

Director's Report

- The Library remained busy throughout the holidays, with families taking advantage of time off to attend programs. The Kids' Library hosted several winter break drop-in programs and craft sessions, all of which were well attended.
- The final pieces of patio furniture were delivered on December 30, just in time for the 2025 year closeout. The project is now complete, with only a few minor additions—such as patio toys—planned for next summer once we see how patrons use the space. We are looking forward to a full season of use this year.
- The new Makery chairs, approved last year, arrived this week. Their improved ergonomic design makes them better suited for patrons working on projects.

ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT

Dec 2025

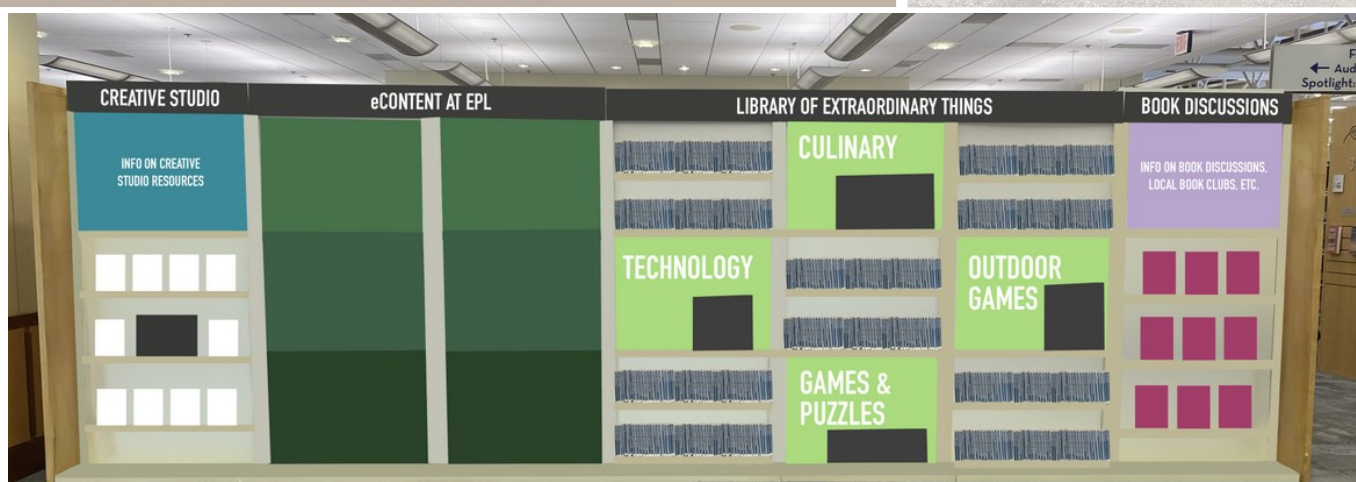


Winter Reading

Adult and teen patrons participate in 2 ways, either by choosing their own books or by getting a challenge title from Library staff that they might not typically select. More than 50 patrons have already joined.

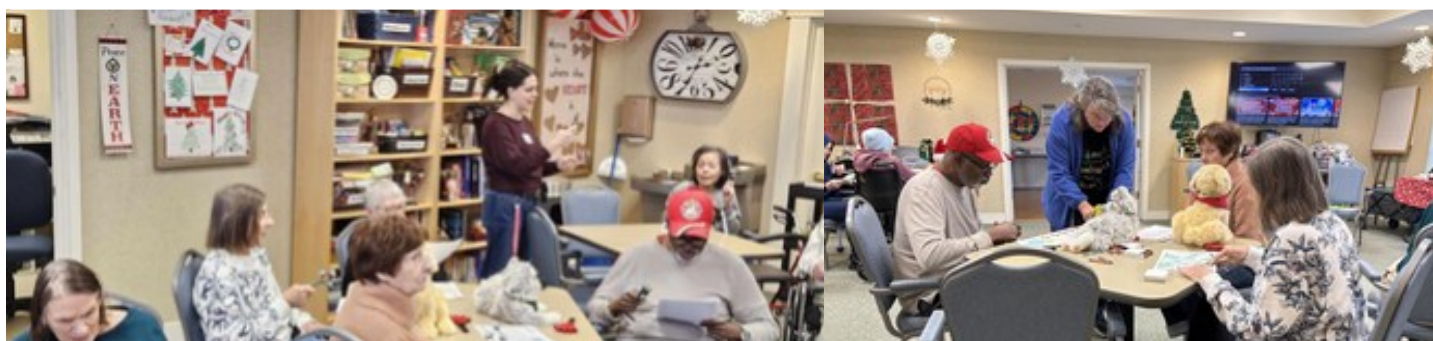
New This Year

Patrons can choose their own Winter Reading titles from the display of previous challenge titles.



New Displays in ADS

EPL offers so many great resources and not everything can fit at the front of the store, but the above mockup previews our new display that rolls out in February and seeks to highlight eContent, Extraordinary Things, book discussions and the Creative Studio in new ways. Special thanks to Zoe in Marketing for the design.



Memory Care Outreach

Christina and Hayley visited the Indigo of Elmhurst to do Memory Care programming. Residents read a short story for us, sang songs, and then made holiday cards for our Teen Volunteers.

Programming

The 2025-2026 Winter Reading Program, *Reading Takes You Places*, began on December 20. The entire department was decorated with methods of transportation and magical destinations. Thursday storytimes also highlighted this theme as children blasted off into space, packed their suitcases, and visited magical kingdoms.



Other programming highlights include a well-attended performance by outside presenter Miss Katie and a popular Hot Wheels program. The Hot Wheels program aimed to give elementary-aged kids an interactive opportunity to practice STEM concepts in an open-ended setting. Approximately 100 people participated over the 4-hour window. The jumps were most popular, followed by experimenting with different car styles.



Outreach

Nineteen Homeschool Explorers enjoyed making claymation movies. The longest film was approximately 135 frames, and some kids even made 3 or 4 movies with their characters.

Collection and Readers Advisory

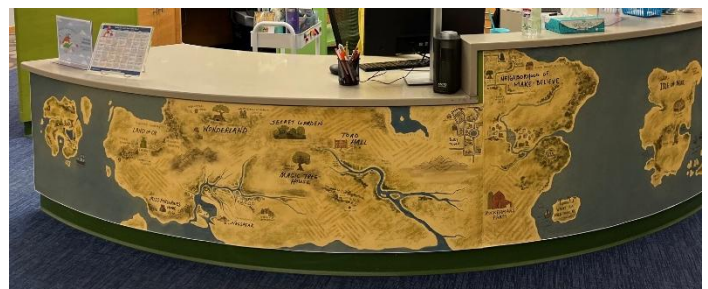
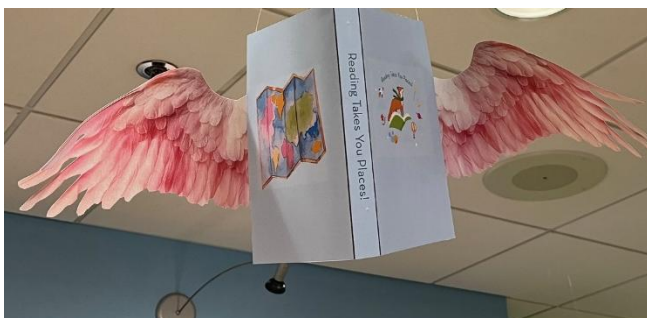
To tie into the Winter Reading Program, staff put together carefully curated lists of newer titles for preschoolers through eighth graders. These titles are displayed until the end of February. It is gratifying to see the books fly off the shelves, leaving only a placecard holder.

Staff also created a display of the “Best of Children’s Books of 2025” from a variety of sources such as *Booklist* and *School Library Journal*. This display is new this year and has been quite popular with patrons.



Department Décor

Decorations encourage visitors to imagine a trip to Dreamland, pretend they are flying a hot air balloon like in the movie *Up*, and find storyland places such as Wonderland and Middle Earth on the map at the Kids’ Help Desk.



eNews from 12/18

December Marketing Topics included:

Winter Reading

Winter Reading began Saturday, Dec. 20 for all ages!

For Adults: Choose a title from our 2nd Floor display, fill out a challenge request form, or read or listen to a book of your choice and keep track on [Beanstack](#). Each book counts toward an entry in our prize drawing.

For Teens Grades 9-12: Read or listen to a book and log it on [Beanstack](#) to be entered into a prize drawing. Any book counts!

For Kids Birth-Grade 8: Pick up a reading log from the Kids' Help Desk and see where your reading journey takes you!

Winter Stitch Along

A stitch-along is a mystery cross-stitch pattern where new parts of the design are released each week. Every Sunday, we send you the next piece until you have a completed pattern. This is an asynchronous program where everyone stitches at their own pace. This year's theme is folk art.

Find a list of materials and past weeks at elmlib.org/stitchalong.

Culinary Cupboard

Impress your friends and family around the table this year with specialty items from EPL's [Culinary Cupboard](#) collection!

Add that wow factor without the extra cost or need for storage by checking out our collection of [shaped cake pans](#) and unique kitchen gadgets like a [fondue pot](#), a [food processor](#), or [ravioli forms](#). Just borrow them from the Library, do your thing, then return!

Staff Picks: Holiday Recipes

Enjoy the sweet and savory moments of the holiday season by trying some new recipes! EPL staff are sharing some of their favorites with you.

From main dishes to desserts, we've got the fixings for delicious memories around your table. There's even a tried-and-true dog treat recipe for canine friends.

elmlib.org/staffpicks



[Elmhurst Community Blood Drive](#)
Friday, Dec. 19 • 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. • Kossmann Room
[Schedule an appointment](#) with Vitalant
Walk-ins welcome

Happy Holidays!



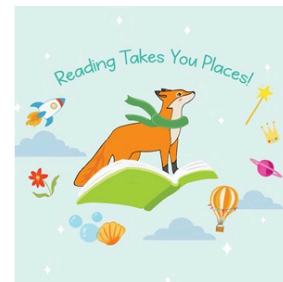
Stock up on books, games, and movies from the Library to keep everyone happily entertained over the upcoming holidays.

Holiday Closings

Wednesday, Dec. 24 • Closed
Thursday, Dec. 25 • Closed
Wednesday, Dec. 31 • Closed at 5 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 1 • Closed

Even when we're closed, our [research databases](#) and [digital options](#) are available online.

Winter Reading Takes You Places!



Winter Reading begins Saturday, Dec. 20 for all ages!

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Winter Reading

Cozy Starts Here



Wrap up 2025 on a cozy note—with Library picks that bring all the holiday comfort, without stretching your budget.

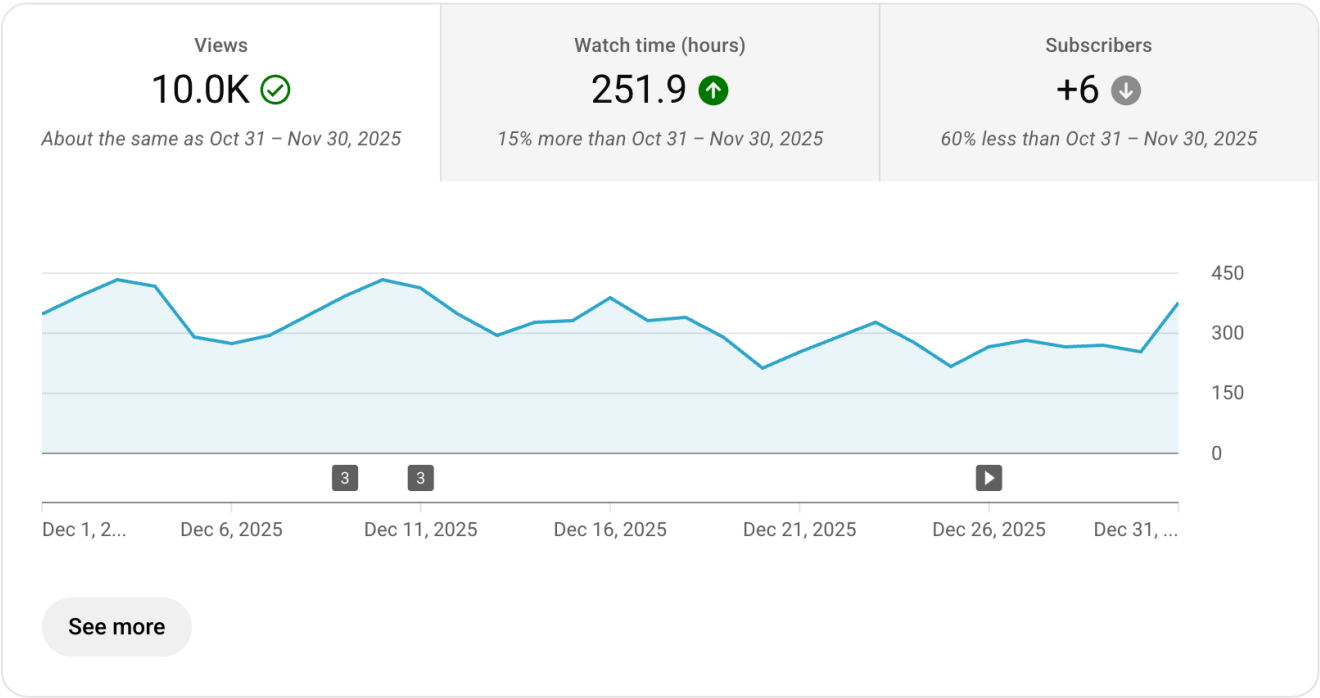
Our extensive collection of [cookbooks](#), paired with kitchen equipment from our [Culinary Cupboard](#) will have your guests asking for seconds.

Set the mood by playing soothing or festive music on the [Freegal](#) or [Naxos](#) streaming platforms.

Pick out some new-to-you or classic [board games](#) and [puzzles](#) that the whole family can enjoy!

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

In December, people watched your videos 9,979 times



Instagram

askelmhurst

askelmhurst Have you visited EPL's online gift shop lately? Find gifts for the bookworms on your gift list. We're especially loving the designs that feature [#MazeyTheFox!](#) [elmliib.org/MyEPL](#)

4w

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

Liked by [wheatonlibrary](#) and 7 others
December 11, 2025

Content Library


Post insights

Elmhurst Public Library

Published by Carol Schlundt Pavlik

December 17, 2025 at 11:28 AM


It's cozy season at the Library.



Views over time

This post

Your usual content



Views3,026

Viewers2,114

Followers vs. Non-followers

58.1%

1,758

Non-followers

41.9%

1,268

Followers

68 Interactions

67 Reactions

0 Comments

1 Shares

0 Saves

Reaction by type

60

18

0

0

0

0

0

Net follows

3

Net follows

Content Library

Post insights

Elmhurst Public Library

Published by Carol Schlundt Pavlik

December 19, 2025 at 11:44 AM

What's the best book you read in 2025?

4

13

Like

Comment

Share


Most relevant

Comment as Elmhurst Public Library

Views over time

This post

Your usual content



Views2,055

Viewers1,198

Followers vs. Non-followers

91.4%

1,879

Followers

8.6%

176

Non-followers

19 Interactions

4 Reactions

13 Comments

0 Shares

2 Saves

Reaction by type

4

0

0

0

0

0

0

Net follows

0

Net follows

MAKERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

DECEMBER 2025

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
People Counter	2,071	1,961	1,947
Equipment Reservations	349	198	302
3D Prints	105	49	76



Maker Spotlight - Book Tree

This patron used the sublimation printer to make an ornament for every book she read this year! All 100+ tiny book covers went on a special miniature christmas tree in her home.



Maker Spotlight - "Corklift"

A local inventor designed and manufactured an innovative corkscrew called the Corklift. While they could not be fabricated in the Makery, the designer has been branding them using the library's laser engraver.



Prepare to be Amazed!

These two Elmhurst University students were not prepared to be so amazed by the embroidery machine! They were enchanted by the "magic" and could not contain their excitement at seeing their ideas transformed into reality.



Maker Spotlight - Ikea Pegboard

Have you ever needed a special part, gadget, or item that just doesn't exist anywhere? If so, you might consider 3D printing. Makery staff designed and 3D printed this specialty brush holder for an Ikea pegboard.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

December 2025

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Book Discussion: Trading Titles	Book Discussion	4	2
Ageless Grace	Enrich	10	1
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Games	52	4
An Evening with Jane Austen	Books and Authors	44	1
Bead Snowman Lobby Craft	Create	25	1
Bingo	Games	5	1
Board Game Night	Enrich	17	1
Book Folding	Create	26	2
Bridge and Pinochle	Games	93	5
Canasta: Open Play	Games	54	4
Ciao Italia	Enrich	7	1
Coloring and Conversation	Create	6	1
Converting Analog to Digital	Technology	14	1
Creative Cardmaking: Winter Holidays	Create	35	3
Culture Club: A Spin Around the Globe: Right Split	Arts and Culture	20	1
Elmhurst Choral Union Chamber Singers	Music	28	1
Felt Ice Skates Lobby Craft	Create	12	1
Friday Features	Movies	36	4
In Stitches Needleworkers	Create	7	1
Jane Austen's Sanditon: From Unfinished Swan Song to British Costume Drama	Books and Authors	17	1
Library Insiders: Strictly Self-Defense	Library Insiders	10	1
Life Lessons from the Happiest People on Earth	Enrich	48	1
Memory Cafe	Enrich	4	1
Next Chapter Book Club	Inclusive	34	2
Outreach Visit: Indigo of Elmhurst		12	1
Pom Pom Gnomes Lobby Craft	Create	31	1
Restorative Sleep	Enrich	41	1
Ribbon Wreath Lobby Craft	Create	18	1
Rick "Elvis" Saucedo Blue Christmas Show	Enrich	85	1
Scrabble	Games	10	2
Staying Mentally Fit	Gather	6	1
Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament	Games	0	1
The Art of Coziness: Food, Holistic Strategies, and Seasonal Tips for a Cozier Life	Enrich	29	1
Website, Catalog, and App popup		16	2
Winter Stitch-Along	Create	729	4
TOTALS		1,585	58
Teen Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Exam Anti-Stress Kits	Teen Program	50	1
Teen Crafternoon: Winter Snow Globe	Create	6	1
TOTALS		56	2
Middle School Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
DIY Macrame Ornament	Create	8	1
Middle School Influencers	Middle School Influencers	10	1
Middle School Makers: Cozy Caps — Sublimate Your Style	Create	10	1

TOTALS		28	3
Kids' Library Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
After School Fun	Create	13	1
Baby Play Date	Storytime	2	1
C.I.T.Y. of Support Playgroup	Family, Inclusive, Outreach	15	1
Celebrate Posada: Bilingual Spanish/English Storytime	Storytime	36	1
Drop-in Craft	STEAM	64	1
Family Sensory Hour	Family	0	1
Homeschool Explorers	Homeschool	19	1
Hot Wheels: Ready, Set, Race!	STEAM	100	1
Invent a "Thing" with Makey-Makey	STEAM	15	1
Little Wiggles	Storytime	603	8
Make with Me: Unique Self Portraits	Makery	10	1
Mini Makers: Design a Bag	Makery	16	1
Miss Katie Sings	Music	81	1
Mother Goose & Me	Storytime	102	5
OUTREACH Preschool AT Kensington	Outreach	44	3
OUTREACH Preschool AT Tree Town	Outreach	33	2
Polar Express T-Trak Model Railroad	STEAM	350	2
Romp & Rhyme	Storytime	130	4
Santa @ Wilder Mansion	Outreach	100	1
Scout visit - Computer Expert	Outreach	10	1
Scout visit - Makery buttons	Outreach	16	1
Scout visit - Makery mugs	Outreach	14	1
Scout visit - Makery, laser keepsake box	Outreach	8	1
Scout Visit Makery keepsake boxes	Outreach	5	1
Storytime Takes You Places	Storytime	61	3
Winter Break Movies	Movies	46	3
TOTALS		1,893	48
Passive Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Passive Programs:			
Entertainment Station		42	4
Memory Cafe Activity Handout		10	1
Puzzles		67	1
Winter Reading in Beanstack		56	1
Recording of Memoir Writing (Online)		1	1
Recording of Leslie Goddard as Lucille Ball (Online)		169	1
Recording of Behind the Scenes of the Publishing Industry (Online)		7	1
Recording of Seems Phishy (Online)		11	1
Recording of Knife Skills II (Online)		12	1
Recording of Restorative Sleep (Online)		18	1
Recording of Life Lessons from the Happiest People (Online)		24	1
Middle School Passive Programs:			
Middle School Hangout Passive	Create	34	2
Kids' Passive Programs:			
Make & Take-Passive	Create	850	3
Stay & Play-Passive	Play	250	2

Winter Reading for K-1 (Online)	Books and Authors	72	1
Winter Reading for 2-3 (Online)	Books and Authors	56	1
Winter Reading for 4-5 (Online)	Books and Authors	50	1
		Attendance	Sessions
Adult Program Grand Total		2002	72
Total Passive Program Statistics		417	14
Total Program Statistics		1,585	58
Teen Program Grand Total		56	2
Total Passive Program Statistics		0	0
Total Program Statistics		56	2
Middle School Program Grand Total		62	5
Total Passive Program Statistics		34	2
Total Program Statistics		28	3
Kids' Program Grand Total		3,171	56
Total Passive Program Statistics		1,278	8
Total Program Statistics		1,893	48
Passive Program Total		1,729	24
Total Attendance		5,291	
Total Programs			135

STATISTICAL REPORT

December 2025

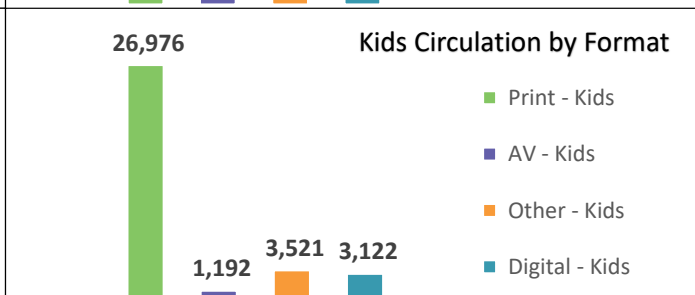
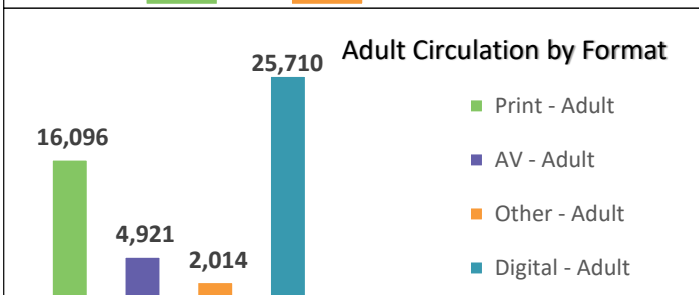
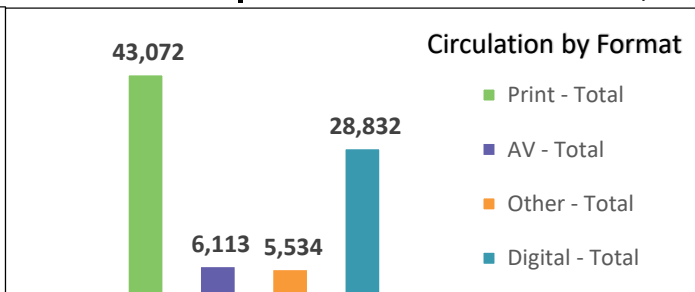
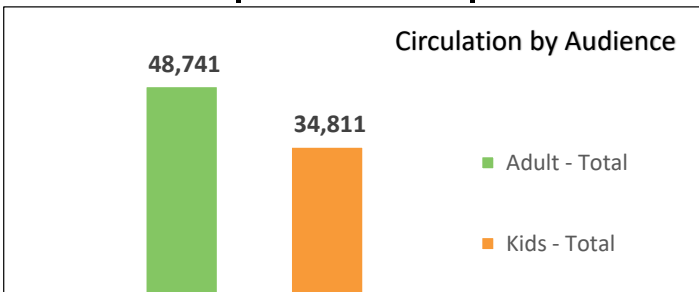
Circulation

Total Circulation
84,551 ↑ 3%
 81,719 last year
Card Holders
 25,980

Library Card Usage
9,530 ↑ 3%
 9,232 last year

Library Cards Issued
Elmhurst
 (Issued)
Reciprocal Borrower
 (Registered)
176 ↑ 18%
 149 last year
49 ↑ 20%
 41 last year

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed **1,000** ↓ -6%
 1,066 last year
Lent **495** ↑ 1%
 492 last year



Technology Usage

Public Computer Use
17,024 ↑ 14%
 14,924 last year

Website Visits
20,565 ↓ -41%
 34,614 last year

Self Checkout
 (% of checkouts)
52% ↓ -2%
 53% last year

WiFi Sessions
19,787 ↓ -6%
 21,049 last year

Reference Queries

Reference Questions Total
3,974 ↑ 10%
 3,617 last year

Reference Questions
Adult
2,808 ↑ 20%
 2,332 last year

Kids
1,166 ↓ -9%
 1,285 last year

Meeting Room Use

Library Programs
163 ↑ 14%
 143 last year

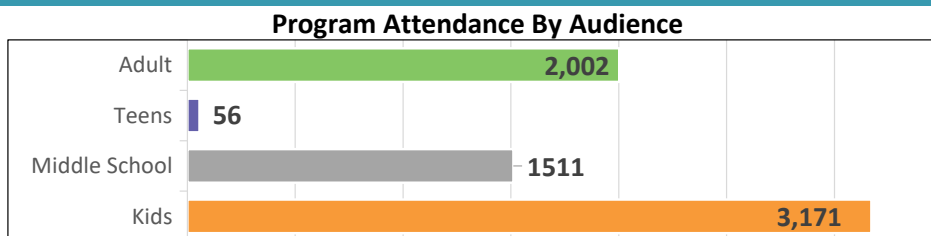
Public Meetings
75 ↑ 6%
 71 last year

Group Study Rooms
1,787 ↓ -2%
 1,824 last year

Programs

Program Attendance
6,740 ↓ -3%
 6,948 last year

Library Programs
163 ↑ 14%
 143 last year



Library Visits

Total Visits
36,397 ↓ -1%
 36,652 last year

Walk-In
34,756 ↓ -1%
 34,994 last year

Drive-Up Visits
1,641 ↓ -1%
 1,658 last year

In House Visits
Makery **2,071** ↑ 4%
 1,998 last year

Creative Studio **115** ↑ 15%
 100 last year

Monthly Comparison

Total Circulation

84,551  3%
81,719 last year

Adult Circulation

48,741  10%
44,387 last year

Kids Circulation

34,811  -4%
36,266 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,000  -6%
1,066 last year

Digital Material Circulation

28,832  46%
19,750 last year

Databases

58,036  -42%
100,635 last year

Reference Questions Total

3,974  10%
3,617 last year

One on One Tutorials

28  -3%
29 last year

Number of Programs

163  14%
143 last year

Program Attendance

6,740  -3%
6,948 last year

In-Person Visitors

34,756  -1%
34,994 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,641  -1%
1,658 last year

Year To Date Comparison

Total Circulation

1,107,995  2%
1,088,546 last year

Adult Circulation

615,620  7%
577,593 last year

Kids Circulation

478,038  -4%
495,597 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

14,337  -7%
15,357 last year

Digital Material Circulation

333,674  31%
254,936 last year

Databases

761,227  75%
435,733 last year

Reference Questions Total

54,685  4%
52,677 last year

One on One Tutorials

377  -11%
424 last year

Number of Programs

2,203  6%
2,071 last year


Program Attendance

71,224  -15%
83,959 last year

In-Person Visitors

476,300  1%
469,524 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

21,324  -1%
21,612 last year

STATISTICAL REPORT

December 2025

Collection Totals

Books and Magazines

153,264

Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

6,773

Audio Visual

25,405

Digital

223,660

Notable Happenings in Circulation

- 10 Non resident cards were purchased in December for a total of \$1305.35.
- We filled 4,063 holds this month.