

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The seed library is now up and running, and so far, it has been a huge success. Patrons are thrilled to take seeds, and staff have already had to refill the library several times due to the high level of interest. We've even received a few donations, including a small cash contribution. To avoid confusion, we updated the signage on the donation box to specify that we are accepting seed donations only and not cash. It's clear that we have many enthusiastic and generous patrons who are excited to support the program.
- It's annual review time for staff, and managers are busy conducting evaluations and discussing goals with their teams. While this period is always a busy one, we're glad we transitioned several years ago from holding reviews on individual staff anniversary dates to conducting them all at the same time each year. Although it makes for a hectic few weeks, the process is ultimately much more efficient and easier to manage.
- Dare I say we've had a fairly mild winter in terms of snow this year? I hesitate to jinx it, since there's still time for more, but the good news is that snowfall tends to melt quickly this time of year. As we move toward tornado season, we're also preparing for potential weather emergencies, which includes conducting a required tornado drill with patrons in the building. Hopefully the drill will be all we need this year, and we won't have to put those procedures to use in a real situation.

### February in ADS

It was busy in ADS this month. Staff at the desk helped pack seeds for the March launch of the seed library. Alyssa and Lauren hosted “Board Game Battle Royale.” Libby’s Blind Date with a Book display was a huge success again. Hayley and Alyssa gave a tour to students from the Elmhurst Learning and Success Academy from the University. Jeremy presented the Board with an update on our eContent. Outreach staff and volunteers delivered Valentine’s Day cards made by patrons at the MLK Day of Service to patrons at the Roosevelt at Salt Creek and Adult Christian Care. And as Winter Reading wrapped up, Anne reported that 195 patrons participated, reading 1,174 books.

### Olympics Display & New Mobile Monitor

To join in on the Winter Olympics excitement, Hayley Rightnowar and Anne Swanson collaborated on a materials display about the Winter Olympics. This display was enhanced by a new large mobile monitor on the 2nd floor that streamed the Olympics from Peacock. Across the 2 weeks we counted 200 patrons who stopped to browse the display or enjoy the games for a few moments. Thanks to NBC for allowing us the rights to show the Olympics. Similarly in March we currently have a material display themed around the Paralympics with it playing on the screen again. We didn’t get a good photo of the Olympics display, so enjoy the very similar display on the Paralympics.



### A Puzzling Development

As there was a gap between the Olympics and Paralympics, we tested a new idea on the monitor, a digital jigsaw puzzle. We used <http://jigsawexplorer.com> to provide patrons with an interactive jigsaw puzzle that patrons could use on the monitor or access it and work collaboratively on a different computer. Kelsey made a sign in Canva to help patrons get connected with the puzzle on their own devices. In about a week, people worked on the puzzle over 100 times and completed 2.5 puzzles. The photo shows the puzzle that will return to the screen after the Paralympics on 3/16...if you care to come challenge yourself.



### Programming

Reading took us many places in February from fantasy lands to cozy forts to comfy caves in which to burrow. Twenty-one parents and children enjoyed working together to create blanket forts, roast pretend marshmallows, listen to a ghost story, and sing campfire songs.



One Stay and Play this month featured hibernation. Children played with the finger puppets, tucking them into their various burrows. There were at least 185 interactions with the station and many examples of good adult-child conversations, with adults asking questions such as “Where do you think the bunnies will sleep?”

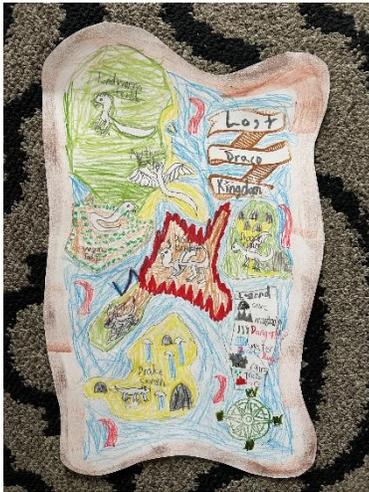
### Hibernation Station

As our weather warms up, our animal friends will be coming out of their winter sleeps. Not all animals sleep all winter, but they do find cozy places and sleep for longer. They come out only when the weather is a bit warmer.

Do you know where these animals sleep in the winter?  
(See the answers on back and return the animals to their warm dens)



Sixteen 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders created maps to their own fantasy lands. One child even created his own timeline outlining the history of his land. Gabby hand carved two stamps for the program which the children could use to decorate their maps.



Makery programs continue to be popular, and this month our Mini Makers got to create a design to subliminate on a canvas bag. Participants were very pleased with the results.



The Winter Reading Program concluded on February 28. A total of 658 children completed 20 days of reading, 548 completed 40 days, and 66 completed the bonus log. Although the number of participants was down from the 2024-2025 program, patron feedback was very positive, and staff had many meaningful interactions with the winter readers such as one young patron begging staff to read *Mercy Watson to the Rescue* because it was her favorite. The children also enjoyed getting their own EPL string backpacks to carry home their books.



## Outreach

The booklists Heather created to complement District 205 curricula continue to be a big hit. From the Lincoln Elementary School newsletter:

### “Check it Out”

As part of our ongoing community partnership with Elmhurst Public Library (EPL), [linked are Trimester 3 Read-Alike lists](#) aligned to our Wit & Wisdom and Dual Language curricula. To access these read-alike lists all you need to do is scroll down on the page and click the Trimester 3 Read-Alike button.

Designed to support curricular themes tied to each grade level curriculum guide, these K-5 Read-Alike lists include titles owned by EPL that have all generally been published since 2020. Use the QR Code to view all available formats in real-time. Please reach out to your building Library Media Specialist with any questions and be sure to visit the Elmhurst Public Library in-person to “check them out” yourself!

## Collection and Readers Advisory

The lists of 2027 Caudill, Bluestem, and Monarch award nominees were announced at the end of February. The 2026 award winners will be announced in mid-March, at which time we will switch out the display shelves to feature the 2027 books.

## New

This new initiative created by Marketing features everyone’s new bestie, Mazey. Children have the opportunity to write Mazey a letter, ask her a question, or tell her something about themselves. After checking in at the Kids’ Help Desk for a special Mazey stamp, kids can place their letter to Mazey in the beautiful mailbox created by Zoe and Eva. Some questions will be answered on social media or on future library displays. This creative idea is featured in the Spring Fine Print and is a great way for families to get more familiar with our new mascot and a great way for kids to gain some important written communication practice as they craft their notes to Mazey.



eNews from 02/10

### February Marketing Topics included:

#### Jane Austen

In honor of Jane Austen's 250th birthday, EPL hosted a series of programs and book discussions celebrating her legacy, including *Improvised Austen*, *An Evening with Jane Austen*, printmaking inspired by her work, and *Jane Austen's Sanction: From Unfinished Swan Song to British Costume Drama*.

#### eContent for Commuters

Your commute doesn't have to be boring! Make the minutes fly by with these entertaining ways to pass the time in between stops. EPL cardholders can enjoy:

- Libby and Hoopla for eAudiobooks
- Libby and eBooks that work with Kindle and eReaders
- Libby for magazines-unlimited access, no waiting!
- PressReader for newspapers
- Freegal for unlimited music streaming for rock, pop, and classical
- Kanopy and Hoopla for television and movies
- NYT All Access for access to the Crossword Games, The Athletic, Wirecutter, and, more

#### Oscar Ballot Voting

How many Oscar winners do you think you can predict in our Academy Award Ballot Contest? Pick up a ballot at the 2nd Floor display or at the Checkout Desk.

**Submit your ballot in-person by 5 p.m. Sunday, March 15** at the Checkout Desk or the 2nd Floor Information Desk.

The contestant with the largest number of correct predictions wins bragging rights and a \$40 gift card to Classic Cinemas.

#### 3D Assistive Tools

Use the Library's 3D printers to print assistive tools to help with functional capabilities and dexterity. The Makery provides simple designs for low-tech gadgets that make everyday tasks significantly easier. Choose from a variety of premade 3D files. EPL cardholders can fill out a print request online and pay only the cost of materials upon pickup.



#### EPL Delivers

### Homebound Delivery



If you are permanently or temporarily unable to get to the library because of illness, disability, or other reasons and you live within the City of Elmhurst and have an EPL card in good standing, you may be eligible for home delivery service.

Deliveries are made on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year.

Fill out the [online form](#) to see if you qualify to have your materials dropped off and picked up at your door by our friendly volunteers! If you have any questions, contact Elmhurst Public Library at [outreach@elmlib.org](mailto:outreach@elmlib.org) or by phone: (630) 279-8696.

#### Beyond Books



Stop by the new display on the 2nd floor that highlights our expansive non-book collections: [eLibrary resources](#), [Creative Studio](#), [Library of Extraordinary Things](#), and resources to help you [Find Your Next Great Read](#).

#### It's Tax Season!



The IRS and State of Illinois are now accepting tax returns. Tax forms are saved on the document server on the 2nd Floor public copiers. Follow the instructions above the copiers to print out your copies.

Visit our tax display on the 2nd Floor where we have [J. K. Lasser books](#) and other resources.

Visit [elmlib.org/taxes](http://elmlib.org/taxes) for links to common tax forms and information about where to find tax help.

*EPL staff does not give tax advice.*

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



# Facebook

Content Library  
← Post insights

**Elmhurst Public Library**  
Published by Carol Schlundt Pavlik  
February 27 at 11:40 AM · 🌐

This mom came to the Makery trying to find a way to permanently add her children's names to their water bottles for school. The teacher asked to not use stickers. Laser engraver to the rescue!




👍❤️ 137    🗨️ 7

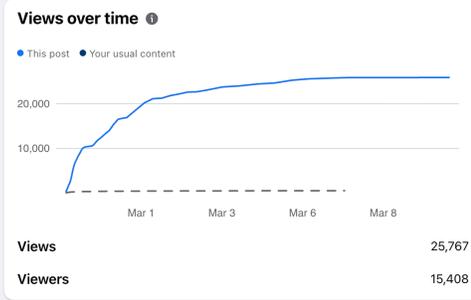
Like Comment Share

Most relevant ▾

Comment as Elmhurst Public Library

**Rachel Mondt**  
Gosh, I needed this reminder. Thanks for posting!

1w · Love · Reply · Hide



### 145 Interactions ⓘ

137 Reactions    👍    7 Comments    🗨️

0 Shares    🔄    1 Saves    📌

#### Reaction by type

👍	👎	😂	😭	🤔	😬	😏
123	16	0	0	0	0	0



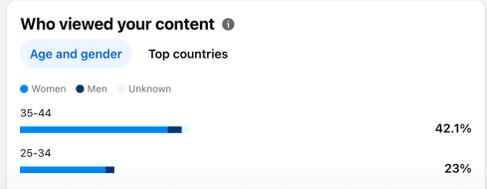
### Net follows ⓘ

10 Net follows

### How people find your content ⓘ

Traffic Source

Not enough data to show yet.

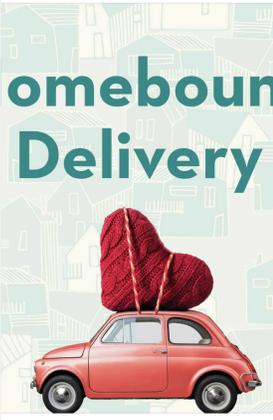


Content Library  
← Post insights

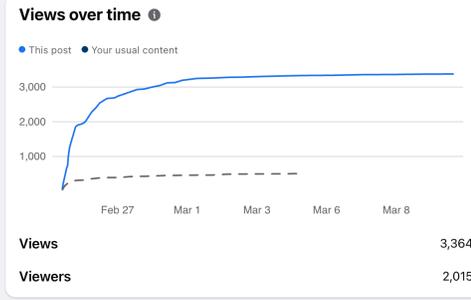
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Fill out the online form to see if you qualify to have your materials dropped off and picked up at your door by our friendly volunteers! [elmlib.org/homebound](http://elmlib.org/homebound)

Deliveries are made on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the year.



👍❤️ 27    🗨️ 2    🔄 5



### 34 Interactions ⓘ

27 Reactions    👍    2 Comments    🗨️

5 Shares    🔄    0 Saves    📌

#### Reaction by type

👍	👎	😂	😭	🤔	😬	😏
25	8	0	0	0	0	0



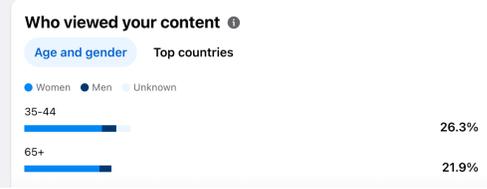
### Net follows ⓘ

0 Net follows

### How people find your content ⓘ

Traffic Source

Not enough data to show yet.



# MAKERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

## FEBRUARY 2026

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
People Counter	1,844	1,709	1,737
Equipment Reservations	85	162	185
3D Prints	63	97	105



### 3D Printer Training for Makery Staff

We developed elearning for Makery staff to make sure everyone is trained on our 3D printing procedures.

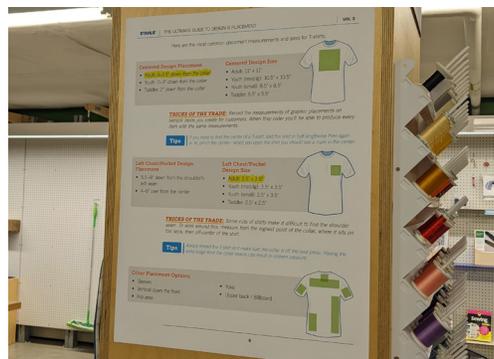
On average, we get 85 print requests each month and each one needs to be printed, weighed, and prepped for pickup. It's quite the operation!

### Colors of Elmhurst

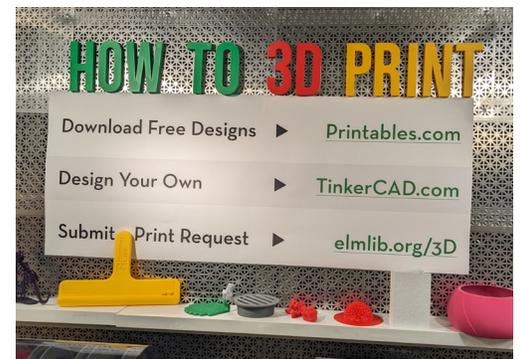
Patrons attended another edition of this program that takes them around the city to sketch or paint the colors of Elmhurst. In February, they visited A.C. Buehler library on the university campus. Previous editions featured Wilder Mansion and the history museum. This program is led by Lead Makery Specialist Jen Kryczka.



Mug Press How To



Shirt Design Placement



How To 3D Print

### Signage, Infographics, and Posters

There' are many details to remember for each piece of equipment. Staff are always happy to answer questions, but sometimes it's easier to have a quick poster to reference. Honestly, all of us who work here need reminders sometimes, too. So, we updated some existing ones and added new ones this month.

Makery Specialist Ana Zulkoski designed a "how-to" for the mug press. We found a free online guide to design placement for those who are putting logos on shirts. Finally, we added giant 3D printed letters to the "How to 3D Print" sign to make it \*pop\*

# PROGRAM STATISTICS

February 2026

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Book Discussion: Austen Adaptations	Book Discussion	4	1
Adult Book Discussion: <i>Washington Black</i> by Esi Edugyan	Book Discussion	17	2
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Games	67	4
Bingo	Games	13	1
Board Game Battle Royale	Games	27	1
Bridge and Pinochle	Games	75	4
Canasta: Open Play	Games	37	4
Chamber Concert	Enrich	78	1
Ciao Italia	Enrich	6	1
Coloring and Conversation	Create	7	1
Colors of Elmhurst	Create	3	1
Cooking with Chef Tony	Enrich	34	1
Creative Cardmaking	Create	22	2
Culture Club: The Parks of Montana and the Dakotas	Enrich	36	1
Excel Advanced	Technology	3	1
Excel Intermediate	Technology	3	1
Felt Coasters	Create	22	2
Friday Features: <i>Citizen Kane</i>	Movies	55	4
Genealogy: What's the Buzz About BillionGraves?	Enrich	17	1
Great Decisions	Enrich	28	1
Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body	Enrich	22	1
In Stitches Needleworkers	Create	5	1
Intro to A.I.	Technology	14	1
James Madison: Father of the U.S. Constitution	Enrich	55	1
Jazz: The American Art Form	Enrich	18	1
Learn to Crochet	Create	16	2
Library Insiders: Miss Rosie Reads	Library Insiders	8	1
Love Stories from History: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly	Enrich	27	1
Memory Cafe	Enrich	5	1
Next Chapter Book Club	Inclusive	39	2
Outreach: ELSA Tour	Outreach	17	1
Printmaking	Create	16	2
Resume Review	Career & Job Hunting	4	1
Scrabble	Games	15	2
Shrinky Dink Crafts	Create	19	1
Sick and Corrupt: The True Crimes at Edgewater Hospital	Enrich	57	1
Staying Mentally Fit	Gather	9	1
Still Afraid of the Dark: An Evening with R.L. Stine	Books and Authors	25	1
The Chinese Zodiac and You	Arts and Culture	39	1
The History of Railroads in DuPage County	Enrich	33	1
Understanding Social Security: Maximize the Benefits You've Earned	Consumer	15	1
Winter Stitch-Along	Create	729	4
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>1,741</b>	<b>64</b>
Makery Program	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Design Basics I: Composition	Create	8	1
I Want to Make a T-Shirt!	Create	15	1
Laser Cut Shadow Box	Create	8	1
Makery Drop In Craft	Create	106	1

Open Door Beaded Hearts	Create	1	1
Valentine Pet Bandana	Create	6	1
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>144</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Teen Programs</b>			
	<b>Primary Event Type</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
Pet Rock Terrariums	Create	0	1
Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament	Games	0	1
Teen Crafternoon: Mini Canvas Painting	Create	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Middle School Programs</b>			
	<b>Primary Event Type</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
40 Years of Pixar: Character Design Basics	Create	4	1
Homeschool Explorers (MS & HS)	Homeschool	8	1
Middle School Influencers	Middle School Influencers	12	1
Valentine's Day Sweet Treats	Create	13	1
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Kids' Library Programs</b>			
	<b>Primary Event Type</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
After School Fun	Create	16	1
Baby Play Date	Storytime	2	1
Birdhouse Masterpieces	Create	17	1
C.I.T.Y. of Support Playgroup	Family	23	1
Dig in to Play: Toddler Sensory Time	STEAM	86	1
Family Sensory Hour	Family	2	1
Family Trivia Night	Games	37	1
Fly Away with Origami Birds	STEAM	18	1
Fort Night at the Library!	STEAM	21	1
Fun for 3s, 4s, and 5s	Storytime	48	4
Homeschool Explorers (K-5)	Homeschool	15	1
Hot Wheels: Ready, Set, Race!	STEAM	78	1
Kids' Chess Club	Games	14	1
Little Wiggles	Storytime	612	8
Madison Event: Parent Education Day	Outreach	35	1
Mini Makers: Design a Bag	Create	13	1
Mother Goose & Me	Storytime	63	4
Outreach Elementary AT Jefferson (Grades K, 5)	Outreach	108	1
OUTREACH Preschool AT EPD Butterfield	Outreach	14	1
Pop-up Storytime	Storytime	94	5
Read to the Dogs	Books and Authors	16	1
Romp & Rhyme	Storytime	319	8
Scout visit - Game Design	Outreach	7	1
Scout visit Computer Expert	Outreach	17	2
Smarty Pants Big Balloon Show	Family	125	1
Stained Glass Art	STEAM	15	1
You Are Here: Fantasy Map Making	Create	16	1
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>1,831</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Passive Programs</b>			
	<b>Primary Event Type</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
<b>Adult Passive Programs:</b>			
Entertainment Station		34	4
Jigsaw Puzzle on Mobile Monitor		57	2
Memory Cafe Activity Handout		25	1
Puzzles		75	1

Recording of GreenMan Theatre Presents Travel Stories (Online)		24	1
Recording of Love Stories from History (Online)		10	1
Recording of Seasonal Soups (Online)		29	1
Recording of Travel Planning and Budgeting (Online)		41	1
Winter Olympics on Mobile Monitor		200	1
Winter Reading in Beanstack		21	1
<b>Middle School Passive Programs:</b>			
Middle School Hangout Passive	Create	45	2
<b>Kids' Passive Programs:</b>			
Make & Take Passive	Create	962	2
Scavenger Hunt Passive	Play	330	1
Stay & Play Passive	Play	278	2
		<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Sessions</b>
<b>Adult Program Grand Total</b>		<b>2401</b>	<b>84</b>
Total Passive Program Statistics		516	14
Total Program Statistics		1,885	70
<b>Teen Program Grand Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
Total Passive Program Statistics		0	0
Total Program Statistics		0	3
<b>Middle School Program Grand Total</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>6</b>
Total Passive Program Statistics		45	2
Total Program Statistics		37	4
<b>Kids' Program Grand Total</b>		<b>3,401</b>	<b>57</b>
Total Passive Program Statistics		1,570	5
Total Program Statistics		1,831	52
<b>Passive Program Total</b>		<b>2,131</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total Attendance</b>		<b>5,884</b>	
<b>Total Programs</b>			<b>150</b>

# STATISTICAL REPORT

## February 2026

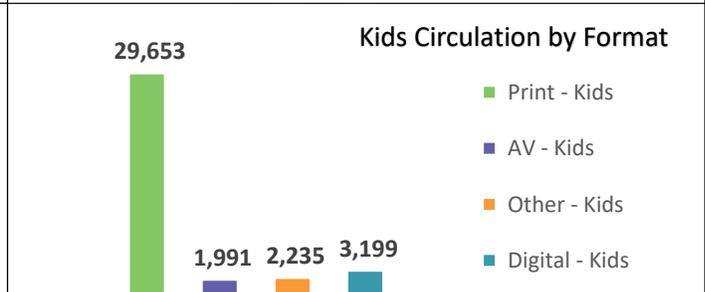
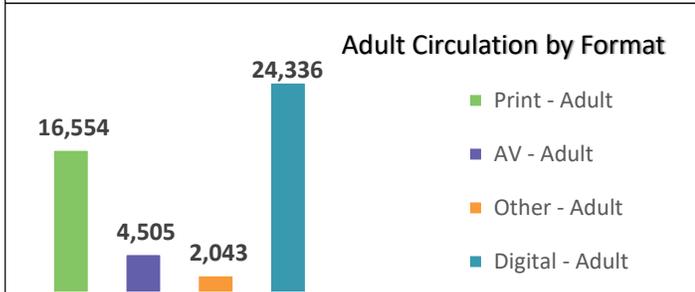
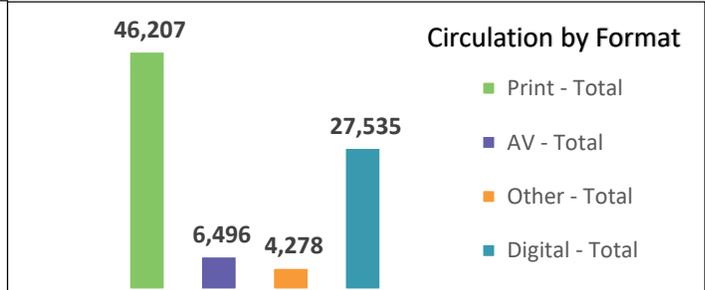
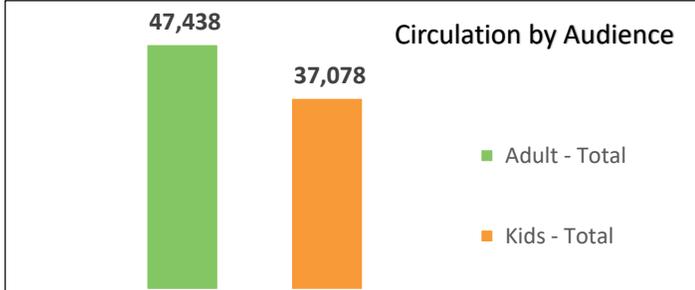
### Circulation

**Total Circulation**  
**85,634** ↓ -6%  
 90,867 last year  
**Card Holders**  
 26,225

**Library Card Usage**  
**9,742** ↑ 4%  
 9,367 last year

**Library Cards Issued**  
**Elmhurst**  
 (Issued) **174** ↑ 9%  
 160 last year  
**Reciprocal Borrower**  
 (Registered) **65** ↑ 38%  
 47 last year

**Interlibrary Loan**  
**Borrowed** **1,118** ↓ -17%  
 1,354 last year  
**Lent** **494** ↓ 0%  
 496 last year



### Technology Usage

**Public Computer Use**  
**17,994** ↓ -5%  
 18,856 last year

**Website Visits**  
**20,911** ↓ -38%  
 33,725 last year

**Self Checkout**  
 (% of checkouts)  
**54%** ↑ 2%  
 53% last year

**WiFi Sessions**  
**21,141** ↑ 1%  
 20,860 last year

### Reference Queries

**Reference Questions Total**  
**4,097** ↓ -14%  
 4,763 last year

**Reference Questions**  
**Adult**  
**2,568** ↓ -19%  
 3,152 last year

**Kids**  
**1,529** ↓ -5%  
 1,611 last year

### Meeting Room Use

**Library Programs**  
**150** ↓ -6%  
 159 last year

**Public Meetings**  
**97** ↓ -6%  
 103 last year

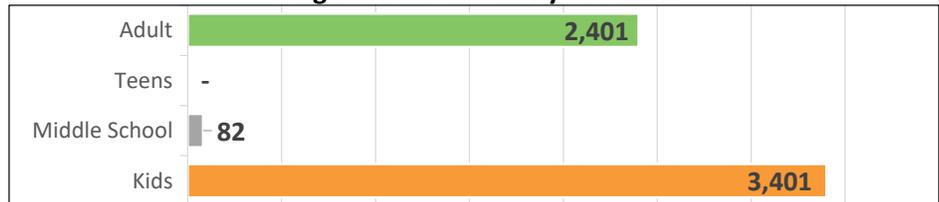
**Group Study Rooms**  
**1,895** ↓ -2%  
 1,925 last year

### Programs

**Program Attendance**  
**5,884** ↑ 13%  
 5,192 last year

**Library Programs**  
**150** ↓ -6%  
 159 last year

#### Program Attendance By Audience



### Library Visits

**Total Visits**  
**39,360** ↑ 2%  
 38,763 last year

**Walk-In**  
**37,783** ↑ 2%  
 36,913 last year

**Drive-Up Visits**  
**1,577** ↓ -15%  
 1,850 last year

#### In House Visits

**Makery**  
**1,844** ↑ 6%  
 1,737 last year

**Creative Studio**  
**82** ↓ -32%  
 120 last year

**Monthly Comparison**

**Total Circulation**

85,634 ↓ -6%  
90,867 last year

**Adult Circulation**

47,438 ↓ -6%  
50,322 last year

**Kids Circulation**

37,078 ↓ -5%  
39,192 last year

**ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries**

1,118 ↓ -17%  
1,354 last year

**Digital Material Circulation**

27,535 ↑ 1%  
27,152 last year

**Databases**

26,640 ↓ -48%  
50,916 last year

**Reference Questions Total**

4,097 ↓ -14%  
4,763 last year

**One on One Tutorials**

35 ↑ 13%  
31 last year

**Number of Programs**

150 ↓ -6%  
159 last year

**Program Attendance**

5,884 ↑ 13%  
5,192 last year

**In-Person Visitors**

37,783 ↑ 2%  
36,913 last year

**Drive-Up Visitors**

1,577 ↓ -15%  
1,850 last year

**Year To Date Comparison**

**Total Circulation**

180,261 ↓ -4%  
187,681 last year

**Adult Circulation**

101,419 ↓ -5%  
106,749 last year

**Kids Circulation**

76,589 ↓ -2%  
78,188 last year

**ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries**

2,254 ↓ -18%  
2,744 last year

**Digital Material Circulation**

59,138 ↑ 4%  
56,827 last year

**Databases**

46,649 ↓ -59%  
113,657 last year

**Reference Questions Total**

8,772 ↓ -6%  
9,329 last year

**One on One Tutorials**

78 ↑ 4%  
75 last year

**Number of Programs**

306 ↓ -3%  
314 last year

**Program Attendance**

10,818 ↑ 5%  
10,314 last year

**In-Person Visitors**

72,532 ↓ 0%  
72,676 last year

**Drive-Up Visitors**

3,478 ↓ -8%  
3,763 last year

## Collection Totals

### Books and Magazines

151,780

### Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

7,453

### Audio Visual

24,968

### Digital

223,648

## Notable Happenings in Circulation

- 2 non-resident cards were purchased in January for a total of \$35.50
  - We have 236 non-resident library cardholders (patrons living in unincorporated Elmhurst).
- We filled 4,283 holds this month.