

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kids' staff member Kelsey Wilcoxon took on the task of planting flowers in the kaleidoscope planter on the patio. The planter looks beautiful, and looking through the kaleidoscope offers a colorful prismatic view of the flowers.

As I mentioned before, the Seed Library has been incredibly popular. When new seed packets are offered, they are usually gone within a day. Patrons also engaged with a recent social media post from our Marketing team in record numbers.

I recently spent some time in the Makery and was amazed by how many people were using the space on a random Thursday morning. It was inspiring to see the variety of projects underway: a local boutique owner was upcycling shirts for her shop, grandparents were crafting with their grandchildren, patrons were laser-cutting water bottles, and another was creating sublimation prints. The space was full of energy, and our Makery staff were busy assisting and encouraging creativity!

Reaching Out

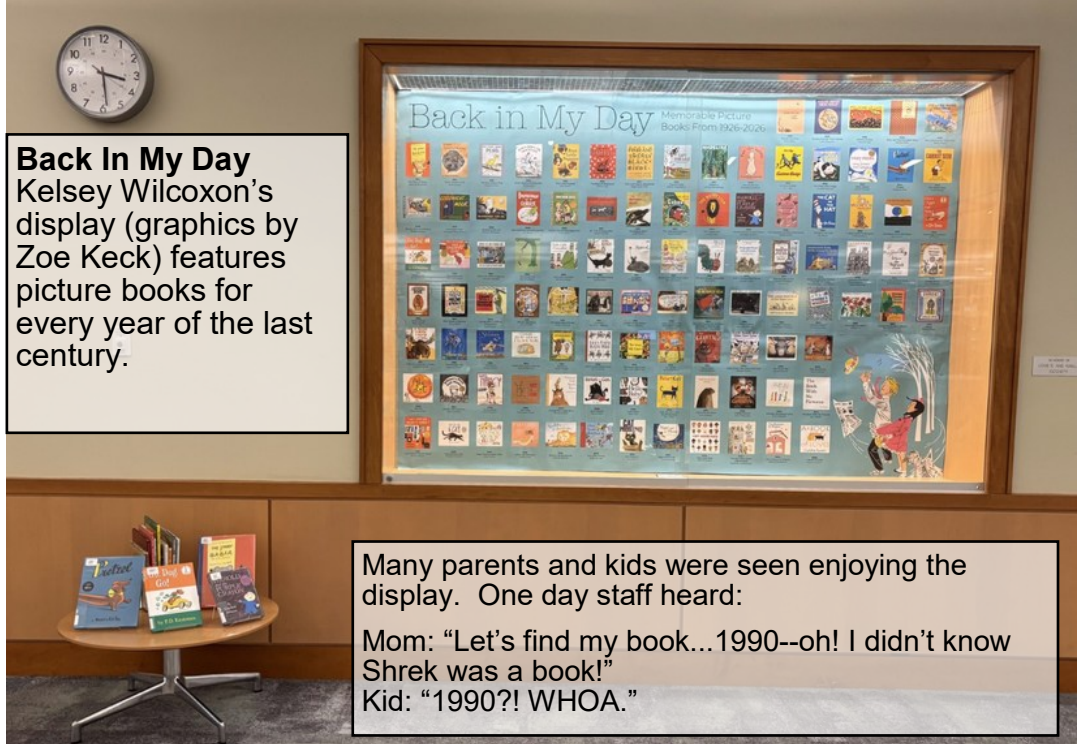
Libby Mercado visited York HS during the lunch hours and made buttons with the 75 students using the new button makers.

Jeremy Slayton hosted 2 lobby pop-ups engaging patrons with EPL's online resources like Blinkist, the new nonfiction book summary tool, and eLearning tools like LinkedIn Learning, Transparent Languages, and Tutor.com.

Hayley Rightnowar and Rachael Mason brought memory care programming to the Indigo of Elmhurst.

Back In My Day

Kelsey Wilcoxon's display (graphics by Zoe Keck) features picture books for every year of the last century.



Many parents and kids were seen enjoying the display. One day staff heard:

Mom: "Let's find my book...1990--oh! I didn't know Shrek was a book!"

Kid: "1990?! WHOA."

Angelina Mazenko offered a craft drop-in on campus at Elmhurst University.



TRAVEL KIT

Anne Swanson and Christi Hawn soft-launched the travel advisory service, called Travel Kit. It's already been used 3 times and one patron wrote back to say, "This list is great. Thank you for the time you spent!"

Programs, Programs and More Programs

Here's a sample of programs offered by ADS staff this month.

Alyssa Murphy hosted the Declaration of Independence program. Patrons took turns reading bits of the Declaration aloud and the presenter did a deep dive. Anecdote: one patron said it was very meaningful to them to read it aloud and that they'd never actually read it before.

For technology programming, Alex Stockfleth led the Intro to Microsoft Office and Angie McCarver introduced patrons to streaming video. Angelina Mazenko led a staff training on Excel.

Anne led book discussions on poetry, about Mary Oliver's *House of Light*, and mystery about *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett. She also hosted our Silent Book Club. In addition, she organized an interactive display for National Poetry Month.

Christina Racibozynski assisted patrons in learning Mahjong.

Hayley and Rachael hosted another Memory Café.

Lauren Watson also collaborated on a miniature terrariums craft program that was full.



Unshushable

Hayley and Lauren led a very well-attended No Shush movie and craft.

Programming

We had many creative programs this month: Eco Engineers, Animal Yoga, the Wings of Fire Party, and the Bunny Hop! While our storytimes are often at maximum capacity, we sometimes struggle with capturing an audience for our elementary school-age programs. As we plan for fall programming, we will continue to think strategically about our community and how best to meet its needs.

The Bunny Hop storytime was overwhelmingly popular with 85 attending the storytime and 116 people participating in the bunny-related activities throughout the department. Eleven children attended Animal Yoga where they learned to do the following poses: up/down dog, butterfly, frog, cobra, and flamingo. Thirteen eco engineers created bridges, tunnels, and towers to help animals safely cross the road. Fourteen dragon enthusiasts created stenciled dragon art, hunted for eggs, and solved a word puzzle.



Eco Engineering



Animal Yoga

Spring Break at the Library

The Library provided several fun activities for families that stayed home for Spring Break. We borrowed the Giant Legos from Dupage Children's Museum. We also showed two movies: *Encanto* (16 people) and *Zootopia 2* (36 people). One delighted patron told us her son had been looking forward to the movie all week as the highlight of his spring break.

Thirty-four elementary school-age children attended the KPop Demon Hunters Party. They had a great time making light sticks, listening to Korean music, singing karaoke, and decorating key chains. Those who were too young to attend the program were invited to do a character scavenger hunt and photo opp in the department



KPop Demon Hunters

Even More Spring Fun

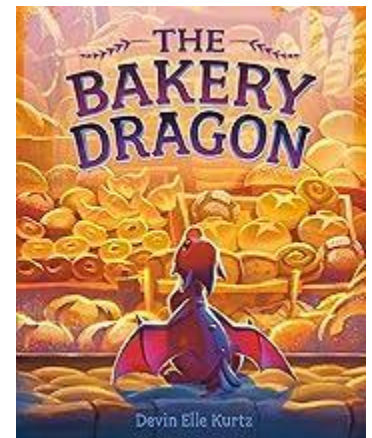
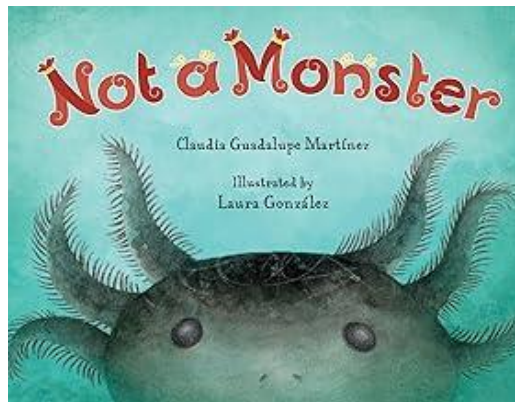
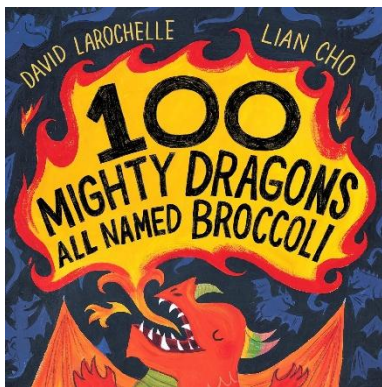
Staff were able to repurpose some leftover bird houses into a very popular Make & Take Imagination Station activity. We used up all 250 wooden birdhouses we had in stock by Day 2! Thirty-three participants enjoyed nature-inspired sensory activities during Dig Into Play. They had a pretend picnic, searched for eggs in the bird's nest, and counted ducklings on the pond.



Collection

It's all about the dragons, axolotls, and other creatures. After 2 weeks on display, several 2027 Monarch titles were almost all checked out.

- *Don't Trust Fish* – 27 out of 30 copies checked out
- *Not a Monster* – 25 out of 28 copies checked out
- *All at Once Upon a Time* – 24 out of 28 copies checked out
- *Ursula Upside Down* – 23 out of 25 copies checked out
- *Bakery Dragon* – 20 out of 22 copies checked out
- *100 Mighty Dragons All Named Broccoli*—all 27 copies checked out



Outreach

Staff began making Summer Reading visits to all the schools. The presentations highlighted new books, a slightly revised reading program, and some fun plant-related humor.

April Marketing Topics included:

Genealogy Programs at EPL

If you're interested in digging deeper into your family history, the Library can help! Attend one of our [genealogy programs](#). Your library card also gives you access to online genealogy databases like Ancestry Library Edition, HeritageQuest, Fold3, and newspaper archives. Find them at elmlib.org/genealogy.

Make a Seed Bomb (video)

Color your world with seed bombs, made of simple ingredients. Watch how they're made, get your hands a little dirty, and wait for colorful blooms to appear! elmlib.org/youtube

Cool Tools: Guitar Pick Punch (video)

To kick off a new series of YouTube shorts, take a look at a cool tool you can use at the Library: The **Guitar Pick Punch**! This clever gadget upcycles leftover gift cards, hotel room cards, or other thin plastic lying around the house and transforms them into a guitar pick to use while you prepare for your next gig or jam session. elmlib.org/youtube

National Library Week (video)

In celebration of [National Library Week](#), we made a video featuring our staff sharing book titles that make them feel happy! The Library is filled to the brim with books, reading nooks, resources, and staff that may help *you* find your joy. Watch this video of great suggestions and [browse the book list](#). We are happy to help you find the right book to reconnect you to the love of reading! elmlib.org/youtube

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

eNews from 04/28



DIY Seed Bombs



Color your world with seed bombs, made of simple ingredients. Watch how they're made, get your hands a little dirty, and wait for colorful blooms to appear!

Watch

Go Screen-Free



Swap out screen time for real-life joy during **Screen-Free Week, May 4-10**. This global initiative encourages families and individuals to set a goal: Take an hour, a day or the whole week off from an app, platform or device of your choice, and enjoy the free time it suddenly opens!

Celebrate all week with EPL: Pick up a bingo card at the Kids' Help Desk and see how many screen-free activities you can do! Visit each day for simple games and activities to help you reclaim peace, a sense of connection, and fun!

Staff Favorite: NoveList Plus



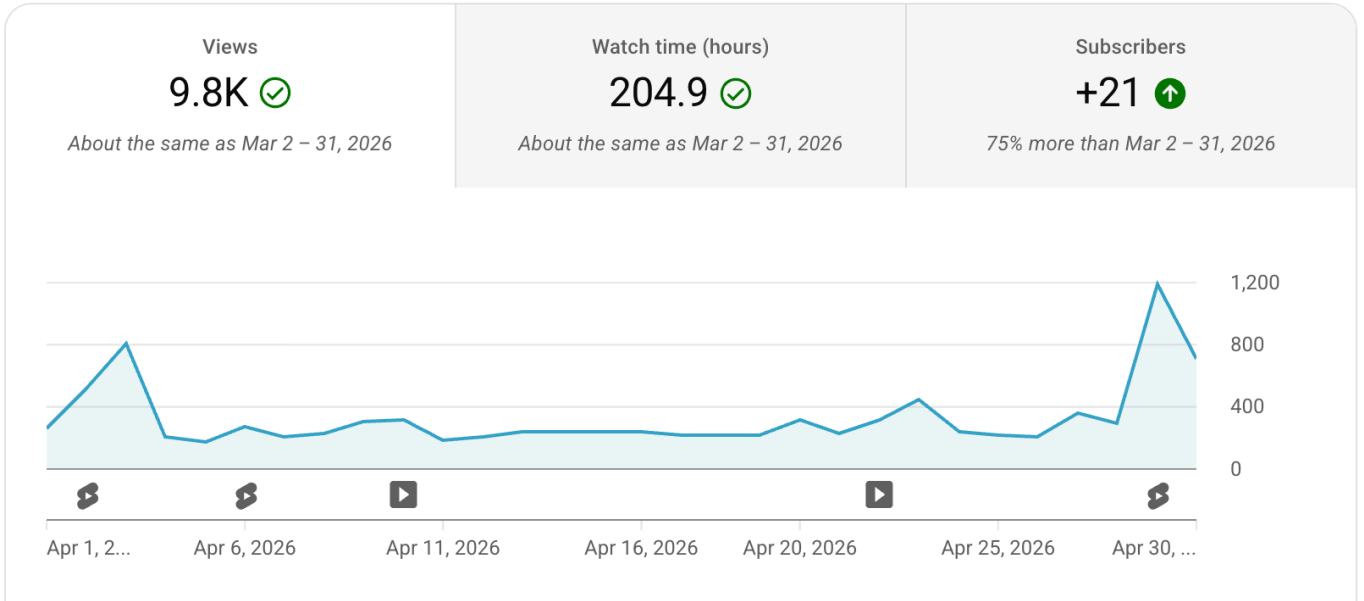
We asked staff about their favorite [digital library resource](#) they think you should know about. Angelina's choice is NoveList Plus.

"NoveList Plus is my go-to for readers' advisory when helping patrons look for book recommendations. It's super convenient to find read-alikes for titles and authors on the fly, and the curated lists on the home page are a great option if you're looking for a general vibe instead. Not to mention, it's very accessible for readers who want to browse on their own!"

Visit elmlib.org/databases to see a complete list of EPL's digital resources.

YouTube April Analytics

In April, people watched your videos 9,820 times



Most Watched YouTube Video in April

Easy DIY Seed Bomb Recipe

Channel analytics

Video analytics Advanced mode

Apr 29, 2026 – Now
Since published

Overview Reach Engagement Audience

Great job! Views are 5 times higher than your other Shorts and your Short got shared more.

Views
3.4K ↑
2.7K more than usual

Subscribers
+63

Realtime
Updating live
13
Views · Last 48 hours

Top traffic sources

Traffic Source	Views
Playlists	53.8%
Shorts feed	23.1%
Channel pages	15.4%
Browse features	7.7%
YouTube search	0%

See more

Instagram Posts with the Most Likes in April



askelmhurst ...

askelmhurst Back in My Day: Which book was popular the year you were born? Find notable children's books from 1926-2026 at this nostalgic display on the 2nd Floor.
5w

scribblemonsterband That's a really fun idea!
5w Reply

[View insights](#) [Boost post](#)

♡ 🔍 ↻ 🗑️

25 likes
April 7

😊 Add a comment... [Post](#)



askelmhurst ...

askelmhurst Signs of spring!
4w

[View insights](#) [Boost post](#)

♡ 🔍 ↻ 🗑️

Liked by **tplibrary** and 21 others
April 9

😊 Add a comment... [Post](#)

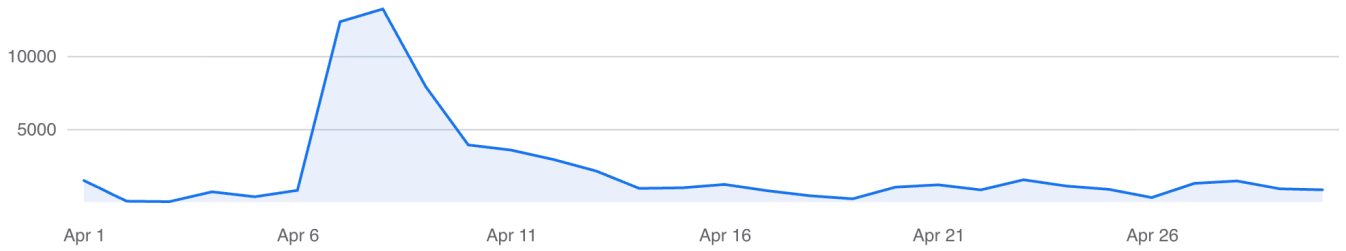
Facebook April Analytics

All views Reels **Posts** Stories

Custom: Apr 1 - Apr 30

65,260 Views 📘

-30.9% from previous 30 days



Most viewed posts

See all

<p>Tue Apr 7, 11:14am 35,824 Views</p>	<p>Fri Apr 10, 11:27am 4,884 Views</p>	<p>Tue Apr 28, 2:07pm 2,338 Views</p>	<p>Mon Apr 20, 12:02pm 1,805 Views</p>	<p>Wed Apr 8, 11:30am 1,436 Views</p>	<p>Sat Apr 11, 7:36am 1,381 Views</p>
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Facebook Post with the Highest Engagement in April

Content Library

Post insights

Elmhurst Public Library is seeking an experienced Human Resources professional with strong interpersonal skills to provide strategic leadership in recruiting, developin...
[See more](#)

👍 58 💬 3 ➦ 13

Most relevant

Views over time

● This post ● Your usual content

Metric	Value
Views	35,824
Viewers	25,704

79 Interactions

58 Reactions	3 Comments
14 Shares	4 Saves

Reaction by type

👍	👎	😂	😍	😮	😞	😡
59	8	0	0	0	0	0

Followers vs. Non-followers

89.4% 32,023 Non-followers	10.6% 3,801 Followers
----------------------------------	-----------------------------

Net follows

14 Net follows

How people find your content

Traffic Source

Not enough data to show yet.

Who viewed your content

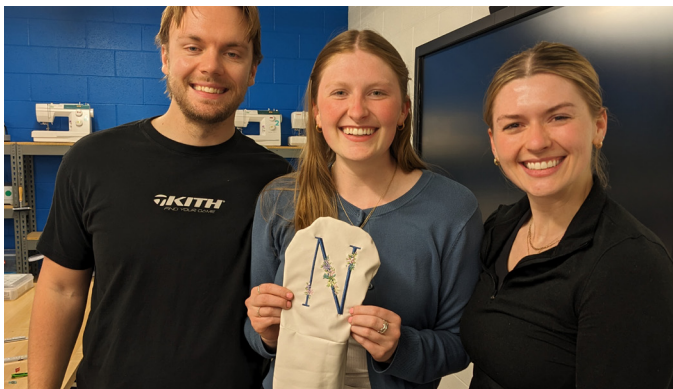
Age and gender Top countries

● Women ● Men ● Unknown

MAKERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

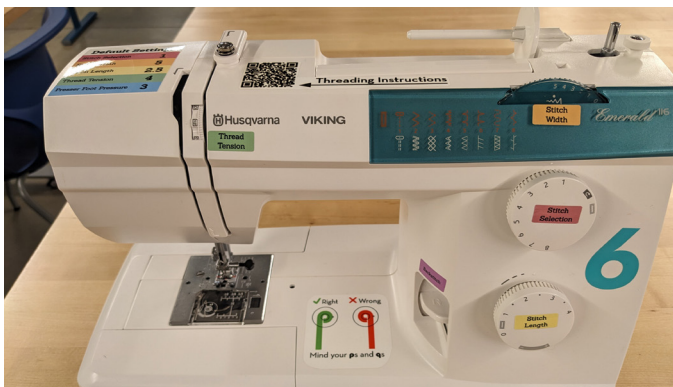
APRIL 2026

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
People Counter	1,885	1,890	1,766
Equipment Reservations	191	261	194
3D Prints	125	142	67



MAKER SPOTLIGHT

Four hours. Three makers. Two machines. One great gift! These three crafted a custom golf head cover complete with an embroidered monogram as a gift. They brought in a sewing pattern, fabric, and loads of **patience** and **curiosity**! With some help from Makery staff and a lot of **hard work** -- it turned out great!



COLOR-CODED LABELS

This sewing machine has so very many buttons and knobs and levers and dials... how are you to know which one does what? Let alone what to set them too?! We've got you covered. We added new color-coded labels to identify all of the different knobs on the sewing machines. There's also a corresponding sticker that tells you what "default" settings you can use. They're a great starting point for most basic projects.



OUTREACH TO UNIVERSITY

Adult Services and Makery Specialist **Angelina Mazenko** visited A.C. Buehler Library. More than 40 students visited Angelina to relax with a craft and learn more about the resources available to them through EPL. This was a superb collaboration with Elmhurst University staff!



MAGNETS IN THE MAKERY!

You can now make magnets with the button makers! For no additional charge, you can make a magnet instead of a pinback button. You just make the button as you normally would -- except remove the pinback first and replace it with an adhesive backed magnet. Presto! A **stylish fridge magnet**!

PROGRAM STATISTICS

April 2026

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Book Discussion: <i>House of Light</i> by Mary Oliver	Book Discussion	18	2
Ageless Grace	Enrich	18	1
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Games	96	5
Bargain Gardens	Common Connection	30	1
Bingo	Games	12	1
Board Game Night	Enrich	24	1
Botanical Drawing	Common Connection	35	2
Bridge and Pinochle		84	4
Budgeting & Savings Basics	Consumer	6	1
Canasta	Games	46	4
Chair Yoga	Health and Wellness	66	2
Ciao Italia	Gather	11	1
Clay Trinket Dishes	Create	15	1
Coloring and Conversation	Create	6	1
Colors of Elmhurst	Create	4	1
Cook-Along: Plant Based Cooking	Common Connection	45	1
Creative Cardmaking	Create	25	2
Cristina Henriquez: Voice, Culture, and Human Connection	Books and Authors	3	1
Culture Club: French Wine Regions	Enrich	22	1
Deep Dive into the Declaration of Independence	America 250	68	1
Exploring the Andromeda Galaxy	Enrich	46	1
Finding the Right College for You	Teen Program	2	1
Flower Arranging	Common Connection	47	1
For Mystery Lovers: <i>The Maltese Falcon</i> by Dashiell Hammett	Book Discussion	7	1
Friday Features	Movies	64	4
Genealogy: Courthouse Finds	Enrich	7	1
Getting Started with Streaming Services	Technology	9	1
Great Decisions	Enrich	24	1
In Stitches Needleworkers	Create	6	1
Intro to Microsoft Office	Technology	4	1
Introducing: Blinkist	Business	10	1
Learn to Play Mah Jongg	Enrich	11	1
Library Insiders: No Shush Movie	Library Insiders	41	1
Library Insiders: Painted Wooden Snake	Library Insiders	14	1
Lost Treasures of the Titanic	Enrich	18	1
Makery Outreach to A.C. Buehler		41	1
Memory Cafe	Enrich	11	1
Miniature Terrariums	Common Connection	19	1
Movie Discussion: 12 Angry Men	Arts and Culture	3	1
Next Chapter Book Club	Inclusive	36	2
Online Learning with the Library	Business	3	1
Outreach Visit: Indigo of Elmhurst		15	1
Outreach Visit: Park Place Assisted Living		25	1
Resume Review	Career & Job Hunting	1	1
Retirement Reality with Jill Schlesinger	Consumer	5	1
Scrabble	Games	18	2
Silent Book Club	Books and Authors	5	1
Staying Mentally Fit	Inclusive	13	1

The Basics of Buying a Home	Consumer	3	1
by Bill Bryson	Book Discussion	2	1
Wax Seals	Create	27	2
What Your Library Can Do: Cosplay and Costuming	Create	5	1
Your Car: Bumper to Bumper	Consumer	31	1
TOTALS		1,207	73
Makery Program	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Design Basics III: Typography	Create	7	1
Embroider a Hand Towel	Create	5	1
Laser a Garden Marker	Common Connection	5	1
Makery Craft: Paper Garland	Create	4	1
Makery Drop In Craft		63	1
Pop Up: Make A Magnet	Create	21	1
Sewing 101: How to Sew a Zipper	Create	6	1
Sublimate a Drawstring Pouch	Create	7	1
TOTALS		118	8
Teen Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Fun with Fidgets	Teen Program	5	1
OUTREACH: YORK HS	Teen Program	75	1
Teen Crafternoon: Clay Creations	Create	0	1
TOTALS		80	3
Middle School Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Delicious Spring Creations	Create	13	1
	Middle School		
Middle School Influencers	Influencers	11	1
TOTALS		24	2
Kids' Library Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Animal Yoga	Enrich	11	1
Baby Play Date	Storytime	3	1
Balloon Racers	STEAM	6	1
BUNNY HOP EGG HUNT	Games	116	1
Bunny Hop Storytime	Storytime	85	1
C.I.T.Y. of Support Playgroup	Family	20	1
Dig in to Play: Toddler Sensory Time	STEAM	33	1
Eco Engineers: Building for Wildlife	STEAM	13	1
Elmhurst Children's Theatre Performance	Family	140	1
Family Sensory Hour	Family	10	1
Fun for 3s, 4s, and 5s	Storytime	77	5
Homeschool Explorers	Homeschool	18	1
Kids' Chess Club	Games	15	1
KPop Demon Hunters Party	Pop Culture	34	1
Little Wigglers	Storytime	534	7
Make with Me: Paint Your Own Flowerpot	Makery	24	1
Mini Makers: Melted Crayon Art	Makery	14	1
Mother Goose & Me	Storytime	114	4
OUTREACH Bethel 3's Field Trip	Outreach	19	1
Outreach Elementary AT Field (1st Grade)	Outreach	60	1
Outreach Elementary AT Field (2nd Grade)	Outreach	80	1
Outreach Elementary AT Field (4th Grade)	Outreach	78	1
Outreach Elementary AT Field (5th Grade)	Outreach	77	1

Outreach Elementary AT Field (Kinder)	Outreach	62	1
Outreach Elementary AT Immaculate Conception (1st Grade)	Outreach	55	1
Outreach Elementary AT Immaculate Conception (2nd Grade)	Outreach	48	1
Outreach Elementary AT Immaculate Conception (3rd Grade)	Outreach	56	1
Outreach Elementary AT Immaculate Conception (4th Grade)	Outreach	49	1
Outreach Elementary AT Immaculate Conception (5th Grade)	Outreach	48	1
Outreach Elementary AT Immaculate Conception (Kinder)	Outreach	46	1
Outreach Elementary AT Immanuel Lutheran (Grades 1-2)	Outreach	17	1
Outreach Elementary AT Immanuel Lutheran (Grades 3-4)	Outreach	13	1
Outreach Elementary AT Immanuel Lutheran (Kinder)	Outreach	13	1
Outreach Elmhurst University Education Students	Outreach	26	1
Outreach Middle School AT Immanuel Lutheran (Grades 5-6)	Outreach	14	1
Outreach Middle School AT Immanuel Lutheran (Grades 7-8)	Outreach	17	1
Outreach Middle School AT Sandburg (6th Grade)	Outreach	241	4
Outreach Middle School AT Sandburg (7th Grade)	Outreach	208	4
OUTREACH Preschool AT Buttons & Bows 3s	Outreach	40	1
OUTREACH Preschool AT Madison	Outreach	258	5
OUTREACH Preschool Bethel 3's Field Trip	Outreach	15	1
OUTREACH Preschool Buttons & Bows 4s Field Trip	Outreach	34	2
OUTREACH Preschool IC 3's Field Trip	Outreach	30	1
Pop-up Storytime	Storytime	202	8
Read to the Dogs	Books and Authors	27	1
Romp & Rhyme	Storytime	366	9
Scout sewing visit	Outreach	12	1
Spring Break Movies	Movies	36	1
Wings of Fire Party	Books and Authors	14	1
TOTALS		3,528	88
Passive Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Passive Programs:			
Find Your Joy Staff Picks (Online)		93	1
Memory Cafe Activity Handout		40	1
Poetry Month (Mobile Monitor & Magnetic Poetry)		46	1
Puzzles		78	1
Seed Library stats April		2,318	1
Middle School Passive Programs:			
Middle School Hangout Passive	Create	38	2
Kids' Passive Programs:			
2027 Caudill Nominee Overview (Online)	Outreach	41	
APRIL POETRY ACTIVITY	Create	205	1
Make & Take	Create	611	2
Scavenger Hunt	Play	106	1
Stay & Play	Play	309	2
		Attendance	Sessions
Adult Program Grand Total		3900	86
Total Passive Program Statistics		2,575	5

Total Program Statistics	1,325	81
Teen Program Grand Total	80	3
Total Passive Program Statistics	0	0
Total Program Statistics	80	3
Middle School Program Grand Total	62	4
Total Passive Program Statistics	38	2
Total Program Statistics	24	2
Kids' Program Grand Total	4,800	94
Total Passive Program Statistics	1,272	6
Total Program Statistics	3,528	88
Passive Program Total	3,885	13
Total Attendance	8,842	
Total Programs		187

STATISTICAL REPORT

April 2026

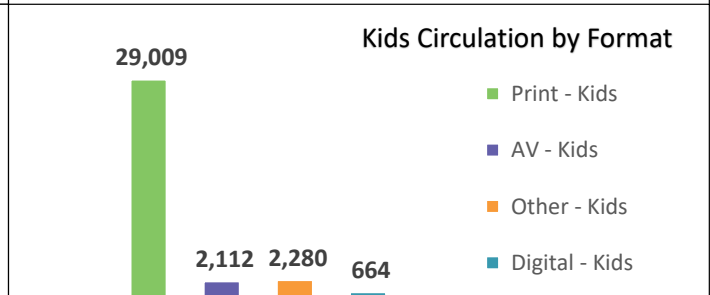
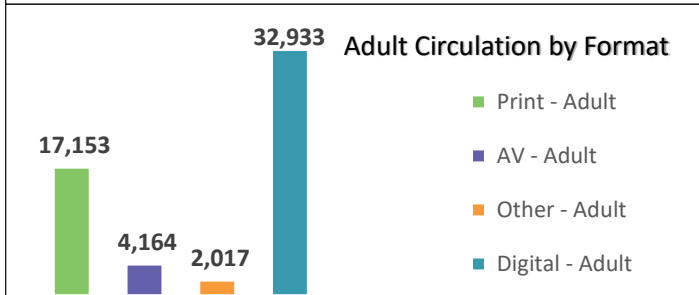
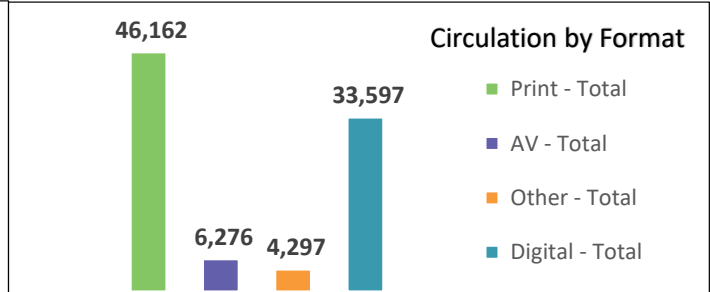
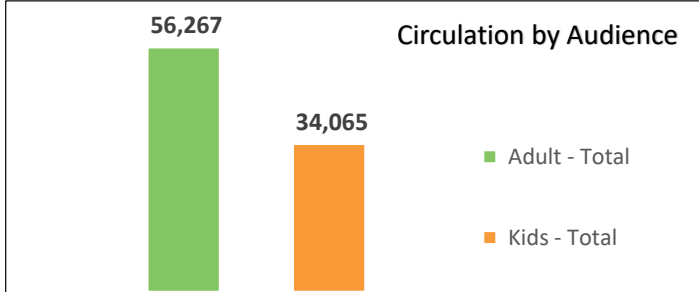
Circulation

Total Circulation
91,520 ↑ 4%
 88,369 last year
Card Holders
 25,739

Library Card Usage
9,527 ↑ 2%
 9,361 last year

Library Cards Issued
Elmhurst **162** ↓ -4%
 (Issued) 168 last year
Reciprocal Borrower **49** ↑ 32%
 (Registered) 37 last year

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed **1,188** ↓ -3%
 1,220 last year
Lent **521** ↓ -5%
 551 last year



Technology Usage

Public Computer Use
18,777 ↓ -12%
 21,283 last year

Website Visits
22,906 ↓ -33%
 34,424 last year

Self Checkout
 (% of checkouts)
55% ↑ 2%
 54% last year

WiFi Sessions
22,165 ↓ 0%
 22,200 last year

Reference Queries

Reference Questions Total
4,039 ↑ 1%
 4,014 last year

Reference Questions
Adult **2,731** ↓ -1%
 2,768 last year

Kids **1,308** ↑ 5%
 1,246 last year

Meeting Room Use

Library Programs
187 ↓ -3%
 192 last year

Public Meetings
84 ↓ -12%
 95 last year

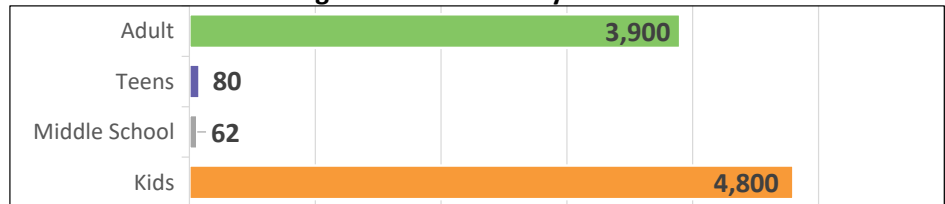
Group Study Rooms
1,879 ↑ 0%
 1,878 last year

Programs

Program Attendance
8,842 ↑ 34%
 6,578 last year

Library Programs
187 ↓ -3%
 192 last year

Program Attendance By Audience



Library Visits

Total Visits
40,551 ↓ 0%
 40,622 last year

Walk-In
38,921 ↑ 0%
 38,818 last year

Drive-Up Visits
1,630 ↓ -10%
 1,804 last year

In House Visits
Makery **1,885** ↑ 7%
 1,766 last year

Creative Studio **76** ↓ -37%
 120 last year

Monthly Comparison

Total Circulation

91,520  4%
88,369 last year

Adult Circulation

56,267  14%
49,451 last year

Kids Circulation

34,065  -10%
37,699 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,188  -3%
1,220 last year

Digital Material Circulation

33,597  28%
26,304 last year

Databases

9,070  -62%
23,669 last year

Reference Questions Total

4,039  1%
4,014 last year

One on One Tutorials

34  48%
23 last year

Number of Programs

187  -3%
192 last year

Program Attendance

8,842  34%
6,578 last year

In-Person Visitors

38,921  0%
38,818 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,630  -10%
1,804 last year

Year To Date Comparison

Total Circulation

370,785  -1%
373,178 last year


Adult Circulation

215,029  2%
210,859 last year

Kids Circulation

151,081  -4%
156,951 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

4,676  -13%
5,369 last year

Digital Material Circulation

128,421  14%
112,957 last year

Databases

69,890  -52%
145,528 last year

Reference Questions Total

17,026  -5%
17,990 last year

One on One Tutorials

150  18%
127 last year

Number of Programs

653  -1%
662 last year


Program Attendance

28,445  32%
21,516 last year

In-Person Visitors

151,543  -1%
152,718 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

6,855  -10%
7,575 last year

Collection Totals

Books and Magazines

153,671

Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

6,849

Audio Visual

23,755

Digital

227,185

Notable Happenings in Circulation

- 5 non-resident cards were purchased in March for a total of \$691.42.
- We filled 4,644 holds this month.