

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- We had a wonderful Staff Institute Day on Friday, August 8. Staff participated in various learning sessions in the morning and then we all participated in an energetic game show extravaganza after lunch. Feedback from the day was very positive with staff commenting on how much they enjoyed visiting with other staff, learning new things, and engaging in some friendly competition with their co-workers.
- The Summer Reading program is over for another year. Adults and kids enjoyed earning prizes along with the satisfaction of reading for pleasure and learning.
- The fall issue of Fine Print includes a long list of wonderful programming for the community. We're especially excited about this year's One Book. We hope to get as much participation as last year even though this year's program will not include an author visit. We came up with many new ideas to engage patrons including a festive gathering at Wilder Mansion to conclude the event.

ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT

July 2025

Book Club Party

This July Anne Swanson and Jez Layman hosted a gathering for local book groups. While enjoying refreshments and each others' company, patrons shared tips, favorite titles and resources for finding discussion questions.



Extraordinary July

With the new Outdoor Games collection and summer-themed Extraordinary Things on display, a lot happened in ADS



Death Café

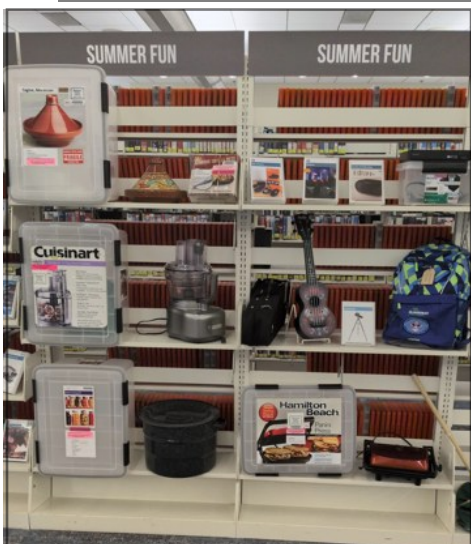
Volunteers with Compassion & Choices, led the Library's 2nd Death Cafe which had full attendance. A Death Cafe is a group-directed discussion of death in a safe, confidential setting where you can share experiences and ideas on fears about end-of-life issues. Its objective is to increase awareness of death and help people make the most of their finite lives.



Patrons leveled up their putts with the Golf putting set at Infodesk1.



Angie and Alyssa hosted an Extraordinary Things pop-up in the Lobby.



Summer fun display draws attention to the many useful items available.



Movies projected on the wall to market our circulating AV items.



Outdoor games make their debut on the 2nd floor.

Finishing Up Summer Reading

Summer Reading wrapped up on July 31 with late check-ins accepted through August 7. It was a very busy summer. Our numbers were up across all levels, with the most significant increase at the 40 days, which means we gave a lot of FREE books to our SRP readers!

	2024	2025	% Increase
10 Days	2289	2461	7.52%
20 Days	2014	2193	8.89%
30 Days	1809	1982	9.56%
40 Days	1585	1812	14.32%

Other programming highlights included a variety of game-related fun. Twenty-four middle schoolers showed off their skills at our Super Smash Bros. Tournament. Sixteen 3rd – 5th graders “Wrecked the Tech.” Cathy Nestlinger put together an awesome presentation to help kids understand the inner workings of the gaming technology they were destroying.



Super Mario Bros. winners

Thirteen children attended Level Up: Live Action Video Games. They had a blast playing Pac-man, navigating the Super Mario obstacle course, completing the Tetris puzzle challenge, and creating Minecraft post-it art



Pac-Man



Minecraft Post-it Note Art



Ten K-2nd graders made their own “Cardboard Carnival.” Amelia, our middle school volunteer, was fantastic at talking to the younger kids and getting them motivated. Foosball seemed to gather the most excitement, even from the parents upon pick up

We were so lucky to have a great group of middle school volunteers who assisted us with programming and staffed the summer reading desk. A total of 81 volunteers worked 251 hours this volunteer session which ran from the end of May through July.



Cardboard Carnival



Getting Ready for School

With summer vacation coming to an end, we held our third annual Camp Kinder with a total 15 kids registering and an average of 12 attending each of the three days. Each day of the camp is designed to help the kids practice the classroom skills they will be expected to have in Kindergarten. There are two “field trips” to practice lining up and walking quietly, as they would have to do in school hallways, going outside for our nature scavenger hunt and on a behind-the-scenes tour of Circulation. The children also learn basic classroom etiquette such as raising hands before talking, coughing and sneezing into your sleeve, and of course, asking to go to the bathroom. A carefully curated Kindergarten readiness packet went home on the first day, providing additional materials to review and practice skills.



Camp Kinder

Booklists

Heather Jensen Forster finalized the read-alike lists for District 205’s dual-language program and updated the first trimester Wit & Wisdom curriculum title lists and read-alike lists for each grade, K-5. The curriculum titles will be displayed on the Homework Shelf.

New this year, District 205 has recreated the landing page for their [library media centers and makerspaces](#), which now includes a block featuring the D205/EPL partnership. The links for each read-alike list, ELA and Dual-Language, will be promoted from this section of their website in addition to the individual school principals’ and teachers’ communications.

July Marketing Topics included:

Hokusai Programming

EPL hosted programming centered around the *Hokusai and Ukiyo-e: The Floating World* exhibit at the McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage. List of the following events:

Book Discussion: *Tomorrow, Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin.

Lecture: Hokusai and the Art of Edo

Craft: Kusudama Flowers

New Collection: Outdoor Games

Level Up your backyard fun with our exciting new collection of outdoor games! Try games like Ladder Toss, Disc Golf, Ring Toss, Bocce Ball, Giant Jenga, and more! Outdoor games can be borrowed for 14 days with an EPL card. Borrow the collection on the 2nd Floor, or place a hold through our catalog.

Kids' Library Levelled Up! (video)

The Kids' Library is all decked out in game-themed decor, thanks to our talented staff! Watch the [YouTube short](#) that takes you on a tour of some of the creative ways the kids' staff incorporated "Level Up," the Summer Reading theme, into the look of the Library. elmlib.org/youtube

Patio Renovation

Exciting changes are coming to the south patio of the Library! Soon there will be more space to read, study, and relax with beautiful views of Wilder Park. We're adding furniture, shade structures, improved landscaping, and even a fire pit! More information is available on our website at elmlib.org/patio.

eNews from 7/03



The Library is closed Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day

One Week Left to Vote!



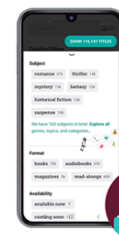
EPL's new bestie is patiently waiting for her new name, but time is running out! We need your help: visit elmlib.org/fox to see the choices, then select the name that you think suits her best. Voting ends on Friday, July 11.

The winning name will be announced in the fall issue of *Fine Print*.

Want to know more? [Watch the video](#) that tells her story.

Vote

Search Smarter with Libby



Use Libby's filters to help narrow your search.

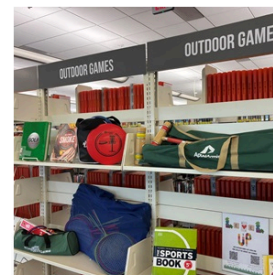
If you use Libby for eBooks, digital audiobooks, or magazines, there are ways to search that will give you immediate access to some very popular, nearly-new titles.

If you would like assistance with Libby, EPL staff is more than happy to help you get started.

Check out this quick video tutorial to learn how to use filters in Libby to find popular and available titles.

Watch

New Collection: Outdoor Games!



Level up your backyard fun with our exciting new collection of outdoor games!

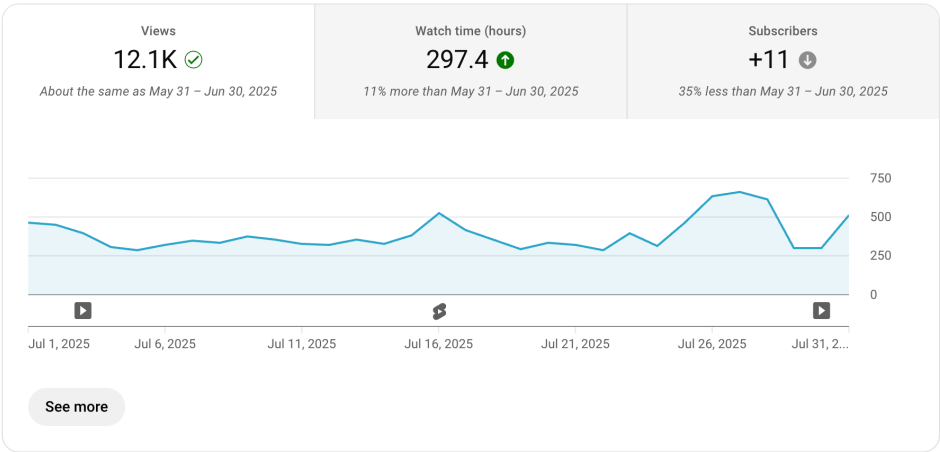
Try games like Ladder Toss, Disc Golf, Ring Toss, Bocce Ball, Giant Jenga, and more!

Outdoor games can be borrowed for 14 days with an EPL card. Browse the collection on the 2nd Floor, or [place a hold](#) through our catalog.

Here are a few sample screenshots of our online presence from July:

In July, people watched your videos 12,054 times

YouTube



Instagram

askelmhurst

Original audio

askelmhurst Have you stopped by the Kids' Library to see it all decked out for Summer Reading? Here are some highlights of the decorating handiwork imagined by our creative staff! Summer Reading ends July 31! [#EimhurstPublicLibrary](#) [#EimhurstIllinois](#) [#SummerReading](#) [#LibraryDecor](#) [#LevelUp](#)

View insights

Boost reel

Like Comment Share

Liked by skokiellibrary and 24 others

July 23

Facebook

Content library

Post insights

Outdoor Games - Level up your backyard fun with our exciting new collection of outdoor games! Try games like Ladder Toss, Disc Golf, Ring Toss, Bocce Ball, Giant Jenga, and more! Browse the shelves on the 2nd Floor or search the catalog.

67

Like Comment Share

Views

10,108

14% Followers 86% Non-followers

Who viewed your content

Age and gender Top countries

Women Men Unknown

35-44 30.9%

45-54 22.2%

25-34 16.9%

55-64 16.4%

65+ 13.5%

18-24 2%

Net follows

5

Net follows

Interactions

76

Reactions 70

Comments 3

Shares 3

Saves 0

MAKERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

JULY 2025

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
People Counter	2,143	2,196	1,953
Equipment Reservations	168	236	240
3D Prints	89	97	31



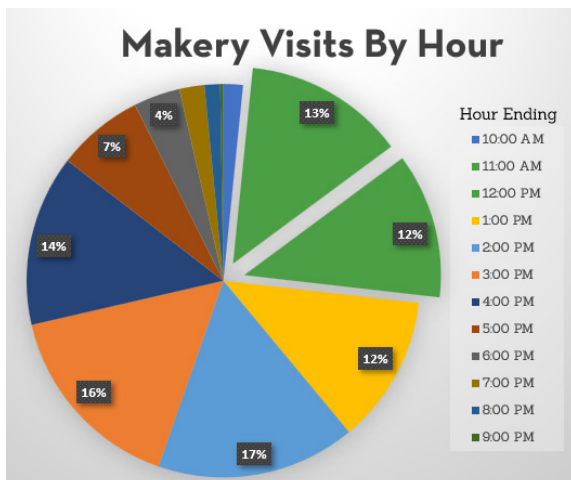
New Tables

After 7 years, the Makery tables were due for an upgrade. Almost all of the butcher block tops were beginning to split and we learned there were better options available. The new tables (right) are height adjustable, easier to move, and have a smaller footprint.



Makery Craft

July's Makery Craft was inspired by mosaic artist Marc Chagall and it was a popular one! More than 30 patrons used mosaic pieces, tile grout, and ceramic glue to make their own mini mosaic on a 4x4 tile coaster.



New Hours

In June, the Makery permanently extended its open hours, opening at 10 a.m. instead of 12 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. In June and July, 25% of all Makery visits happened during hour the Makery was previously closed!



Back to School

The laser is a popular choice for labelling water bottles so they don't get lost. This mother-daughter pair used the laser to etch the kids' names on water bottles in preparation for the upcoming school year.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

July 2025

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
A Career in Video Games	Career & Job Hunting	13	1
Adult Book Discussion: <i>Tom Lake</i> by Ann Patchett	Book Discussion	15	1
AI popup		32	1
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Games	72	5
Art Therapy Night	Create	25	1
Bingo	Games	8	1
Book Club Party	Book Discussion	13	1
Botanical Beverages	Enrich	24	1
Bridge and Pinochle	Games	91	5
Building the Magic: The Challenges Behind Disneyland's Creation	Enrich	34	1
Canasta: Open Play	Games	46	4
Cell Phone Questions popup		14	1
Chair Yoga	Gather	44	2
Ciao Italia	Enrich	8	1
Civics-themed Pinwheel craft popup	Civic Engagement	24	1
Clues & Brews: <i>The Golden Gate</i> by Amy Chua	Book Discussion	7	1
Coloring for Mindfulness	Create	7	1
Culture Club: Picturesque Portugal	Enrich	31	1
Death Cafe	Enrich	15	1
Debating Independence: The American Revolution in 1776	Civic Engagement	31	1
Decoupage Seashells	Create	30	2
Domino Coasters Lobby Pop-up		25	1
eContent for Commuters		7	1
Excel Advanced	Technology	4	1
Excel Intermediate	Technology	6	1
Friday Features	Movies	14	1
Games on the Go Pop-Up Craft	Create	20	1
Games popup in Lobby for Level Up	Games	53	1
Great Decisions	Enrich	13	1
Home Energy Savings	Consumer	7	1
In Stitches Needleworkers	Create	6	1
Katharine Hepburn: In a Class All Her Own	Enrich	20	1
Kusudama Flowers	Create	19	1
Landscape Watercolor Painting	Create	24	2
Learn to Crochet	Create	7	1
Learn to Play American Mah Jongg	Enrich	18	1
Learn to Play Canasta	Enrich	17	1
Library Insiders: No Shush Movie	Library Insiders	12	1
Library Insiders: Trivia Night	Library Insiders	3	1
LOET Lobby popup		60	1
Memory Cafe: Reading	Enrich	6	1
Next Chapter Book Club	Library Insiders	29	2
Plug In & Play	Enrich	12	1
Resume Review	Career & Job Hunting	2	1
Scrabble	Games	6	2
Sketching Wilder	Create	5	1
Staying Mentally Fit	Enrich	10	1
Summer Compound Salads	Enrich	69	1
Summer Stories with GreenMan Theatre	Enrich	51	1

World War I Genealogy: Where Do I Start?	Enrich	6	1
TOTALS		1,115	66
Makery Program	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Design Basics II: Color Theory	Create	9	1
Makery 101: Sewing Basics	Create	6	1
Makery Craft: Mosaic Tile	Create	38	1
Makery Drop In Craft	Create	122	1
Makery Pop-Up Glass Magnet	Create	30	2
TOTALS		205	6
Teen Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Blind Taste Test: Sour Candy	Food and Drink	14	1
Color & Chill	Teen Program	5	1
Teen Crafternoon: Morse Code Bead Bracelet	Create	5	1
Teen Take & Make	Create	16	1
TOTALS		40	4
Middle School Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Cupcake Creations	Create	14	1
Middle School Influencers	Middle School Influencers	10	1
Middle School Makers: Puzzle Design Studio	Makery	9	1
Middle School Pop up - Taste test		8	1
TOTALS		41	4
Kids' Library Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Grad Party	Family	21	1
3D Pen Creations	Create	7	1
Asteroid Impact! Earth's Defense Plan	Science	12	1
Baby Play Date	Storytime	12	1
C.I.T.Y. of Support Playgroup	Family	11	1
Camp Kinder	STEAM	38	3
Cardboard Carnival	STEAM	10	1
Design a Summer Scrapbook	Create	5	1
Extreme Weather	Science	9	1
Family Sensory Hour	Family	4	1
Family Trivia Night	Games	23	1
FFC Camp Visit (Ages 4-6)		138	9
FFC Camp Visit (Ages 6-8)		368	22
Get Excited About Science		70	1
Kids' Chess Club	Games	12	1
Level Up: Live Action Video Game	Games	13	1
Lions Club Vision and Hearing Screening	Community Outreach	78	2
Maker Kids: Maze Makers	Create	10	1
Mini Makers: Emoji Art	Makery	12	1
Mother Goose & Me	Storytime	75	4
OUTREACH Immanuel Lutheran Summer Camp	Outreach	53	3
OUTREACH Stories at the Pool	Outreach	14	1
OUTREACH YMCA Visit @ EPL	Community Outreach	779	44
Preschool Teacher Open House	Outreach	20	1
Read to the Dogs		33	1
Romp & Rhyme	Storytime	88	4
Stories Around the World	Storytime	23	1
Stuffed Sleepover		35	1
Summer Storytime	Storytime	946	15

Super Smash Bros. Tournament	Games	24	1
Wreck the Tech! Gamer Edition	STEAM	16	1
TOTALS		2,959	128
Passive Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Passive Programs:			
Be a Local Tourist! (Online)		120	1
Entertainment Station		33	5
Interactive Displays		51	4
Makery Craft: Mosaic Tile (Online)		98	1
Makery Craft: Wooden Diffuser (Online)		151	1
Memory Cafe Activity Handout		20	1
Puzzles		54	1
Recording of Bike Repair (Online)		22	1
Recording of Chicago Summer Festivals (Online)		19	1
Recording of Debating Independence (Online)		22	1
Recording of GreenMan Theatre Summer Stories (Online)		19	1
Recording of Hokusai and the Art of Edo (Online)		89	1
Recording of How Fungi Shaped the Midwest (Online)		64	1
Recording of Pet First Aid Basics (Online)		20	1
Recording of The Battle of Midway (Online)		21	1
Summer Bingo:		33	1
Summer Reading:		80	1
Middle School Passive Programs:			
Middle School Hangout Passive		61	2
Kids' Passive Programs:			
Make & Take-Passive		800	3
Stay & Play-Passive		68	2
Weekly Scavenger Hunt--Passive		487	5
		Attendance	Sessions
Adult Program Grand Total		2236	96
Total Passive Program Statistics		916	24
Total Program Statistics		1,320	72
Teen Program Grand Total		40	4
Total Passive Program Statistics		0	0
Total Program Statistics		40	4
Middle School Program Grand Total		102	6
Total Passive Program Statistics		61	2
Total Program Statistics		41	4
Kids' Program Grand Total		4,314	138
Total Passive Program Statistics		1,355	10
Total Program Statistics		2,959	128
Passive Program Total		2,332	36
Total Attendance		6,692	
Total Programs			244

STATISTICAL REPORT

July 2025

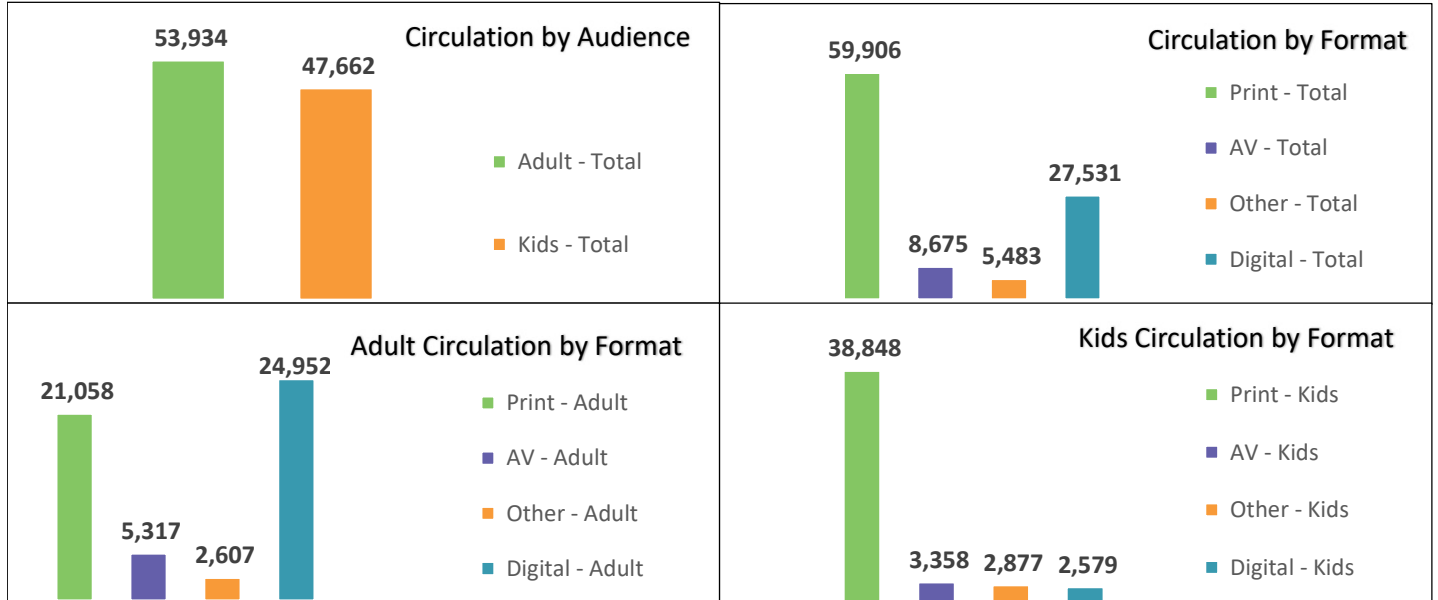
Circulation

Total Circulation
102,696 ↓ 0%
103,143 last year
Card Holders
26,146

Library Card Usage
9,965 ↑ 1%
9,856 last year

Library Cards Issued
Elmhurst 205 ↓ -6%
(Issued) 219 last year
Reciprocal Borrower 76 ↑ 31%
(Registered) 58 last year

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed 1,101 ↓ -1%
1,116 last year
Lent 600 ↓ -13%
686 last year



Technology Usage

Public Computer Use

19,101 ↑ 20%
15,923 last year

Website Visits

43,106 ↑ 8%
39,734 last year

Self Checkout

(% of checkouts)
58% ↑ 4%
56% last year

WiFi Sessions

21,452 ↑ 6%
20,274 last year

Reference Queries

Reference Questions Total

5,802 ↑ 8%
5,382 last year

Reference Questions

Adult
3,180 ↑ 9%
2,913 last year

Kids
2,622 ↑ 6%
2,469 last year

Meeting Room Use

Library Programs

244 ↑ 22%
200 last year

Public Meetings

66 ↓ -12%
75 last year

Group Study Rooms

1,817 ↑ 4%
1,743 last year

Programs

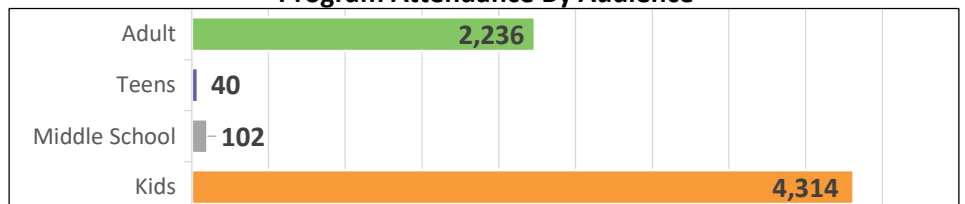
Program Attendance

6,692 ↓ -27%
9,186 last year

Library Programs

244 ↑ 22%
200 last year

Program Attendance By Audience



Library Visits

Total Visits

48,244 ↑ 4%
46,436 last year

In House Visits

Makery 2,143 ↑ 138%
899 last year

Walk-In

46,422 ↑ 4%
44,595 last year

Drive-Up Visits

1,822 ↓ -1%
1,841 last year

Creative Studio

76 ↓ -4%
79 last year

Monthly Comparison

Total Circulation

102,696  0%
103,143 last year


Adult Circulation

53,934  4%
51,910 last year

Kids Circulation

47,662  -5%
50,117 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,101  -1%
1,116 last year

Digital Material Circulation

27,531  32%
20,922 last year

Databases

15,408  -25%
20,461 last year

Reference Questions Total

5,802  8%
5,382 last year

One on One Tutorials

46  64%
28 last year

Number of Programs

244  22%
200 last year

Program Attendance

6,692  -27%
9,186 last year

In-Person Visitors

46,422  4%
44,595 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,822  -1%
1,841 last year

Year To Date Comparison


Total Circulation

671,028  1%
664,380 last year

Adult Circulation

369,101  5%
351,247 last year

Kids Circulation

293,151  -3%
303,761 last year


ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

8,777  -6%
9,373 last year

Digital Material Circulation

195,714  27%
154,093 last year

Databases

218,920  50%
145,503 last year

Reference Questions Total

34,607  5%
33,030 last year

One on One Tutorials

244  7%
227 last year

Number of Programs

1,391  6%
1,308 last year

Program Attendance

44,083  -19%
54,589 last year

In-Person Visitors

283,822  3%
276,086 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

12,885  0%
12,837 last year

Collection Totals

Books and Magazines

155,755

Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

6,739

Audio Visual

26,723

Digital

258,163

Notable Happenings in Circulation

- No *Cards for Kids* library cards were issued in July.
- There are 44 active *Cards for Kids* library cards.
- Three Non resident cards were purchased this month for a total of \$514.62.
- There are 126 active Non resident library cards (patrons living in unincorporated Elmhurst).
- We filled 4,733 holds this month.
- EPL Cares Committee sponsored a community school supply drive. We received 275 brand-new items! Items collected were kids' backpacks, wired earbuds and headphones, reusable water bottles, classroom and creative supplies, and community paper products. These donations have been split between Madison Early Childhood Development Center, Conrad Fischer Elementary, and Churchville Middle School to support local classrooms and students in-need.

