

Elmhurst Public Library Annual Report

Fiscal Year May 2003 – April 2004



The new library opened at 125 S. Prospect Ave. on Oct. 4, 2003.

Your new library

It was a momentous year in the history of the Elmhurst Public Library! After a fond farewell to the Wilder Mansion, the library was closed for a month in September to move over three miles of books and other items to the new building. The new library opened on October 4, 2003.

At 80,000 square feet, this building is more than double the size of the former library. The exterior is rough-cut Lannon stone and limestone. The new library offers public meeting rooms, silent and group study rooms, more computers and seating, a computer lab, drive-up window, easier access for those with special needs and much more.

Library collections

Books	232,987
Paperbacks	9,601
Magazine/Newspaper Subscriptions	647
Audiobooks	6,292
Cassettes	5,200
CDs	1,017
MP3s	75
Music	11,248
Cassettes	2,352
CDs	8,896
Movies	11,394
Videocassettes	9,506
DVDs	1,888
CD-ROMs	1,199
Computer Software	19

Budget

Revenue

Total revenue	\$5,255,000
Property tax	\$4,685,000
Replacement tax	\$180,000
(includes funds to repay construction bonds)	
Grants, gifts, interest, fines, fees and miscellaneous revenue	\$390,000

Expenditures

Total operating expenditures	\$3,846,000
Books	\$539,000
Music, Movies and Audiobooks	\$92,000
Magazines/Newspapers	\$42,000
Salaries/Benefits	\$2,573,000
Other general operating expenses including utilities, supplies, equipment, repairs, program fees	\$600,000
Bond repayment	\$1,068,000

(Budget figures are unaudited.)

New library opens to record year!

Record number of visitors

—Each week thousands of people visit the new library. We’ve had a 30% increase in foot traffic in the new library compared to the former building. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January almost 2,000 people visited—just under 5% of Elmhurst’s population.

Items checked out

—Even though the library was closed for a month, people checked out 985,000 items this year—with a 14% increase in circulation since October.

Library cards

—This year we’ve given out 4,500 new library cards. More than 2,000 cards were issued in just the first three months the new building was open.

—At the end of the fiscal year, 27,300 people had Elmhurst Public Library cards—almost 64% of Elmhurst residents.

Questions answered

—Librarians answered more than 72,000 questions this year—with the number of questions increasing 45% since October.

Reaching out to the community

Supporting our schools

—In May 2003, staff visited 12 schools to encourage almost 4,000 students to join a “Readers on the Move” Summer Reading Club.

—Also in May, staff hosted 17 parties at the library to congratulate 544 first graders on learning to read.

—Over 5,200 books and other items were borrowed by Elmhurst teachers for classroom use.

Meeting rooms

—The library’s meeting rooms have been available to non-profit groups and businesses holding non-commercial meetings since January 2004. From January through the end of April 2004 there were almost 140 public meetings held at the library.

Outreach services

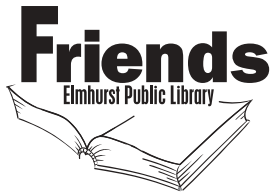
—This year we sent more than 2,100 books and other items to homebound Elmhurst residents and to locations such as senior housing, extended care facilities & an adult respite care house.

—In addition, people regularly check out Aladdin and Prisma magnifiers and other items designed for persons with special needs.

Special thanks

To the "Friends"

- The hugely successful "Toast the New Library with Friends" gala fundraiser held by the Friends of the Elmhurst Public Library a few days before the library opened raised over \$20,000 for the library.
- The Friends donated \$7,000 to the 2003 Summer Reading Program.
- They dedicated the two benches outside the east entrance and purchased a professional-level electronic keyboard for library programs.



To volunteers

- More than 20 volunteer tour docents gave hundreds of daily tours the first weeks the library was open.
- 130 middle school students volunteered 1,900 hours during the summer to help with the Summer Reading and Book Buddies Programs.
- Every week volunteers deliver items to homebound residents and other outreach locations.

To donors

- Many local businesses, organizations and individuals donated coupons, raffle prizes and over \$2,000 to the Summer Reading Program.
- More than \$100,000 was donated this year for dedications in the new library.

Programs for everyone

- More than 22,200 children and parents enjoyed storytimes, book talks, puppetry workshops and other children's programs this year.
- About 2,000 teens and adults enjoyed attending computer classes, slide shows, book discussions, opera lectures and other programs.
- On Grand Opening Day, 450 children and adults participated in the "Last Book Brigade." They passed hand-to-hand the last book to be moved from the old library to the new building.
- During the Grand Opening week, the library offered 29 programs attended by 1,280 people on a wide variety of subjects including musical and dance performances, author visits, children's programs, comedy acts, a panel discussion for seniors and business programs.
- More than 4,000 children joined the "Readers on the Move" Summer Reading Program, and 1,300 teen and adult book logs were distributed.



The new library's Storytime Room

New technology @ your library

Computer use

- More than 14,000 people have used the new library's 71 public computers. About 4,000 people use the computers every month.
- On average, the new computers are used for approximately 200 hours every day!
- Many people bring their laptops to the library for free wireless and plug-in access to the Internet, available throughout the building.

Web site

- The library's Web site home page has received over 100,000 hits this past year.



More than 240 students attended hands-on computer classes in the new computer lab from January through April 2004.

- The most popular items on the library's Web site include the catalog, information databases and lists of reading suggestions.

Computer classes

- More than 240 people have attended 17 hands-on computer classes on how to use a computer, search the Internet, use the library's catalog and use Microsoft Word.
- The lab has 15 computers for students plus one for the instructor. During busy times, the lab is opened to the public for regular computer use.

Library hours:

- Monday-Friday
9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Saturday
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Sunday
1-5 p.m.

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Exterior and Storytime Room photos © 2003 David B. Seide: Defined Space, Chicago

Elmhurst Public Library

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