

Director's Report

- The Library is continuing to proceed as usual during this latest COVID surge with some very minor changes to programming. Specifically, some kids' programming has been moved to virtual only presentation due to lower vaccination rates among kids.
- We required all staff to let us know their vaccination status in order to prepare for mandates if enacted. Most of our staff (94%) are vaccinated. We have KN95 masks available for staff also. From what we know, being vaccinated and wearing a KN95 mask, keeps most people free from serious illness.
- EPL joined the Illinois Libraries Present programming consortium. The consortium consists of several Illinois libraries whose mission is to provide high-quality online events for participating members. Member libraries pay a yearly fee based on their operating budget. Thus far, the group has contracted with several well-known authors. Procuring best-selling authors for programs is often very cost prohibitive. The consortium allows EPL to participate in virtual author visits for a fraction of the amount it would cost if we were to contract with the author ourselves.

Patron Interactions

Similar to November, December patron interactions remained 29% below 2019 numbers. This is a slight improvement over the rest of 2021 which saw interactions 30-48% lower than 2019. Overall, 2021 interactions were 5% above 2020 and 37% below 2019. Lastly, comparing interactions from June 15 (when the building reopened in 2020) to the end of the year for 2020 and 2021, shows 2021 interactions for that time are 9% higher than 2020.

Winter Reading Challenge

The Winter Reading Program, called the Winter Reading Challenge, started in mid-December and runs through February. As of 12/31/2021, 68 patrons were given 77 reading challenges. Of those, 36 challenge books have been read thus far, creating entries for the prize drawing for 1 of 3 \$50 Elmhurst City Centre Gift Certificates.

Introducing Reader Central

The renovated book discussion area is now called Reader Central. Marketing (thank you, Molly Schlecht!) created new branding and signage for the space and we're working on installing an interactive iPad and sorting other displays details.



Displays

ADS Displays of note currently include Drive, a display of Playaway audiobooks, and the Agency of the Month display which is focusing on Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry.



The month presented numerous, ongoing staffing challenges due to COVID-related setbacks that occurred after and leading up to the holidays. Staff who were present were great team players who stepped up to the challenge of keeping things running smoothly.

Programs

Carol Chlystek planned and presented, with assistance from other staff including **Nuala Maloney-Murphy**, Winter Holiday Crafts Around the World to a very enthusiastic crowd on Friday, December 17. **Kelsey Wilcoxon** shares that “a patron called and said that her grandchildren had loved the Holiday's Around the World program. She wanted to know if we still had the handouts including the recipe for Swedish Pepparkakor cookies, and was very pleased when I offered to scan a copy to her.”

Ruth Ronnau presented Resin Keychains, with assistance from **Kelsey Wilcoxon**, on Tuesday, December 21. In sharing, they said that “Overall it was a huge success!! 6 kids came, and they made some really beautiful keychains.” It was a great turnout for our middle school audience, which has been a challenge to consistently reach throughout the pandemic.

In anticipation of the Winter Reading Program, **Heather Forster Jensen** “emailed our WRP videos with booktalks to 14 elementary schools in Elmhurst. One school librarian responded, "Thank you so much for sharing! This is wonderful and I will be sure to share it out and add it to my lesson plans in the next couple weeks!"”

School, Scouts, & Community Outreach

Kelsey Wilcoxon visited Elmhurst Hospital for their Mom & Baby Hour program on Wednesday, December 1 to share library information, present a baby story time, and pass out bags.

Nuala Maloney-Murphy, **Linnea Dolan**, **Michael Speers**, **Shaira Rock**, and **Alea Perez** hosted Scouts on Thursday, December 2, Monday, December 6, and Monday, December 13. For the December 3rd visit, **Nuala** says “This was a first-time program for scouts. Linnea & I learned how to use Stencyl and teach it. It was successful in that each participant was able to complete designing a simple game. I overheard one scout call it "awesome".”



Katie Stringwell shares that on Saturday, December 4, she “[h]ad dinosaur duty for the Holly Trolley stop near Park and York. I had a few people who happened to be walking around town at the moment stop and say hello, and even take a photo!” **Gloria Walsh-Rock** shares that she “got to be the roving dinosaur in town on December 18. It was great fun to see folks and take pictures with them!”

Amanda Murray attended the Madison Winter Wonderland Walk on Thursday, December 16.

Heather Forster Jensen and **Marcy Rodriguez** attended Conrad Fischer Reading night on Thursday, December 16. In order to increase accessibility for families that speak languages other than English at home or as their first language, Heather compiled content and designed two handouts, in English and Spanish, then consulted with Fischer's Principal and Instructional Coach to ensure proper translation.

Katie Stringwell and **Heather Forster Jensen** made a morning visit to both Emerson Elementary and Mary Queen of Hearts on Monday, December 20 to help promote our Winter Reading Program.

Staff Training

Heather Forster Jensen, **Jan Simmons**, **Nuala Maloney-Murphy**, **Shaira Rock**, **Linnea Dolan**, and **Alea Perez** participated in **14 hours** of training and networking opportunities. Topics included storytime best practices, cultural competency, implicit bias, microaggressions, revitalizing volunteer engagement, and Makery equipment training.

December Marketing Topics included:

Programming: *Common Connection: Build / Winter Reading*

A new quarter means a new Common Connection program theme, Build. Whether constructing a legacy, the groundwork for the future, or a home, everyone can identify with what it means to build something lasting.

elmlib.org/common

Additionally, Winter Reading runs from December 13 – February 28. This year's Kids' theme is Stomping Chomping Reading. Adults and Teens can participate in the popular Winter Reading Challenge. elmlib.org/winter

Collection: *Holiday Displays*

Every year around the holidays, Library staff do a great job putting out displays with holiday-related materials. This year, Marketing made a point to share pictures of these displays and let folks know that we did the hard work of finding these materials. Additionally, the permanent Holiday section the DVD area was highlighted. Just look for the peppermint stripes!



Services: *Business Librarian*

Marketing efforts encouraged folks to regroup for the new year and arrange for some one-on-one research help or answers for their business-related questions with the help of EPL's Business Librarian, Cheryl Fortman!

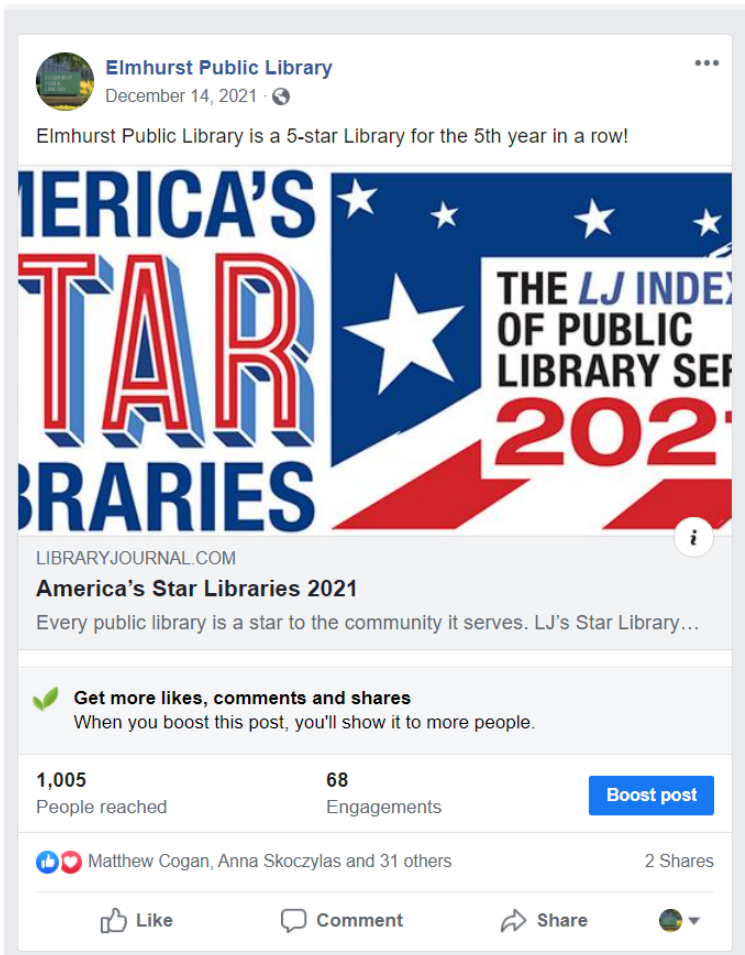
Inside Scoop: *Garden Club decorations*

The annual tradition of the Elmhurst Garden Club decorating the Library came back in 2021! In addition to thanking the Garden Club, the public was encouraged to come in to see more of their beautiful efforts!

Community Connection: *Build It! From Anywhere*

Playing off our Winter Common Connection theme of build, the Library invited the whole community to build anywhere through the month of December! Stack LEGO, assemble gingerbread houses, or show off your Minecraft creation and share with #BuildItEPL.

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



Performance for your post

1,005 People Reached

41 Reactions, Comments & Shares

30 Like	26 On Post	4 On Shares
7 Love	7 On Post	0 On Shares
2 Comments	0 On Post	2 On Shares
2 Shares	2 On Post	0 On Shares



27 Post Clicks

0 Photo views	12 Link clicks	15 Other clicks
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

1 Hide post	0 Hide all posts
0 Report as spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from actual performance.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

December 2021

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Accessorizing Your Home (In-Person)	Common Connection	7	1
Accessorizing Your Home (Virtual)	Common Connection	31	1
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Adult Program	25	5
Bridge & Pinochle Club	Games	31	4
Chicago Architecture: Burnham, Mies, Gang, and Their Legacies (In-Person)	Adult Program	18	1
Chicago Architecture: Burnham, Mies, Gang, and Their Legacies (Virtual)	Adult Program	51	1
Chicago Genealogy (Virtual)	Adult Program	13	1
Chicago, Christmas Movies, & Class Stereotypes (In-Person)	Adult Program	3	1
Chicago, Christmas Movies, & Class Stereotypes (Virtual)	Adult Program	23	1
Ciao Italia!	Adult Program	7	1
Culture Club: Greece (In-Person)	Adult Program	18	1
Culture Club: Greece (Virtual)	Adult Program	22	1
Finding Inner Peace This Holiday Season (Virtual)	Adult Program	27	1
Friday Features:	Adult Program	16	1
Galaxy Chicago Paintings	Create	13	1
GreenMan Theatre Presents: Seasonal Stories (In-Person)	Adult Program	26	1
GreenMan Theatre Presents: Seasonal Stories (Virtual)	Adult Program	14	1
Holiday Craft Drop-in: 3D Paper Trees	Pop In Activity	42	1
Holiday Craft Drop-in: Cork Gnome Ornaments	Pop In Activity	41	1
Holiday Craft Drop-in: Gift Tags	Pop In Activity	23	1
Holiday Craft Drop-in: Perler Bead Snowflakes	Pop In Activity	14	1
Holiday Craft Drop-in: Scandinavian Woven Hearts	Pop In Activity	24	1
Holiday Nostalgia	Seniors	2	1
In Stitches Needleworkers	Create	3	1
Library Board Meeting	Adult Program	10	1
Next Chapter Book Club	Library Insiders	9	1
One Pot Meals (In-Person)	Adult Program	21	1
One Pot Meals (Virtual)	Adult Program	40	1
Ornament Painting with Karen Exiner	Adult Program	49	1
Photoshop Elements	Technology	2	1
Scrabble Club	Games	5	1
Sharpie Mugs (for 20 + 30 somethings)	20 and 30 Somethings	11	1
Staying Mentally Fit	Adult Program	4	1
Trading Titles	Adult Book Discussion	6	2
Winter Stitch-Along	Adult Program	162	4
TOTALS		813	46
Teen Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Dungeons & Dragons	High School	2	1
High School Crafternoons: Holiday Edition	High School	10	2
Old School Games & Trivia	High School	1	1
Spill!	High School	5	1
Teen Video Game Tourney	High School	30	5
TOTALS		48	10
Middle School Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Resin Keychains	Middle School	6	1
TOTALS		6	1
Kids' Library Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
1000 BksB4K, passive	Preschool	11	1
Build It at Home! Week of Building	Family	200	5

Emerson Elementary WRP Visit	Elementary School	180	1
Fischer Elementary Reading Night	Elementary School	63	3
Free to Be Three Storytime	Storytime	56	3
Fun for 3s, 4s, and 5s (In-Person)	Storytime	67	3
Fun for 3s, 4s, and 5s (Virtual)	Storytime	71	5
Intro to Excel	Technology	3	1
Little Wiggles Storytime (In-Person)	Storytime	72	3
Little Wiggles Storytime (Virtual)	Storytime	73	4
Madison EC Winter Wonderland Walk	Preschool	200	1
Mama Edie: Let All Things Be Joyful and New!	Family	48	1
Mary Queen of Heaven Preschool WRP Visit	Preschool	50	1
Mother Goose and Me	Storytime	47	3
Ornament Make and Take	Elementary School	44	1
Outreach: Elmhurst Hospital Mom & Baby Hour	Parents	8	1
Paper Snowflake Pop-Up	Family	40	4
Play Switch!	Elementary School	5	1
Polar Express T-Trak Model Railroad	Family	400	2
Saturday Stories	Storytime	67	3
Scout Game Design program LD	Elementary School	9	1
Scout Visit - 3rd grade Makery mugs	Elementary School	14	1
Scout Visit - 7th grade Digital Movie Maker	Elementary School	2	1
Songs and Stories	Storytime	87	3
T-Rexplorers: Dig It!	Elementary School	36	1
Winter Holiday Crafts Around the World	Elementary School	42	1
Wonderful Ones and Twos	Storytime	80	4
TOTALS		1,975	59
Passive Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Passive Programs:			
Recording Chicago Architecture		31	1
Recording Accessorizing Your Home		18	1
Recording of One Pot Meals		21	1
Recording of Happy Invention		12	1
Teen Passive Programs:			
Teen Holiday Crafting Programs		20	10
Middle School Passive Programs:			
Winter Reading Video Booktalks Middle School Gr. 7-8		40	1
Kids' Passive Programs:			
Winter Reading Video Booktalks Pre K		45	1
Winter Reading Video Booktalks Grades K-1		86	1
Winter Reading Video Booktalks Grades 2-3		37	1
Winter Reading Video Booktalks Grades 4-5		63	1
Adult Program Grand Total Attendance		895	
Total Passive Program Attendance		82	
Total Program Attendance		813	
Teen Program Grand Total Attendance		68	
Total Passive Program Attendance		20	
Total Program Attendance		48	
Middle School Program Grand Total Attendance		46	
Total Passive Program Attendance		40	
Total Program Attendance		6	
Kids' Program Grand Total Attendance		2,206	
Total Passive Program Attendance		231	
Total Program Attendance		1,975	
Passive Program Total Attendance		373	
Total Attendance		3,215	
Total Programs			135

STATISTICAL REPORT

December 2021

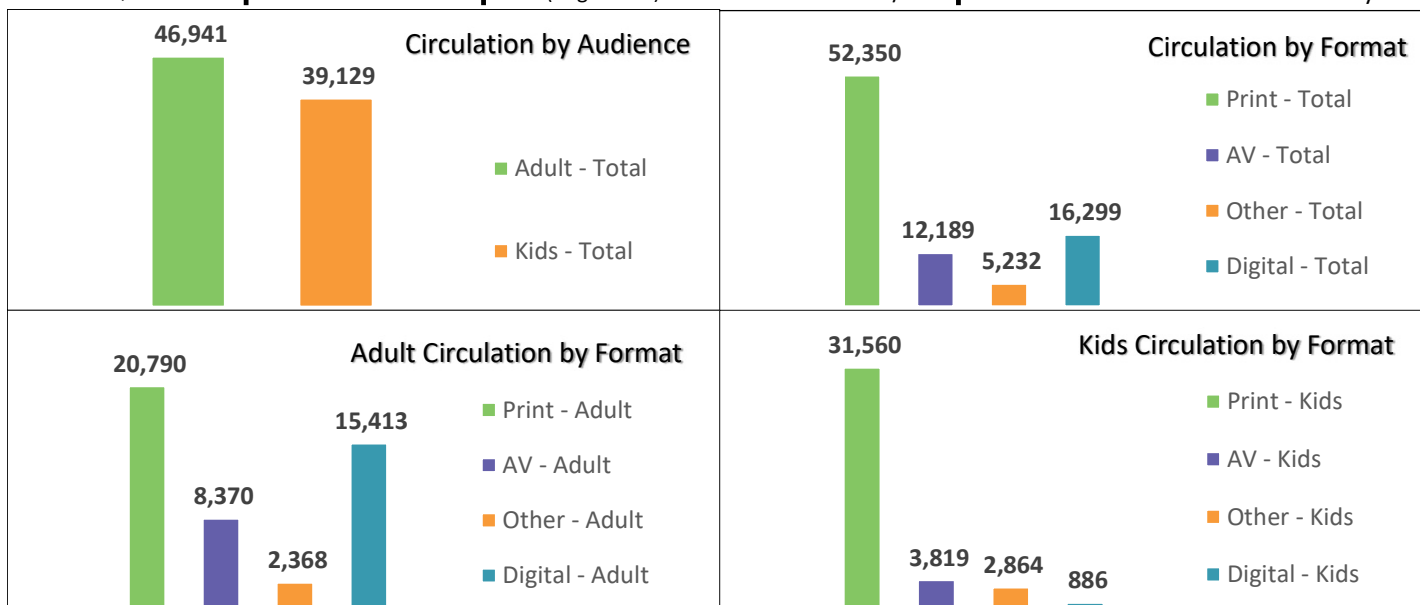
Circulation

Total Circulation
87,158 ↓ -11%
 98,265 last year
Card Holders
 24,735

Library Card Usage
8,382 ↑ 12%
 7,498 last year

Library Cards Issued
Elmhurst **150** ↑ 111%
 (Issued) 71 last year
Reciprocal Borrower **29** ↑ 81%
 (Registered) 16 last year

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed **1,123** ↓ -11%
 1,266 last year
Lent **760** ↓ -13%
 872 last year



Technology Usage

Public Computer Use

13,072 ↑ 126%
 5,780 last year

Website Visits

134,583 ↑ 29%
 104,275 last year

Self Checkout

(% of total checkouts)

39% ↑ 15%
 34% last year

WiFi Sessions

18,848 ↑ 124%
 8,432 last year

Reference Queries

Reference Questions Total

3,517 ↓ -17%
 4,215 last year

Reference Questions

Adult
2,842 ↓ -10%
 3,146 last year

Kids
675 ↓ -37%
 1,069 last year

Meeting Room Use

Library Programs

135 ↑ 19%
 113 last year

Public Meetings

65 → 0%
 - last year

Group Study Rooms

1,405 → 0%
 - last year

Programs

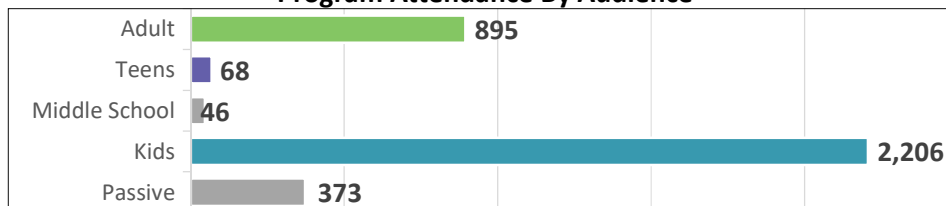
Program Attendance

3,588 ↓ -44%
 6,404 last year

Library Programs

135 ↑ 19%
 113 last year

Program Attendance By Audience



Library Visits

Total Visits

27,194 ↑ 62%
 16,803 last year

In House Visits

Makery **470** → 0%
 - last year

Walk-In
25,146 ↑ 100%
 12,586 last year

Drive-Up Visits
2,048 ↓ -51%
 4,217 last year

Creative Studio **62** → 0%
 - last year

Monthly Comparison

Total Circulation

87,158 -11%
98,265 last year

Adult Circulation

46,920 -13%
53,658 last year

Kids Circulation

39,115 -10%
43,341 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,123 -11%
1,266 last year

Digital Material Circulation

16,299 -3%
16,828 last year

Databases

17,048 -99%
1,394,124 last year

Reference Questions Total

3,517 -17%
4,215 last year

One on One Tutorials

51 219%
16 last year

Number of Programs

135 19%
113 last year

Program Attendance

3,588 -44%
6,404 last year

In-Person Visitors

25,146 100%
12,586 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

2,048 -51%
4,217 last year

Year To Date Comparison

Total Circulation

1,141,992 11%
1,031,928 last year

Adult Circulation

593,366 0%
590,621 last year

Kids Circulation

534,013 24%
430,030 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

14,614 30%
11,277 last year

Digital Material Circulation

204,359 -17%
247,305 last year

Databases

1,700,459 5%
1,626,795 last year

Reference Questions Total

42,321 -2%
43,215 last year

One on One Tutorials

454 74%
261 last year

Number of Programs

1,300 14%
1,144 last year

Program Attendance

47,098 2%
46,087 last year

In-Person Visitors

256,977 33%
192,792 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

31,035 -6%
32,987 last year

Collection Totals

Books and Magazines

192,370

Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

5,984

Audio Visual

40,488

Digital

142,598

Notable Happenings in Circulation

- We didn't issue or renew any *Cards for Kids* library cards last month.
- Three Non resident cards were purchased this month for a total of \$602.91
- We filled 5,637 holds this month.