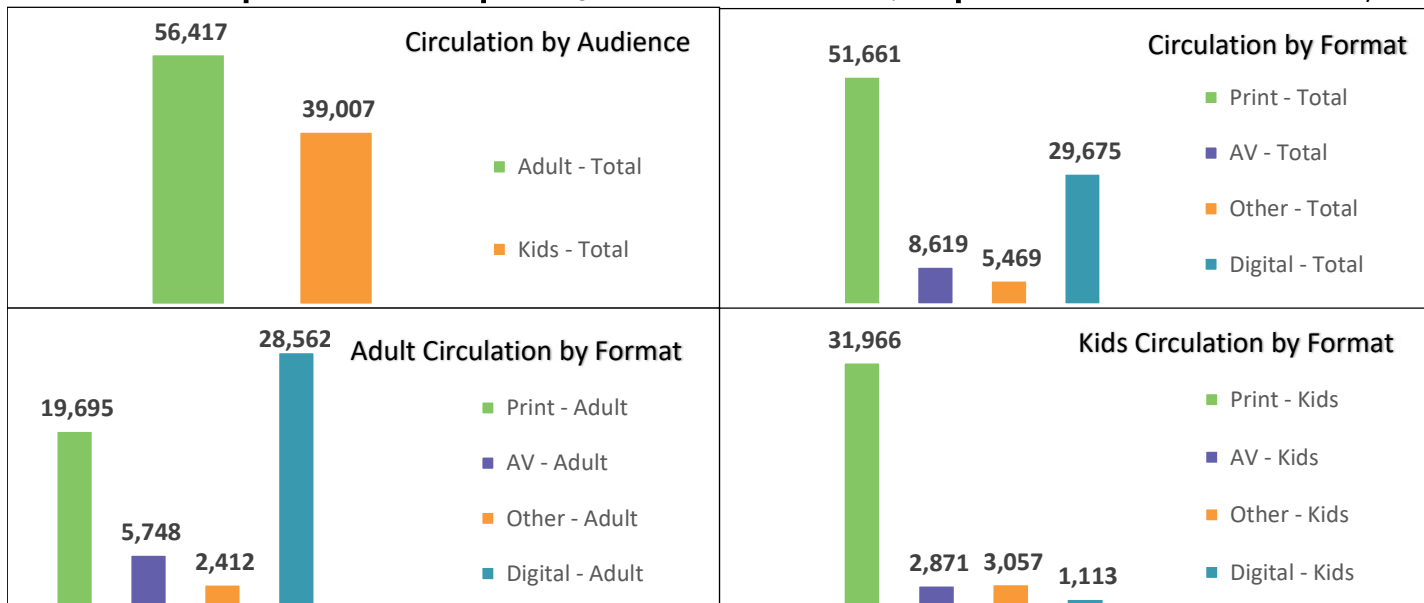
Circulation

Total Circulation
96,814 ↑ 3%
 93,550 last year
Card Holders
 25,908

Library Card Usage
9,683 ↑ 4%
 9,299 last year

Library Cards Issued
Elmhurst **209** ↑ 12%
 (Issued) 187 last year
Reciprocal Borrower **49** ↑ 2%
 (Registered) 48 last year

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed **1,390** ↓ -5%
 1,469 last year
Lent **607** ↓ -17%
 729 last year



Technology Usage

Public Computer Use

14,621 ↓ -6%
 15,503 last year

Website Visits

35,970 ↓ -18%
 43,770 last year

Self Checkout

(% of checkouts)
52% ↑ 4%
 50% last year

WiFi Sessions

20,189 ↓ -1%
 20,429 last year

Reference Queries

Reference Questions Total

4,566 ↓ -3%
 4,724 last year

Reference Questions

Adult
2,970 ↓ -13%
 3,403 last year

Kids
1,596 ↑ 21%
 1,321 last year

Meeting Room Use

Library Programs

155 ↓ -5%
 164 last year

Public Meetings

88 ↑ 17%
 75 last year

Group Study Rooms

2,437 ↑ 35%
 1,802 last year

Programs

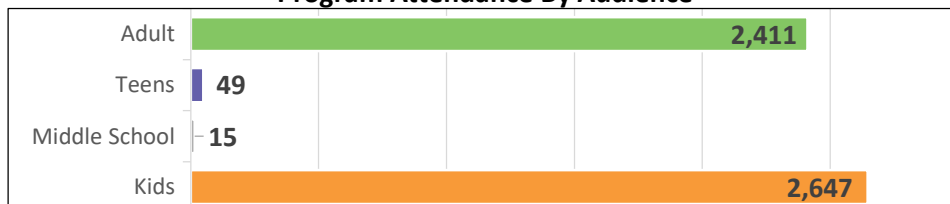
Program Attendance

5,122 ↑ 3%
 4,961 last year

Library Programs

155 ↓ -5%
 164 last year

Program Attendance By Audience



Library Visits

Total Visits

37,676 ↑ 10%
 34,364 last year

In House Visits

Makery **1,832** ↑ 131%
 793 last year

Walk-In

35,763 ↑ 10%
 32,449 last year

Drive-Up Visits

1,913 ↓ 0%
 1,915 last year

Creative Studio

109 ↑ 11%
 98 last year

Monthly Comparison

Total Circulation

96,814  3%
93,550 last year

Adult Circulation

56,417  10%
51,190 last year

Kids Circulation

39,007  -5%
40,891 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,390  -5%
1,469 last year

Digital Material Circulation

29,675  29%
22,929 last year

Databases

62,712  513%
10,236 last year

Reference Questions Total

4,566  -3%
4,724 last year

One on One Tutorials

44  16%
38 last year

Number of Programs

155  -5%
164 last year

Program Attendance

5,122  3%
4,961 last year

In-Person Visitors

35,763  10%
32,449 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,913  0%
1,915 last year

Year To Date Comparison

Total Circulation

96,814  3%
93,550 last year

Adult Circulation

56,417  10%
51,190 last year

Kids Circulation

39,007  -5%
40,891 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,390  -5%
1,469 last year

Digital Material Circulation

29,675  29%
22,929 last year

Databases

62,712  513%
10,236 last year

Reference Questions Total

4,566  -3%
4,724 last year

One on One Tutorials

44  16%
38 last year

Number of Programs

155  -5%
164 last year

Program Attendance

5,122  3%
4,961 last year

In-Person Visitors

35,763  10%
32,449 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,913  0%
1,915 last year

STATISTICAL REPORT

January 2025

Collection Totals

Books and Magazines

160,809

Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

6,114

Audio Visual

27,074

Digital

176,948

Notable Happenings in Circulation

- One *Cards for Kids* library card was issued in January.
- There are 40 active *Cards for Kids* library cards.
- One Non resident cards were purchased this month for a total of \$247.39.
- There are 134 active Non resident library cards (patrons living in unincorporated Elmhurst).
- We filled 5,414 holds this month.