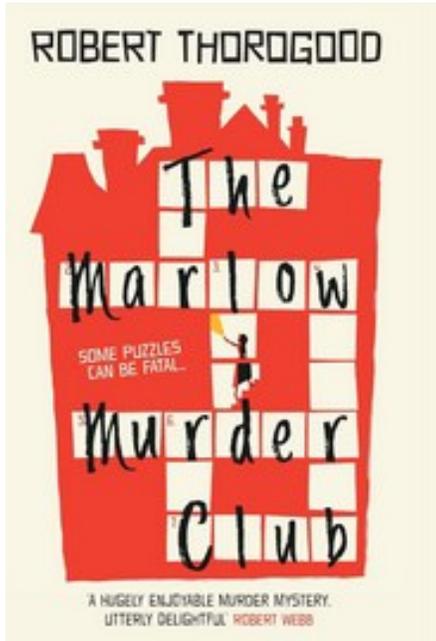


Director's Report

- Save the date! Join us Saturday, June 20, from 1–3 p.m. for our Patio Debut Party. This drop-in celebration will feature lawn games, ice cream, and entertainment. In case of rain, the event will move to Saturday, June 27.
- Coming this spring: the EPL Seed Library. A seed library allows patrons to exchange gardening seeds—an idea that's been popular in libraries for years. Elmhurst has a strong gardening tradition, and we're excited to see how this new community resource grows. Watch for the seed library's debut later this spring.
- This month's edition of *Fine Print* explores libraries as "Third Places." Third Places are public spaces beyond home, work, or school that offer opportunities to gather, connect, or reflect. The article describes libraries as "communal living rooms," serving both as casual gathering spots and places for quiet contemplation. At EPL, we offer a variety of well-appointed spaces that truly support the role of a Third Place.



Mystery Book Discussion

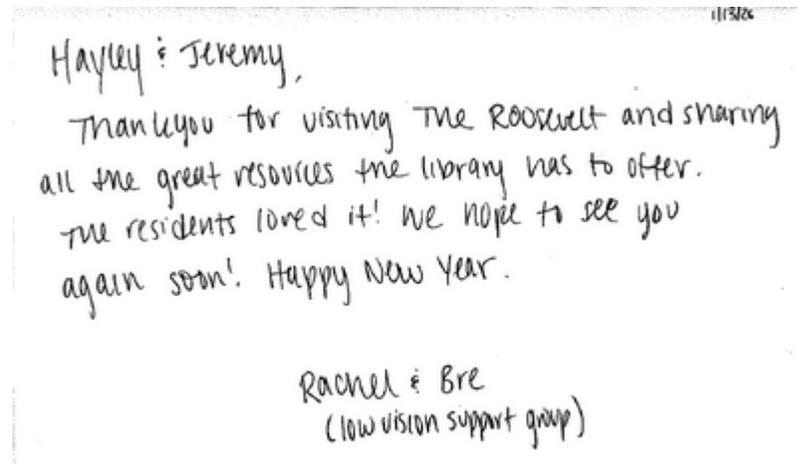
Our most recent chapter in our series of mystery discussions was the Marlow Murder Club. Anne Swanson facilitated the program. As attendees entered the room, they were greeted by a video tour of the real town of Marlow. We also shared two short video clips of an interview with the author on PBS Books, in which he talked about his writing process and his inspiration for creating the main character. They discussed not only the book, but also talked about the cozy mystery subgenre and its origin, with this book as an example. Copies of other cozy mysteries were on display for patrons to checkout. Because the main character, Judith Potts, sets cryptic crosswords for newspapers, We shared a cryptic crossword that was specially made as a companion for this book, and we also shared a guide to solving cryptic crossword clues, as this type of crossword is much more common in the UK than the U.S. Overall, a lively discussion about cozy mysteries and this novel took place, The conversation also flowed into the topic of the tv series adaptation of the book. Patrons are looking forward to the next book discussion For Mystery Lovers.

Inclusive Services Visits

Jeremy Slayton and Hayley Rightnowar visited the Roosevelt at Salt Creek to present to and interact with the Low Vision Support Group. They shared local resources and provided reading options using online resources. We were invited back in May to do tech help for accessibility tools on smart phones. They learned a lot and the group expressed appreciation with this thank you note.

Hayley also visited the Grove of Elmhurst to offer book donations and library cards.

Lastly, No Shush Movies was attended by 37 patrons from at least 4 different day groups.



Winter Reading

Thus far, staff have fulfilled 55 challenge requests and 29 challenges have been completed by patrons, including 7 from the choose your own challenge cart. Over 90 readers are participating in the Choose Your Own Books program and have logged over 535 books.

Programming

January had heavy foot traffic and featured some time-tested New Year staples: vision boards, decluttering, and giving back to the community. The January Kids' Chess Club had a full roster of 16 children after months of low attendance. We held 6 pop-up storytimes to accommodate overflow from Romp & Rhyme and Little Wiggles storytimes. A total of 89 people enjoyed Spark's Snow Day puppet show presented by the Firefly Family Theatre. The drop-in craft on January 2 had 45 participants and was a great way for us to declutter by using up odds and ends from previous crafts. Eight middle school influencers made vision boards using pictures and quotes from books and magazines.



Firefly Family Theatre



Vision Boarding



MLK Day of Service





We held our second MLK Day of Service on January 19. There was a variety of activities that patrons could participate in: decorating lunch bags for the DuPage Senior Citizen Council, making tie blankets for Lurie Children’s Hospital, assembling friendship bracelets for children at Elmhurst Hospital, producing enrichment toys for the animals at the Willowbrook Wildlife Center, creating Valentine’s cards for ADS’ outreach patrons, and decorating cards for the organization Brighten a Day. More than 130 people participated. Patrons were grateful to have a way of contributing to both local and national organizations.

Outreach

The outreach Winter Reading Program at Churchville Middle School is going well. We received the following feedback from Peg DeYoung, their school librarian

“Kids keep reaching 20 days, so more bracelets are awarded every day. I think I've given out at least 100. You really did a nice job selecting the prize. They love the bracelets. I think it's inspiring more students to keep their logs. Thanks for brightening up these grey days!”

Katie Stringwell was able to accommodate a last-minute request from EPD Courts Plus when their scheduled firefighter had to cancel. She presented a Community Helpers storytime, which she was able to re-use for an EPD Wilder visit at the end of the month.

Collection and Readers Advisory

Kids’ staff continue to brainstorm ways to market the collection through creative displays. To celebrate World Braille Day, Amanda Sheeren designed a touch-and-feel braille alphabet using dot paint sticks and a hot glue gun. To recognize the many “Best of the Best” lists Nuala Murphy created a display using lists from School Library Journal, Booklist, and the ALA Media Awards.



Braille Alphabet



January Marketing Topics included:

MLK Jr. Day of Service

Honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by building community through service projects. Over 128 participated in hands-on activities for all ages and ability level. Completed projects were donated to local organizations.

Year in Review (video)

We're taking a look back at 2025 with our Year in Review video. We're happy you were there to share the big and small moments! elmlib.org/youtube

The Top 25 of '25

The results are in ... we've calculated the top 25 books checked out from the Library in 2025. Take a peek and find out what had Elmhurst turning pages last year!

Visit the Lobby display to see the results or browse [the complete list](#) online. See something you like? Click on a book cover to place a hold.

Make a Birdseed Ornament (video)

When winter makes food scarce, a little DIY kindness goes a long way. Create a birdseed ornament that's as lovely to look at as it is helpful for your feathered friends. Watch this video to see how to make your own!
elmlib.org/youtube

eNews from 01/08



Highlights from 2025



We're taking a look back at 2025 with our Year in Review video. We're happy you were there to share the big and small moments!

Watch

Virtual Author Event



Bringing History to Life with
JONATHAN EIG
in conversation with Mark Bazer
Tue, Jan 13 | 7 PM

This event is made possible by ILP, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering high-quality events.

Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig
Tuesday, Jan. 13
7-8 p.m.
Live on Zoom

Jonathan Eig is the author of *King: A Life*, which won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for biography. *The New York Times* called King "the definitive biography" of Martin Luther King, Jr. Eig is the author of six books, four of them *New York Times* bestsellers.

Live on Zoom. Register to receive the information to join.

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present (ILP), a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events.

public libraries offering premier events.

Register

The Top 25 of '25



The results are in ... we've calculated the top 25 books checked out from the Library in 2025. Take a peek and find out what had Elmhurst turning pages last year!

Visit the Lobby display to see the results or browse [the complete list](#) online. See something you like? Click on a book cover to place a hold.

Take a trip down memory lane:

[Best of 2024](#)
[Best of 2023](#)
[Best of 2022](#)

Best of 2025

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

YouTube

In January, people watched your videos 9,392 times



Instagram

The Instagram post features a video of a building entrance with snow on the ground. The text overlay reads: "WE APPRECIATE OUR BUILDING & GROUNDS STAFF!". The post is from the account **askelmhurst** and includes the following details:

- Caption:** askelmhurst Shoutout to our Building and Grounds crew! They wasted no time this morning clearing the snow. We appreciate the way they take care of EPL inside and out. #StaffAppreciation #SnowPatrol #ElmhurstPublicLibrary #MidwestWeather
- Replies:**
 - skokielibrary: 5 stars
 - rzperona: "They are the best!"
 - fountaindalelib: "Amazing work!"
 - gabby.palo: "Let's gooooo Building & Grounds Crew!!!"
 - cora.1972: "They're the best!"
- Engagement:** 1 like, 3 replies, 196 likes.
- Buttons:** "View insights", "Boost reel", "Add a comment...", "Post".

Facebook

Content Library

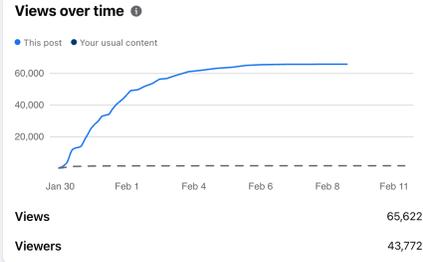
Post insights

Elmhurst Public Library
Published by Carol Schlundt Pavlik
January 30 at 11:56 AM

The results are in ... we've calculated the top 25 books checked out from the Library in 2025. Take a peek and find out what had Elmhurst turning pages last year!
See our Lobby display or visit elmlib.org/2025best for the list.



288 Reactions 12 Comments 11 Shares



356 Interactions

288 Reactions 12 Comments

11 Shares 45 Saves

Reaction by type

Like	Love	Wow	Care	Angry	Sad	Dislike
285	29	0	0	0	0	0



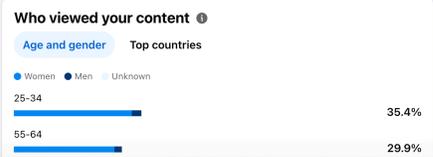
Net follows

46 Net follows

How people find your content

Traffic | Source

Not enough data to show yet.



Content Library

Post insights

Elmhurst Public Library
Published by Carol Schlundt Pavlik
January 19 at 3:39 PM

Folks braved the cold on this day honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We made fleece blankets for Lurie's Children's Hospital, decorated cards for seniors and paper lunch sacks for Meals on Wheels, and did other hands-on service projects to create community and spread kindness to others. Thank you to all who attended!



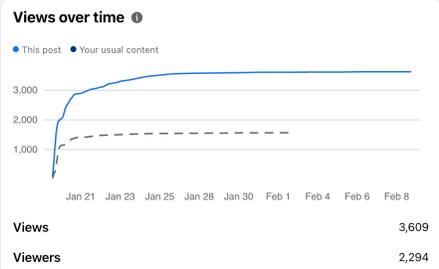
63 Reactions 1 Comment

Like Comment Share

Most relevant

Comment as Elmhurst Public Library

Laura Werly
The best library!!!



65 Interactions

63 Reactions 1 Comments

0 Shares 1 Saves

Reaction by type

Like	Love	Wow	Care	Angry	Sad	Dislike
45	19	0	0	0	0	0



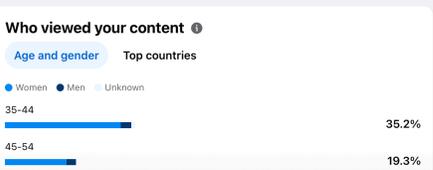
Net follows

2 Net follows

How people find your content

Traffic | Source

Not enough data to show yet.



MAKERY DEPARTMENT REPORT

JANUARY 2026

	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
People Counter	1,709	2,071	1,832
Equipment Reservations	135	349	195
3D Prints	27	105	85



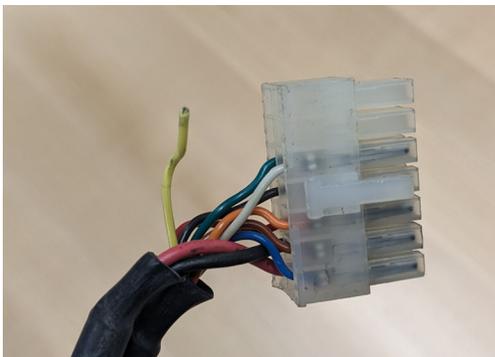
Getting Ready for February

Makery Specialist Aidan Sabatino applied a Valentine's day themed design to an apron using the sublimation printer. This will be added to our regularly rotating displays to inspire patrons in the lead up to the holiday.



DA BEARS Pop-Up

Ahead of what turned out to be the final Bears playoff game of the season, Makery staff pulled together leftover materials to prepare a pop-up craft. About a dozen patrons made "Da Bears" pennants using laser cut felt and fabric glue on the weekend of the Bears Rams game.



Laser Rotary Attachment cable



Laminator Film Saddle



Heat Press Lead Wiring Harness

Repairs, repairs, and more repairs!

January is usually good recovery time for the Makery. The holiday season always takes a toll and we need to reset, recalibrate, and repair. The staff also greatly benefit from a slow January to recharge our creative batteries and get ready for the new year. Lots of repairs are handled in-house by staff while some specialty equipment (mainly sewing machines) often require a visit from a technician.

PROGRAM STATISTICS

January 2026

Adult Programs	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's	Enrich	22	1
	Book Discussion, Book Discussion > Adult Book Discussion, Books and Authors		
Adult Book Discussion: <i>The Mighty Red</i> by Louise Erdrich	Authors	11	2
American Mah Jongg: Open Play	Games	55	4
An Evening with Paul Lisnek	Civic Engagement	23	1
Android Basics	Technology	3	1
Art Therapy Night	Create	30	1
Bingo	Games	12	1
Bridge and Pinochle	Games	73	4
Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig	Books and Authors	6	1
Canasta: Open Play	Games, Games	48	5
Chamber Concert	Enrich	71	1
Ciao Italia	Enrich	7	1
Clay Pot Snowman	Create	26	2
Coloring and Conversation	Create	5	1
Culture Club: New Zealand's South Island: A Remote Jewel	Enrich	28	1
EPL Stitch-Along Meetup	Create	3	2
For Mystery Lovers: <i>The Marlow Murder Club</i> by Robert Thorogood	Book Discussion	7	1
Friday Features	Movies	50	5
Genealogy: FamilySearch	Enrich	10	1
Great Decisions	Enrich	19	1
GreenMan Theatre Presents: Travel Stories	Enrich	39	1
Houseplant Basics	Enrich	45	1
Improvise Jane Austen	Arts and Culture	32	1
In Stitches Needleworkers	Create	12	1
iPhone iOS	Technology	9	1
Knitting for Beginners	Create	18	2
Library Insiders: Bingo	Library Insiders	14	1
Library Insiders: No Shush Movie	Library Insiders	37	1
Lyric Opera Winter Preview	Arts and Culture	6	1
Memory Cafe	Enrich	2	1
Next Chapter Book Club	Inclusive	33	2
Outreach Visit: Roosevelt Salt Creek	Inclusive	25	1
Outreach Visit: The Grove of Elmhurst	Inclusive	20	1
Photoshop Elements	Technology	6	1
Puzzle Speed Challenge	Enrich	72	2
Resume Review	Career & Job Hunting	1	1
Scrabble	Games	16	2
Seasonal Soups 101	Enrich	119	1
Staying Mentally Fit	Gather	11	1
Stop Procrastinating: 10 Things to Toss	Consumer	97	1
The Great Outdoors Book Discussion: <i>A Walk in the Woods</i> by Bill Bryson	Book Discussion	7	1
The Lake Michigan Triangle	Enrich	58	1
The Politics of Tea: The East India Company and British Tea Culture	Books and Authors	44	1

Trading Card Games	Enrich	8	1
Travel Planning and Budgeting	Consumer	31	1
Watercolor: Winter Snow	Create	30	2
Website, Catalog, and App popup		16	2
TOTALS		1,317	70
Makery Program			
	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Winter Greeting Cards	Create	16	1
TOTALS		16	1
Teen Programs			
	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament	Games > Video Games,	1	1
TAG	Teen Program	6	1
Teen Crafternoon: Junk Journals	Create, Teen Program	2	1
TOTALS		9	3
Middle School Programs			
	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Middle School Influencers	Middle School Influencers	8	1
Switch Sports Showdown	Games	11	1
TOTALS		19	2
Kids' Library Programs			
	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
1000 Books Before Kindergarten Kick-Off Party	Books and Authors	25	1
After School Fun	Create	6	1
Baby Play Date	Storytime	0	1
C.I.T.Y. of Support Playgroup	Family	18	1
Drop-in Craft	STEAM	45	1
Drop-in Lego	Create	7	1
Family Sensory Hour	Family	11	1
Firefly Family Theatre: Spark's Snow Day	Family	89	1
Fun for 3s, 4s, and 5s	Storytime	42	4
Homeschool Explorers	Homeschool	13	1
I Survived at the Library!	Books and Authors	15	1
Kids' Chess Club	Games	16	1
Little Wigglers	Storytime	540	8
Madison Event: Parent Education Day	Outreach	20	1
Make with Me: Unique Self Portraits	Makery	11	1
Maker Kids: Create a Book Journal	Create	21	2
MLK Day of Service	Civic Engagement	128	1
Mother Goose & Me	Storytime	50	4
OUTREACH Preschool AT EPD Courts Plus	Outreach	13	1
OUTREACH Preschool AT EPD Crestview	Outreach	10	1
OUTREACH Preschool AT EPD Wilder	Outreach	14	1
Pop-up Storytime	Storytime	150	7
Puzzle-Palooza	STEAM	42	1
Read to the Dogs	Books and Authors	36	1
Romp & Rhyme	Storytime	329	9
Scout visit - Friendly & Helpful Tour	Outreach	21	1
Scout visit Computer Expert	Outreach	36	2
Scout visit Makery buttons	Outreach	14	1
Snowy Science	STEAM	12	1
TOTALS		1,734	58
Passive Programs			
	Primary Event Type	Attendance	Sessions
Adult Passive Programs:			

Entertainment Station		31	4
Memory Cafe Activity Handout		20	1
Puzzles		73	1
Recording of 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's (Online)		42	1
Recording of FamilySearch (Online)		4	1
Recording of Houseplant Basics (Online)		34	1
Recording of Lake Michigan Triangle (Online)		37	1
Winter Reading in Beanstack		39	1
Winter Stitch-Along (Online)		735	4
Middle School Passive Programs:			
Middle School Hangout	Create	35	2
Kids' Passive Programs:			
Stay & Play	Play	155	2
Make & Take	Create	634	3
		Attendance	Sessions
Adult Program Grand Total		2348	86
Total Passive Program Statistics		1,015	15
Total Program Statistics		1,333	71
Teen Program Grand Total		9	3
Total Passive Program Statistics		0	0
Total Program Statistics		9	3
Middle School Program Grand Total		54	4
Total Passive Program Statistics		35	2
Total Program Statistics		19	2
Kids' Program Grand Total		2,523	63
Total Passive Program Statistics		789	5
Total Program Statistics		1,734	58
Passive Program Total		1,839	22
Total Attendance		4,934	
Total Programs			156

STATISTICAL REPORT

January 2026

Circulation

Total Circulation
94,627 ↓ -2%
 96,814 last year

Card Holders
 26,109

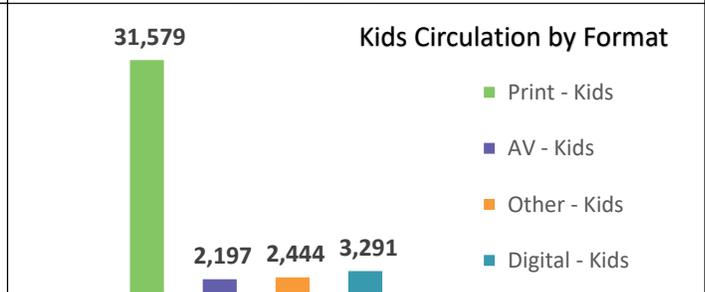
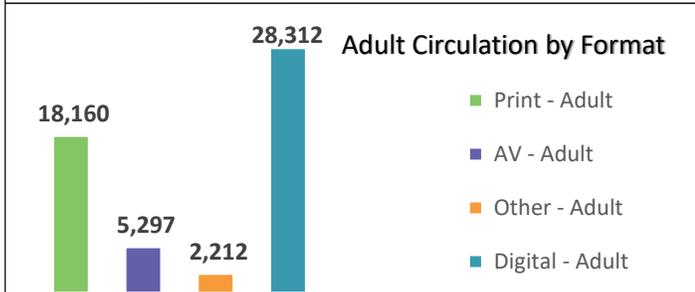
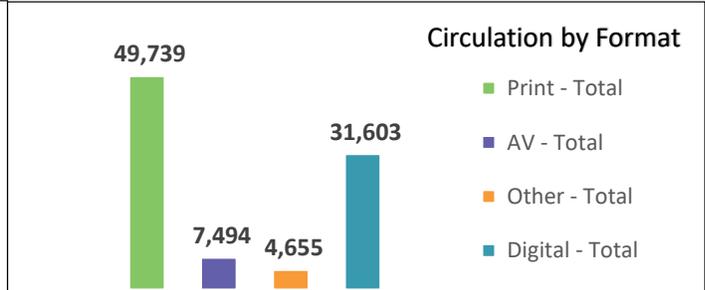
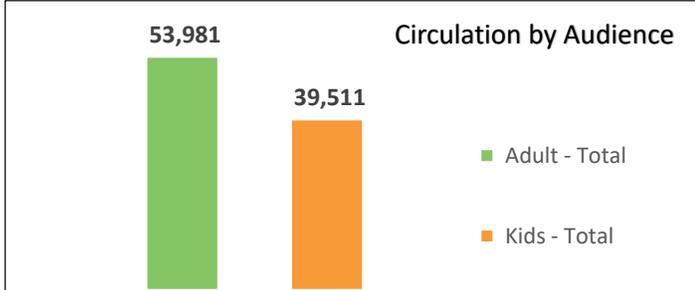
Library Card Usage
9,859 ↑ 2%
 9,683 last year

Library Cards Issued
Elmhurst
 (Issued)
166 ↓ -21%
 209 last year

Reciprocal Borrower
 (Registered)
43 ↓ -12%
 49 last year

Interlibrary Loan
Borrowed **1,136** ↓ -18%
 1,390 last year

Lent **544** ↓ -10%
 607 last year



Technology Usage

Public Computer Use
17,114 ↑ 17%
 14,621 last year

Website Visits
22,897 ↓ -36%
 35,970 last year

Self Checkout
 (% of checkouts)
54% ↑ 4%
 52% last year

WiFi Sessions
19,949 ↓ -1%
 20,189 last year

Reference Queries

Reference Questions Total
4,675 ↑ 2%
 4,566 last year

Reference Questions
Adult
3,064 ↑ 3%
 2,970 last year

Kids
1,611 ↑ 1%
 1,596 last year

Meeting Room Use

Library Programs
156 ↑ 1%
 155 last year

Public Meetings
88 → 0%
 88 last year

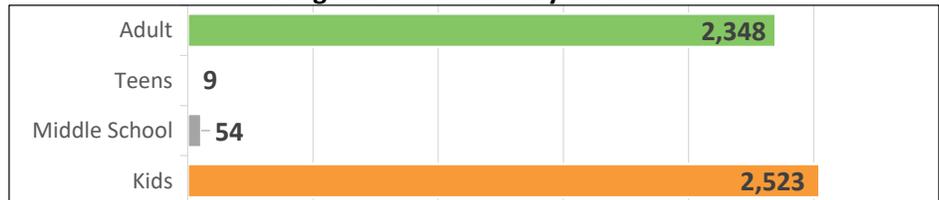
Group Study Rooms
1,848 ↓ -5%
 1,939 last year

Programs

Program Attendance
4,934 ↓ -4%
 5,122 last year

Library Programs
156 ↑ 1%
 155 last year

Program Attendance By Audience



Library Visits

Total Visits
36,650 ↓ -3%
 37,676 last year

Walk-In
34,749 ↓ -3%
 35,763 last year

Drive-Up Visits
1,901 ↓ -1%
 1,913 last year

In House Visits
Makery **1,709** ↓ -7%
 1,832 last year

Creative Studio **94** ↓ -14%
 109 last year

Monthly Comparison

Total Circulation

94,627 -2%
96,814 last year

Adult Circulation

53,981 -4%
56,428 last year

Kids Circulation

39,511 1%
38,997 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,136 -18%
1,390 last year

Digital Material Circulation

31,603 6%
29,675 last year

Databases

20,009 -68%
62,741 last year

Reference Questions Total

4,675 2%
4,566 last year

One on One Tutorials

43 -2%
44 last year

Number of Programs

156 1%
155 last year

Program Attendance

4,934 -4%
5,122 last year

In-Person Visitors

34,749 -3%
35,763 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,901 -1%
1,913 last year

Year To Date Comparison

Total Circulation

94,627 -2%
96,814 last year

Adult Circulation

53,981 -4%
56,428 last year

Kids Circulation

39,511 1%
38,997 last year

ILL Borrowed from Other Libraries

1,136 -18%
1,390 last year

Digital Material Circulation

31,603 6%
29,675 last year

Databases

20,009 -68%
62,741 last year

Reference Questions Total

4,675 2%
4,566 last year

One on One Tutorials

43 -2%
44 last year

Number of Programs

156 1%
155 last year

Program Attendance

4,934 -4%
5,122 last year

In-Person Visitors

34,749 -3%
35,763 last year

Drive-Up Visitors

1,901 -1%
1,913 last year

Collection Totals

Books and Magazines

152,386

Library of Extraordinary Things and Electronics

6,825

Audio Visual

25,225

Digital

222,138

Notable Happenings in Circulation

- 18 non-resident cards were purchased in January for a total of \$1449.39.
 - We have 236 non-resident library cardholders (patrons living in unincorporated Elmhurst).
- There are 72 library cards currently issued to Elmhurst businesses.
- There are 131 non-resident library users working in Elmhurst that have signed up for "Work Perks" privileges.
- We filled 5,147 holds this month.