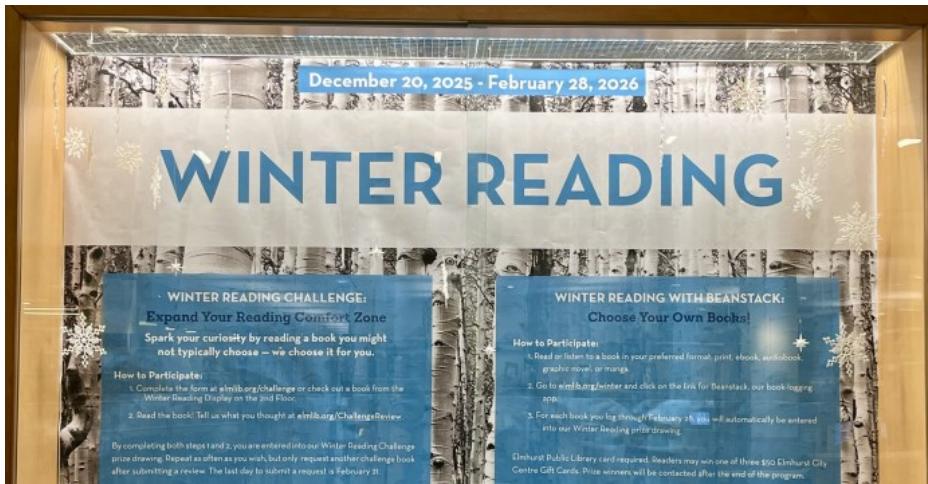


Director's Report

- 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

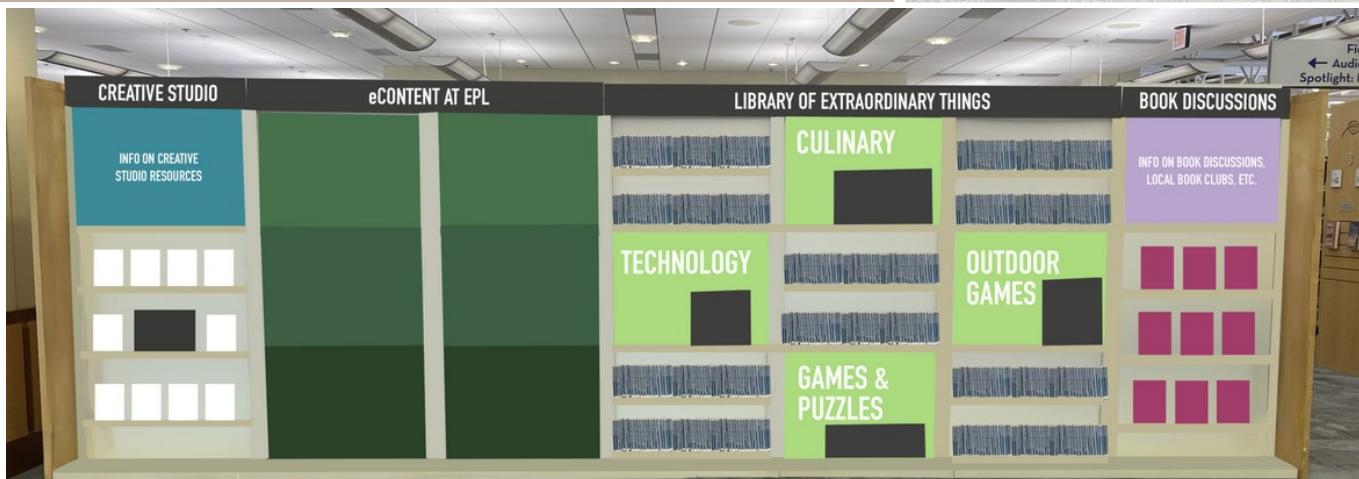


Winter Reading

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!

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 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:

YouTube

In December, people watched your videos 9,979 times



Instagram



Facebook

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: 3,026

Viewers: 2,114

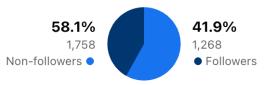
Views over time

This post Your usual content



Dec 17 Dec 19 Dec 22 Dec 24 Dec 26 Dec 29 Dec 31 Jan 2 Jan 5 Jan 7

Followers vs. Non-followers



Category	Percentage	Count
Non-followers	58.1%	1,758
Followers	41.9%	1,268

68 Interactions

67 Reactions 0 Comments 1 Shares 0 Saves

Reaction by type

Reaction Type	Count
Like	60
Love	18
Wow	0
Ha	0
Angry	0
Surprise	0
Cry	0
Sad	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 Likes 13 Shares

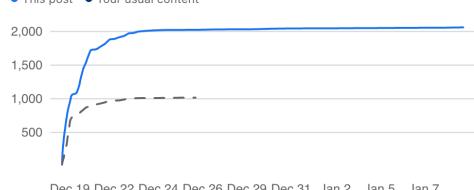
Like Comment Share

Most relevant

Comment as Elmhurst Public Library

Views over time

This post Your usual content



Dec 19 Dec 22 Dec 24 Dec 26 Dec 29 Dec 31 Jan 2 Jan 5 Jan 7

Views: 2,055

Viewers: 1,198

Followers vs. Non-followers



Category	Percentage	Count
Followers	91.4%	1,879
Non-followers	8.6%	176

19 Interactions

4 Reactions 13 Comments 0 Shares 2 Saves

Reaction by type

Reaction Type	Count
Like	4
Love	0
Wow	0
Ha	0
Angry	0
Surprise	0
Cry	0
Sad	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.



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 - "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.



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

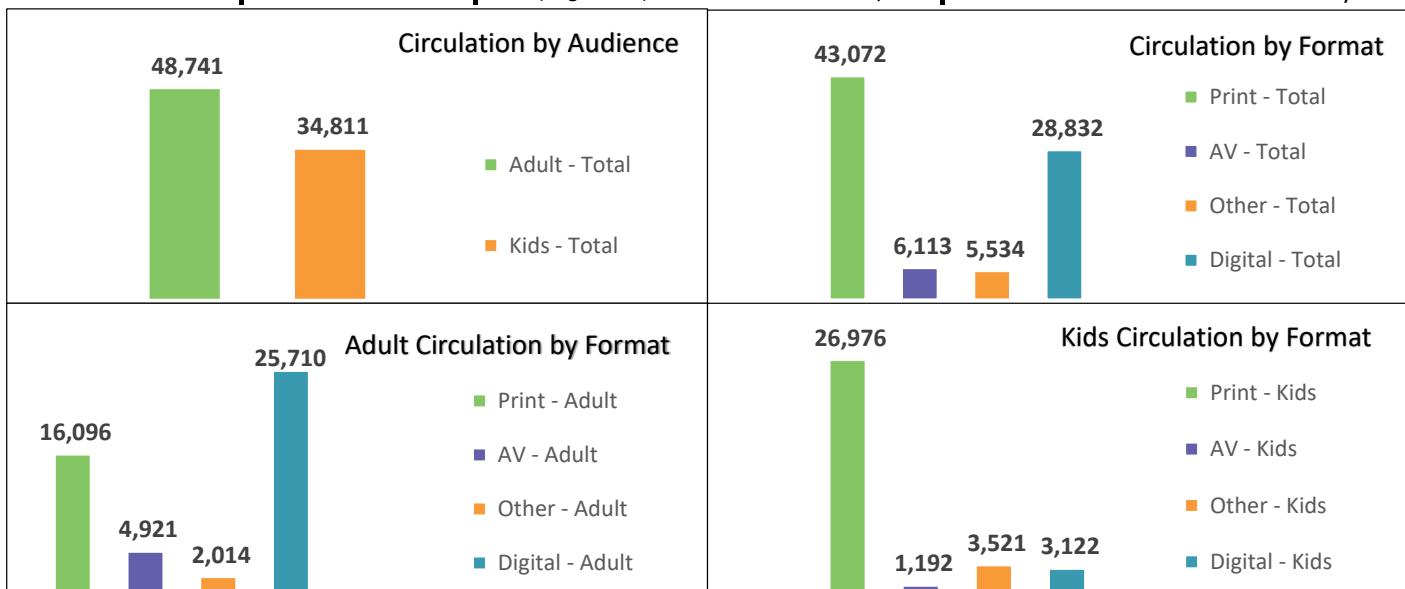
Winter Reading for K-1 (Online)	Books and Authors	72	1
Winter Reading for 2-3 (Online)	Books and Authors	56	1
Winter Reading for 4-5 (Online)	Books and Authors	50	1
		Attendance	Sessions
Adult Program Grand Total		2002	72
Total Passive Program Statistics		417	14
Total Program Statistics		1,585	58
Teen 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	Library Card Usage	Library Cards Issued	Interlibrary Loan
84,551 ▲ 3% 81,719 last year	9,530 ▲ 3% 9,232 last year	Elmhurst (Issued) 176 ▲ 18% 149 last year	Borrowed 1,000 ▼ -6% 1,066 last year
Card Holders 25,980	Reciprocal Borrower (Registered) 49 ▲ 20% 41 last year	49 ▲ 20% 41 last year	Lent 495 ▲ 1% 492 last year



Technology Usage

Public Computer Use	Website Visits	Self Checkout	WiFi Sessions
17,024 ▲ 14% 14,924 last year	20,565 ▼ -41% 34,614 last year	52% ▼ -2% 53% last year	19,787 ▼ -6% 21,049 last year

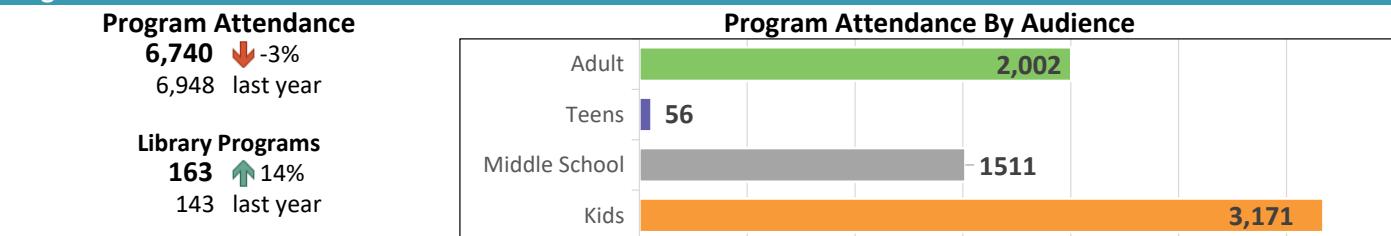
Reference Queries

Reference Questions Total	Reference Questions
3,974 ▲ 10% 3,617 last year	Adult 2,808 ▲ 20% 2,332 last year
	Kids 1,166 ▼ -9% 1,285 last year

Meeting Room Use

Library Programs	Public Meetings	Group Study Rooms
163 ▲ 14% 143 last year	75 ▲ 6% 71 last year	1,787 ▼ -2% 1,824 last year

Programs



Library Visits

Total Visits	In House Visits
36,397 ▼ -1% 36,652 last year	Makery 2,071 ▲ 4% 1,998 last year
Walk-In 34,756 ▼ -1% 34,994 last year	Drive-Up Visits 1,641 ▼ -1% 1,658 last year
	Creative Studio 115 ▲ 15% 100 last year

Dashboard

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.