

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

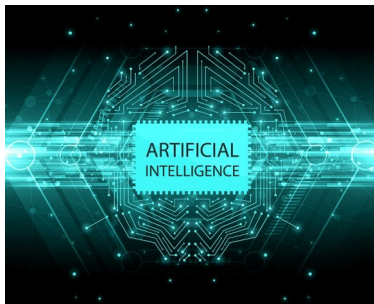
- One Book, One Elmhurst has officially begun. Patrons checked out more than 200 copies of *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin so far and enjoyed the kick-off week by attending various drop-in book themed programs. Staff converted the book discussion nook upstairs into A.J.'s book store - Island Books. For those of you who haven't read the book, the main character, A.J. Fikry, owns a fiction book store on a fictional island in the northeast. The re-created space is meant to immerse readers in A.J.'s bookstore world.
- The new catalog app will be available soon in the app stores. Staff are testing it out and so far, reviews are good!
- We're looking forward to the debut of the updated web site. Testing and review is in progress and we're hoping to go live sometime later this month. We're having new professional photos taken of the Library, both with and without people, so we have community-oriented photos for the new site. Currently, we primarily use stock photos.

ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT

Aug 2025

Artificial Intelligence

After multiple pop-up programs and a lecture this year, we offered our first hands-on class. Patrons were so enthusiastic that we had to open a 2nd session and both sessions filled. We're looking forward to an AI discussion program coming up in November that already has multiple patrons signed up.



Outreach to Ray Graham

Hayley Rightnowar attended the Garden Club's Nature Class that they provide at Ray Graham each month. The group learned about butterflies and made a craft.



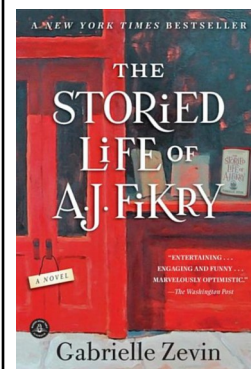
Staff Institute Heroines

Many thanks to Hayley Rightnowar and Rachael Mason!! After a speaker had to cancel for the Library's in-service day, Rachael and Hayley put together a presentation on Inclusive Services and Human Services to help staff better understand their roles, what these services offer to patrons and how their services intersect and differ.



Fall Gardening

A fall garden planning display was put up in the glass case by Lauren Watson and Anne Swanson. It included a very popular handout of planting dates for the gardening zone that Elmhurst is in (6a), gardening books for people to check out and a sources document with a QR code with clickable links.



One Book News

The Library began preparation for our annual One Book, One Elmhurst community read. Print and digital copies of the title are circulating

heavily and several related programs, services and initiatives will be available starting the week of September 8th. A special initiative this year is the redecoration of Reader Central to turn it into Island Books, the fictional bookstore in the novel. Staff from across the building are working together to make the space interesting, fun and unique. Come on up to the 2nd floor to see this themed space in September.

Memory Café

This month, for the first time, Memory Café had full attendance. This happened after Rachael Mason and Hayley Rightnowar did outreach to several churches in the area in order to find the program's audience.

Programming

August brought a significant drop in foot traffic in the Kids' Library. Outdoor storytimes continued through the end of the month, with quite a few being moved indoors because of rain or wet grass. Other programming highlights included Miss Jamie's Farm Musical for families, Maker Mazes for 3rd – 5th graders, and a very popular "Bug Examination" Stay and Play.

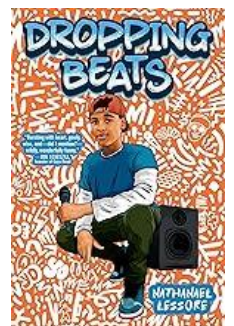


Collection

Summer booktalk titles by the numbers:

- 75% of the titles were still checked out at the end of the Summer Reading Program.
- Total number of checkouts for 572 copies was 1870.
- Average checkouts per copy 3.27
- 12 titles had an average of 4 or more circs per copy

Varying the number of copies based on the genre worked well. We ordered more copies of graphic novels and funny books and fewer copies of non-fiction and historical fiction titles. Both the most and least popular books were from the middle school selections. The most popular title was the graphic novel *Swing* by Audrey Meeker and least popular was *Dropping Beats* by Nathanael Lessore.



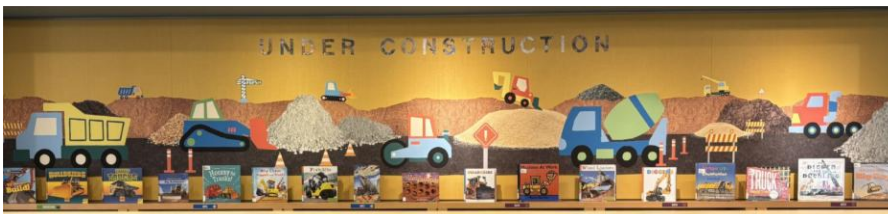
Middle School Happenings

The End-of-Summer Volunteer Party had 22 attendees. The volunteers had a great time playing board games and Nintendo Switch and eating pizza! Those who could not attend were contacted to pick up goodie bags as a thank you for their work. Thirteen Middle School Influencers attended the August session. They played “Who am I?” where everyone wrote a person/character on a post it and had to answer yes or no questions to try to find out who they were. Twenty-one hungry students crowded into the Hangout for the pop-up Korean Taste Testing program.



Displays

Display highlights this month included a Spot-the-Difference activity featuring pond life and a very popular construction theme to go along with the patio project.



eNews from 8/21

August Marketing Topics included:

Local Author Fair

Local authors gathered throughout the Library to discuss, sell, and sign copies of their books. Over 250 attendees enjoyed meeting and supporting local authors in the community.

Backyard Fun: Outdoor Games

Get inspiration to take your backyard to the next level. Search the Library catalog for menu ideas and entertaining tips. Check out these other must-haves to make your gathering special: stream music, break out your favorite albums, host a movie night under the stars, play pickleball, croquet, or ukuleles with friends and family. elmlib.org/catalog

EPL in the Community: School Visits

In the past year, EPL staff were dedicated to reaching out to the schools in our community. Through these efforts, staff made contact with 11,000 school-age children and their parents.

- 40 preschool visits and field trips
- 129 elementary school visits and field trips, and 5 virtual book talk videos published to YouTube.
- 49 middle school visits, sessions, and field trips
- 5 high school visits and field trips
- 8 events for teachers and families

New Website

EPL is getting ready to unveil a brand new website in September! We are working to make the transition to the site as smooth as possible. Check our homepage at elmlib.org for updates.



One Book, One Elmhurst



Announcing the book we're reading for One Book, One Elmhurst 2025 ... *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. Immerse yourself in the charming, book-filled world of A.J., a bookstore owner whose life takes an unexpected turn. Set on a small island, the story is filled with memorable characters, quiet humor, and a deep love of literature.

Watch our website for more ways to interact with this book this fall! We hope you read it on your own, for [one of our book discussions](#), or with your own book group.

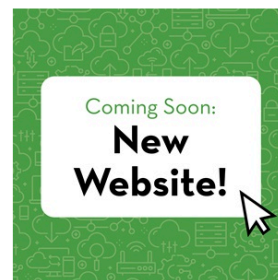
More information, including details about the Wrap It Up! Culmination Party on Nov. 19 is found at elmlib.org/OneBook.

Local Author Fair



Be sure to stop by the Library on Saturday, Aug. 23 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. More than [50 local authors](#) spread throughout the building, ready to discuss their books with you! Books will be available for purchase and signing, too.

A Fresh New Website



EPL is getting ready to unveil a brand new website in September, complete with an updated look and even better functionality.

We are working to make the transition to the site as smooth as possible. Check our homepage at elmlib.org for updates.

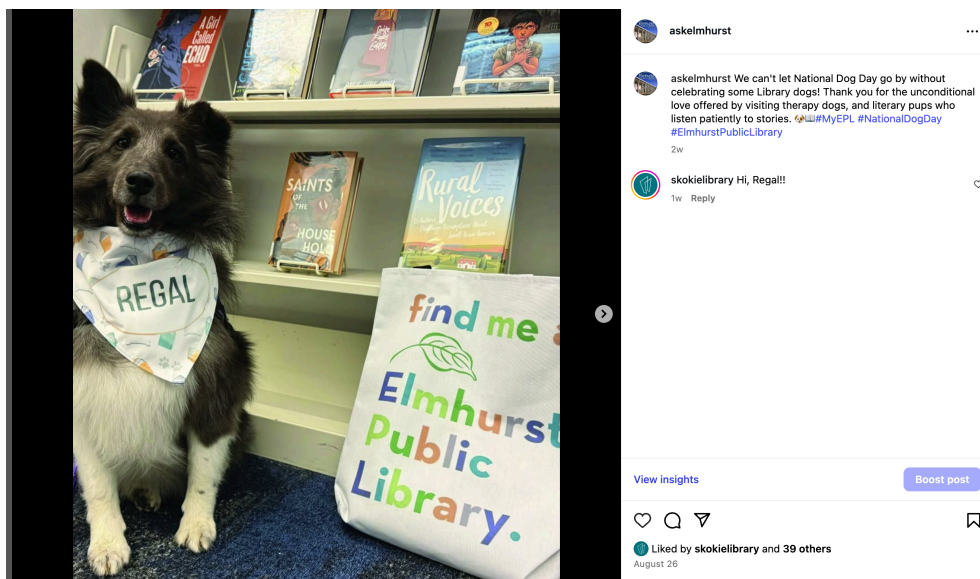
Here are a few sample screenshots of our online presence from August:

YouTube

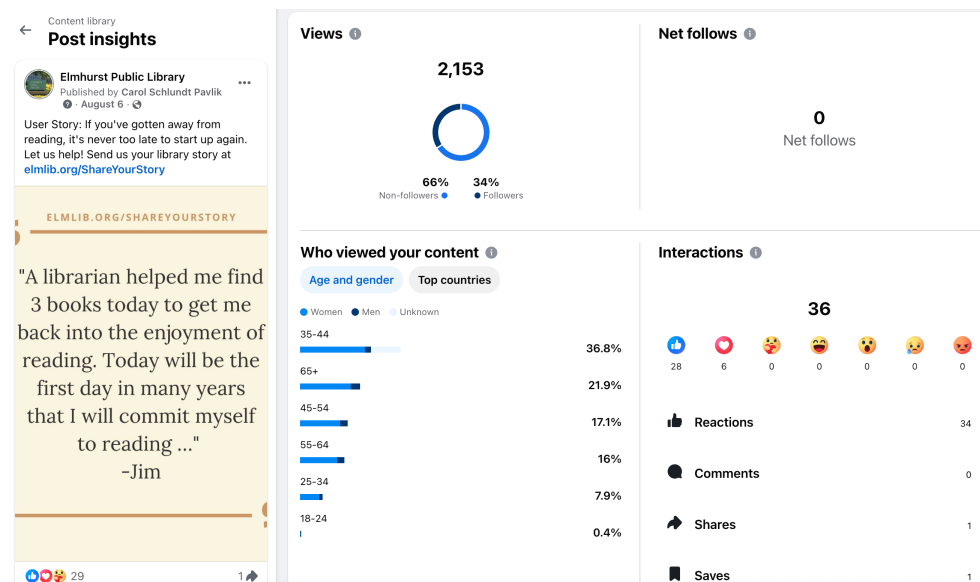
In August, people watched your videos 9,337 times



Instagram



Facebook



MAKERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

AUGUST 2025

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
People Counter	1,790	2,143	1,876
Equipment Reservations	167	168	238
3D Prints	64	89	67



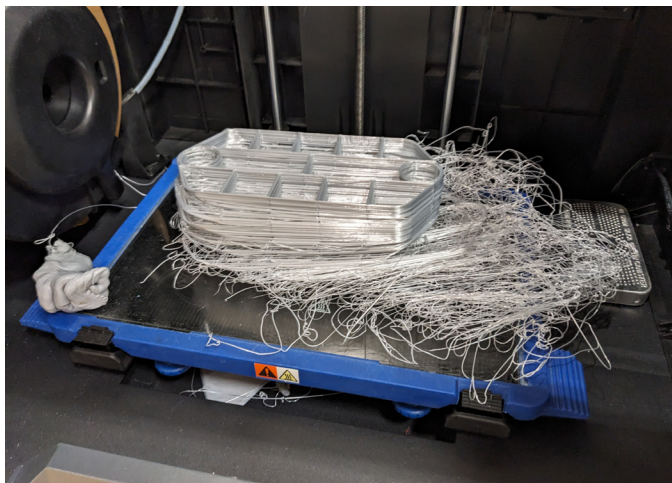
Back to School Continues!

This nursing school student used the embroidery machine to add her school's logo to a pair of scrubs ahead of her first semester in nursing school at Saint Mary's College.



"Happy Birthday, Grandpa"

This little girl celebrated her grandpa's 70th birthday in a sublimation shirt made in the Makery. A photo of grandpa from the '80s and a fun kids-themed font made for a fun, adorable outfit... even if she was a little too tired at the party.



"Fail. Make. Repeat."

This has become the Makery's unofficial motto. Things can go wrong when you're practicing a new skill and sometimes they go wrong in spectacular fashion, like this 3D print did in August. That's perfectly okay in a makerspace, though. Mistakes are essential to learning!



Staff Training on New Equipment

Here are the finalists of the "Fanny Pack Smackdown," a light-hearted competition to see who could decorate the coolest fanny pack. The #1 rule was they had to use the new Roland Printer and Cutter! This was a fun way for staff to practice with a new piece of equipment.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

August 2025

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Book Discussion: <i>Persuasion</i> by Jane Austen	Book Discussion	15	2
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Games	61	4
Bingo	Games	14	1
Board Game Night	Enrich	26	1
Bridge and Pinochle	Games	77	4
Canasta: Open Play	Games	58	5
Chair Yoga	Gather	26	1
Ciao Italia		4	1
Coloring for Mindfulness	Create	7	1
Creative Cardmaking: Birthday	Create	24	2
	Enrich		
Culture Club: Northern Illinois and the Driftless Area		34	1
Dreamcatchers	Create	8	2
eContent for Commuters		10	1
Fishing 101	Enrich	10	1
Friday Features	Movies	37	4
Great Decisions	Enrich	14	1
IDPH Lobby Table		20	1
In Stitches Needleworkers	Create	6	1
Intro to A.I.	Technology	36	2
Jimmy Stewart: Hollywood's Everyman	Enrich	37	1
Library Insiders: Karaoke	Library Insiders	20	1
Library Insiders: No Shush Movie	Library Insiders	4	1
Local Author Fair	Books and Authors	285	1
Memory Cafe: Music	Enrich	15	1
Mind Games: The Science of Influence	Enrich	47	1
Next Chapter Book Club	Library Insiders	31	2
Resume Review	Career & Job Hunting	2	1
Robots Vs. Resumes	Career & Job Hunting	3	1
Scottish Family History Research: Historical and Geographical Background	Enrich	20	1
Scrabble	Games	16	2
Self-Publishing 101	Books and Authors	27	1
Staying Mentally Fit	Enrich	10	1
Upcycled Jewelry	Create	15	1
Weekday Meal Prep	Enrich	35	1
Word Board Games	Enrich	4	1
TOTALS		1,058	54
Makery Program	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Design Basics III: Typography	Create	7	1
Makery 101: Embroidery Machine	Create	6	1
Makery Craft: Leather Bracelet	Create	5	1
Makery Drop In Craft	Create	35	1
Pop Up Lavender Sachet	Create	4	1
Pop Up Watercolor Postcard	Create	2	1
Sketching Wilder	Create	6	1
TOTALS		65	7
Teen Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions

Blind Taste Test: Oreo Cookie Flavors	Food and Drink	8	1
Color & Chill	Teen Program	4	1
Teen Crafternoon: Pocket Zen Garden	Create	3	1
TOTALS		15	3
Middle School Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
End of the Summer Party - Middle School Volunteers	Food and Drink	22	1
	Middle School Influencers		
Middle School Influencers		13	1
TOTALS		35	2
Kids' Library Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Baby Play Date	Storytime	4	1
Camp Visit (Ages 6-8)	Outreach	86	5
Dig in to Play: Toddler Sensory Time	STEAM	30	1
Family Sensory Hour	Family	8	1
FFC Camp Visit (Ages 4-6)	Community Outreach	34	2
Kids' Chess Club	Games	7	1
Maker Kids: Maze Makers	Create	10	1
Miss Jamie's Farm Musical Show	Music	128	1
Mother Goose & Me	Storytime	101	4
Movies in Wilder Park: Wicked (PG)	Movies	325	1
	Outreach		
Outreach AT D205 New Educator Academy (PreK-12th)		60	1
OUTREACH Stories at the Pool	Outreach	14	1
OUTREACH YMCA Visit @ EPL	Community Outreach	167	10
Pop-Up Play	Play	10	1
Rhythm Rock Stars	Create	14	1
Romp & Rhyme	Storytime	165	5
Stories Around the World	Storytime	18	1
Summer Storytime	Storytime	916	12
Summer Storytime	Storytime	86	1
TOTALS		2,183	51
Passive Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Passive Programs:			
Memory Cafe Activity Handout		20	1
Entertainment Station		49	4
Puzzles		31	1
Interactive Displays		23	1
Summer Bingo:		12	1
Recording of Building the Magic (Online)		8	1
Recording of WWI Genealogy (Online)		4	1
Recording of Compound Salads (Online)		10	1
Recording of A Career in Video Games (Online)		2	1
Recording of Self Publishing (Online)		7	1
Recording of Weekly Meal Prep (Online)		17	1
Recording of Northern IL (Online)		25	1
Recording of Scottish Family History (Online)		9	1
Teen Passive Programs:			
Teen Take & Make	Create	12	1
Middle School Passive Programs:			
Middle School Hangout Passive	Create	73	2
Kids' Passive Programs:			
Make & Take-Passive	Create	350	2

Weekly Scavenger Hunt--Passive	Games	60	1
Stay & Play-Passive	Play	389	2
	Attendance		Sessions
Adult Program Grand Total		1340	77
Total Passive Program Statistics		217	16
Total Program Statistics		1,123	61
Teen Program Grand Total		27	4
Total Passive Program Statistics		12	1
Total Program Statistics		15	3
Middle School Program Grand Total		108	4
Total Passive Program Statistics		73	2
Total Program Statistics		35	2
Kids' Program Grand Total		2,982	56
Total Passive Program Statistics		799	5
Total Program Statistics		2,183	51
Passive Program Total		1,101	24
Total Attendance		4,457	
Total Programs			141

STATISTICAL REPORT

August 2025

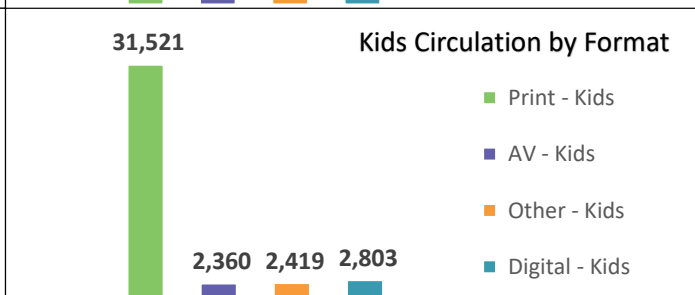
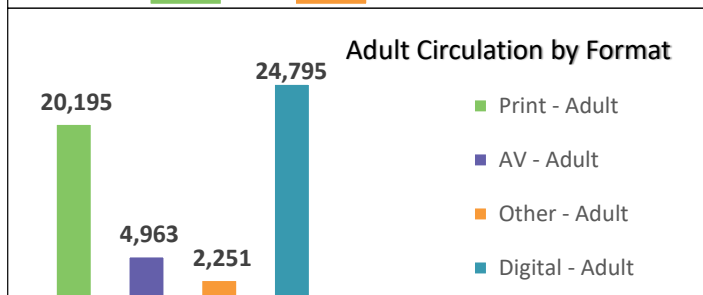
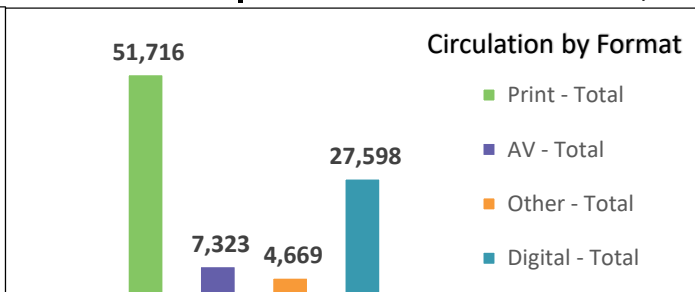
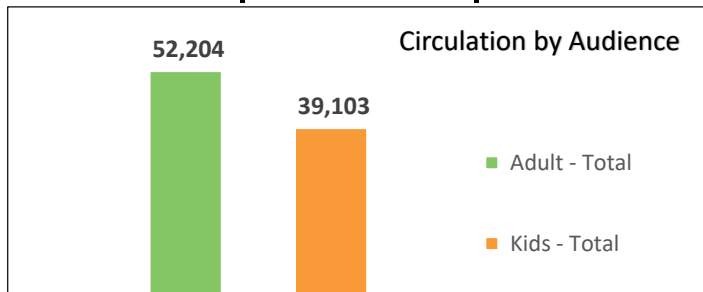
Circulation

Total Circulation
92,403 ↑ 1%
 91,316 last year
Card Holders
 26,332

Library Card Usage
9,931 ↑ 3%
 9,680 last year

Library Cards Issued
Elmhurst
 (Issued)
Reciprocal Borrower
 (Registered)
208 ↓ -7%
 224 last year
74 ↑ 12%
 66 last year

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed **1,097** ↓ -1%
 1,109 last year
Lent **569** ↑ 8%
 528 last year



Technology Usage

Public Computer Use
18,572 ↑ 23%
 15,102 last year

Website Visits
41,311 ↑ 8%
 38,177 last year

Self Checkout
 (% of checkouts)
55% → 0%
 55% last year

WiFi Sessions
18,476 ↓ -4%
 19,224 last year

Reference Queries

Reference Questions Total
4,090 ↑ 4%
 3,945 last year

Reference Questions
Adult
3,122 ↑ 12%
 2,788 last year

Kids
968 ↓ -16%
 1,157 last year

Meeting Room Use

Library Programs
141 ↑ 7%
 132 last year

Public Meetings
70 ↓ -10%
 78 last year

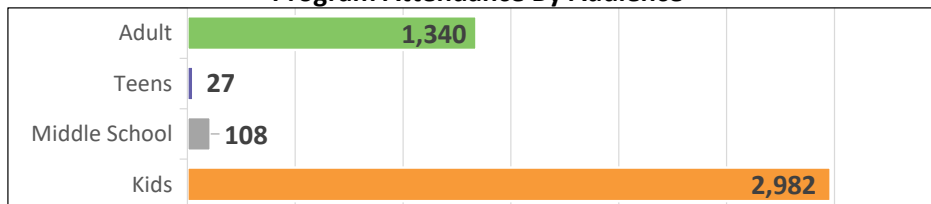
Group Study Rooms
1,587 ↓ -6%
 1,687 last year

Programs

Program Attendance
4,457 ↓ -14%
 5,189 last year

Library Programs
141 ↑ 7%
 132 last year

Program Attendance By Audience



Library Visits

Total Visits
40,234 ↓ -2%
 41,006 last year

Walk-In
38,462 ↓ -2%
 39,190 last year

Drive-Up Visits
1,772 ↓ -2%
 1,816 last year

In House Visits
Makery **1,790** ↑ 109%
 858 last year

Creative Studio **61** ↓ -29%
 86 last year

Monthly Comparison

Total Circulation

92,403  1%
91,316 last year

Adult Circulation

52,204  7%
48,619 last year

Kids Circulation

39,103  -6%
41,588 last year


ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,097  -1%
1,109 last year

Digital Material Circulation

27,598  33%
20,766 last year

Databases

11,596  21%
9,598 last year

Reference Questions Total

4,090  4%
3,945 last year

One on One Tutorials

35  -30%
50 last year

Number of Programs

141  7%
132 last year

Program Attendance

4,457  -14%
5,189 last year

In-Person Visitors

38,462  -2%
39,190 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,772  -2%
1,816 last year

Year To Date Comparison

Total Circulation

763,431  1%
755,696 last year

Adult Circulation

421,304  5%
399,866 last year

Kids Circulation

332,253  -4%
345,349 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

9,874  -6%
10,482 last year

Digital Material Circulation

223,312  28%
174,859 last year

Databases

230,516  49%
155,101 last year

Reference Questions Total

38,697  5%
36,975 last year

One on One Tutorials

279  1%
277 last year

Number of Programs

1,532  6%
1,440 last year

Program Attendance

48,540  -19%
59,778 last year

In-Person Visitors

322,284  2%
315,276 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

14,657  0%
14,653 last year

STATISTICAL REPORT

August 2025

Collection Totals

Books and Magazines

155,667

Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

6,781

Audio Visual

26,593

Digital

220,808

Notable Happenings in Circulation

- One *Cards for Kids* library card was renewed in August.
- There are 44 active *Cards for Kids* library cards.
- Seven Non resident cards were purchased in August for a total of \$1,723.55.
- There are 123 active Non resident library cards (patrons living in unincorporated Elmhurst).
- We filled 4,363 holds this month.