

ELYRIA PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT



20
23

EPL Mission:

To connect, engage, and inspire all with intellectual and creative opportunities.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 3,060** Library cards issued
- 103** Pick 6 cards issued
- 22,256** Hoopla checkouts
- 124,425** Libby checkouts
- 1,393** Kanopy plays
- 541,591** Library checkouts
- 195,246** Library visitors
- 1,585** Programs offered
- 23,365** Attended programs
- 93,535** Reference questions
- 157** Hotspots borrowed
- 3,624** Drive-thru visits
- 315,727** Website views
- 89,894** Users visiting website
- 37,653** Computers used
- 63,596** Wireless sessions
- 770** Reference interactions using virtual chat
- 4,000+** Social media followers
- 323** Passports completed
- 105** Persons using EPL notary services
- 894** Registered for summer reading
- 5,896+** Hours read by children and teens over the summer
- 2,330** Books read by adults in summer



MOST CHECKED OUT E-MEDIA OF 2023

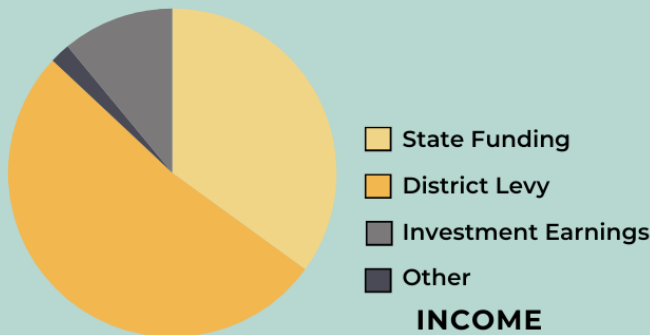
- eBook on Libby** *Verity* by Colleen Hoover
- Audiobook on Libby** *I'm Glad my Mom Died* by Jennette McCurdy
- Audiobook on hoopla** *Spare* by Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex
- eBook on hoopla** *Ugly Love* by Colleen Hoover

MOST CHECKED OUT BOOKS OF 2023

- Top Adult Fiction** *Archangel's Kiss* by Nalini Singh
- Top Adult Non-Fiction** *The Princess Bride: the Official Cookbook* by Jenn Fujikawa
- Top Children's Book** *I Can Be Anything* by Annie Auerbach
- Top Teen Book** *Crown of Midnight: a Throne of Glass novel* by Sarah J. Maas

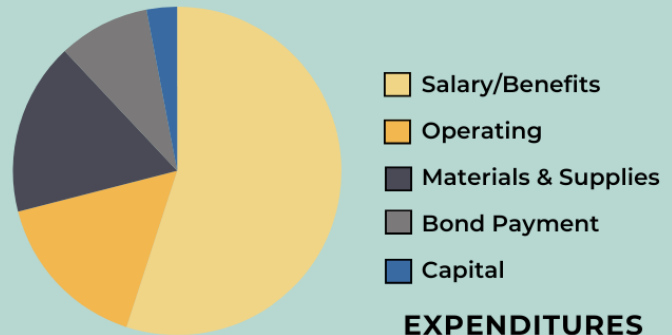
BY THE BOOK FISCAL REPORT

INCOME



Category	Amount	Percentage
State Funding	\$2,356,020	35%
District Levy	\$3,498,125	52%
Investment Earnings	\$743,115	11%
Other	\$161,610	2%
TOTAL	\$6,758,870	100%

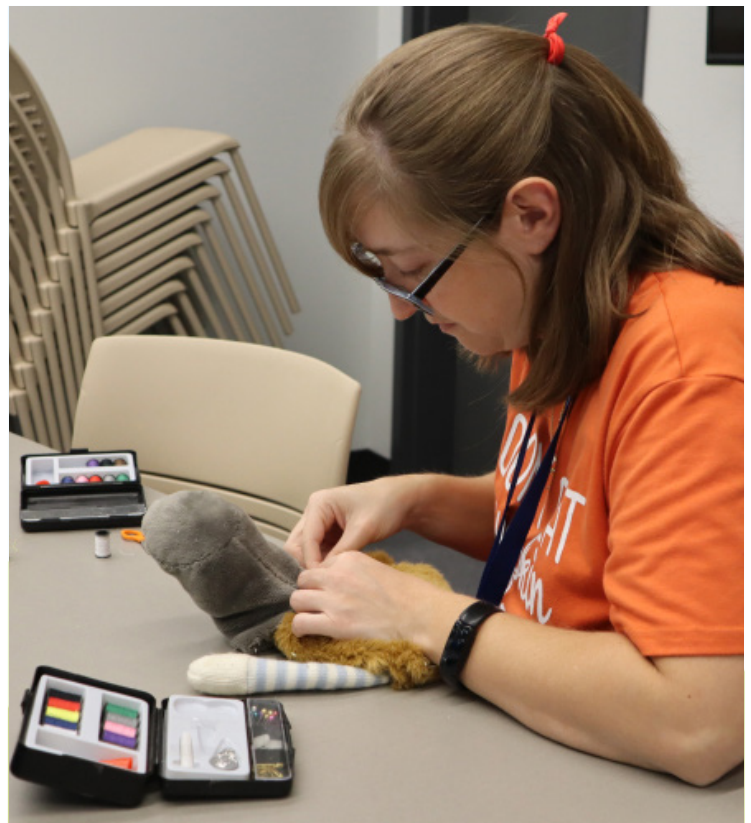
EXPENDITURES



Category	Amount	Percentage
Salary/Benefits	\$3,063,890	55%
Operating	\$908,305	16%
Materials & Supplies	\$503,290	9%
Bond Payment	\$919,635	17%
Capital	\$193,075	3%
TOTAL	\$5,588,195	100%

CENTRAL

- Purchased five furniture displays with funds from the EPL Foundation. These displays will feature newly purchased materials and trending topics.
- Reconfigured staffing at Information Services to better serve our community.
- Welcomed the return of our most popular speakers and programs from 2022: Lorain County Historical Society, Friendship APL, Kumihimo, Yoga for EVERY Body, and Medicare 101. On top of these returning speakers, we also featured new speakers: Looking at Elyria History with Ebony Eyes with Shirley Brown-Reeder, Women in History, Western Reserve Historical Society, the Largely Literary Theater Company, Sharon's Signers, and the Victor Samalot Duo.
- Participated in EPL's Warming Basket project. Like West River, Central set out a basket of yarn and encouraged patrons to take a skein to create a warming item like a hat or gloves, and we would in turn set the item out for patrons in need. Central received a donation of 200 hand-knit hats which all managed to find homes for those in need.
- Had the highest usage of patron computers throughout EPL with nearly 13,000 uses.
- Helped introduce and refine hotspot circulation.
- Shelf read the entire collection for accuracy to keep our shelves in order and easy to use.
- Hosted Wizard Wonder Day in collaboration with Elyria Community Partnership and Elyria Arts Council to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the U.S. publication of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Nearly 200 attendees enjoy a day of magic, wizardry, and wonder.
- Added a Wiggle and Giggles playgroup for ages 0 - 3. Our playgroup was designed to encourage as well as educate parents on growth and literacy development.
- Planned and implemented an Adapted Story Time designed for children ages 3 - 7 who may not be successful in a typical story time experience.



WEST RIVER

- Partnered with VITA/United Way to host another highly successful tax season. 758 tax returns were filed bringing \$739,117 to Lorain County.
- In partnership with the U.S. Department of State, completed 325 passports...a new record for us!
- Hosted the American Red Cross 7 times, collecting 172 units during the blood drives.
- The Friends of the Elyria Public Library sponsored Cleveland Seed Bank. The reference staff gave out 1,000 seed packets. The Friends also sponsored the Community Garden, where Garden Squad members prepped the beds, planted, watered, and weeded and harvested vegetables, many which were given to our patrons at our service desks. We also partnered with OSU Extension Service Master Gardner Sandy Kantelas for gardening-themed programs.
- Expanded the Giving Basket project to all EPL locations. Yarn was distributed to patrons who donated their finished products to the branches, where other patrons who needed hats, scarves and gloves were able to take what they needed.
- Received a Thinking Money for Kids grant, worth \$2,000. The kit they received is an expertly vetted programming resource to help EPL offer financial education to children ages 3-12. It is from ALA and FINRA Investor Education Foundation. Programming will begin in 2024.
- Hosted nearly 1,000 children and their caregivers at story times this year.
- Welcomed local teen author Justin Reynolds to EPL during National Library Week. Justin shared his love of libraries, reading, and writing.
- West River remains the host site of the National Library Week Annual Tea. More than 40 participants gathered together with Women in History's Jackie Kennedy to learn about the Kennedy era while sipping tea in the afternoon.
- Kids, and teens visited the library for fun activities, especially for themed Escape Rooms.
- Tasting Tuesdays remains a popular program series. February's Hot Chocolate Around the World themed event had had a roomful of excited tasters.
- Other popular programs included Legal Aid Society, Barn Yard Petting Zoo, Our World Alpacas, Annual Craft Swap, The Science of Sasquatch, and Insights into the Unknown.



SOUTH

- Planned and executed the Mural Project, bringing together members of the community and staff to help beautify South Elyria.
- Helped plan and hosted the Elyria Chess Club which consistently brought several families to the library, some of which have become regular visitors and users.
- Had over 1,500 visits to The Freedged and consistently provided food to people in need throughout the entire year.
- Formalized partnership with South Side Pride and have begun providing programming to those students upon their visits, enhancing the value for them.



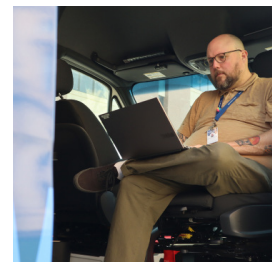
KEYSTONE

- Increased patron access and staff safety by moving the outdoor book lockers from the drive thru to the front of our building.
- Held the 2nd Annual Big Rigs program using community and county services (schools, police, fire, EMS, public works) to let children see what it's like to sit in the driver's seat.
- Hosted Keystone Local Schools' five 1st grade classes where we introduced kids to our services, let them explore the children's room, and sent them home with library card applications.
- Hosted Keystone Empowers You's (KEY) Produce Pickup, where more than 100 bags allowed access to fresh fruits and vegetables. KEY is a community collaborative powered by United Way.



EWOC

- Arrived in February of 2023 and began collaborations with Family Planning Services, Lorain County Office on Aging, Lorain County Urban League, Elyria Parks & Rec, Lorain County Metro Parks, and Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority.
- Selected for and attended a special event for the Ohio State Library Board, to showcase ARPA-funded projects.
- Partnered with The Urban League on an initiative and event to sign individuals up for the Affordable Connectivity program.
- Attended the Lorain County Senior Expo. Manager Matt Bahnsen was selected as a break-out speaker for the event.



OUTREACH

- Bookmobile received a fresh new look with a rewrap of the vehicle and new awning.
- Partnered with Keystone Empowers You (KEY) collaborative to replace all of the display cases along the Story Stroll at the LaGrange Community Park.
- Bookmobile visited all public elementary schools in both Elyria and LaGrange, providing reading materials for the elementary students and teachers.
- Participated in Safety Town in 2023 in both Elyria and LaGrange communities by providing story times and giving tours of the bookmobile.
- Hosted monthly story times for all Elyria Public School students in Kindergarten and 1st grade.
- Presented more than 25 story times at LCCC Child Center with 400+ children attending.
- Represented EPL at special events held on the LCCC campus, such as LCCC Health Fair and Neighborhood Alliance's Family Fun Festival, seeing more than 200 community members.



2023 CHAPTER SUMMARY

NEW SERVICES & COLLECTIONS

- Hotspots | Based on their popularity, EPL doubled its hotspot collection in order to keep up with the demand from our community.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Implemented programs and services to focus on the connect and engage aspects of EPL's strategic plan. Helped connect community members with access to more technology such as hotspots; with each other by offering socialization-based programs; and with our collection by displaying more materials. Engaged more with our community by offering more programs based on survey feedback; by engaging more with local agencies such as Office on Aging and Murray Ridge; and by adding targeted audience programs.

GRANTS & COLLABORATIVE FUNDING

- Thinking Money for Kids Program Kit | The American Library Association (ALA) and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation announced EPL among the 300 public libraries that will receive a Thinking Money for Kids Program Kit, a collection of expertly vetted programming resources to help libraries offer financial education for children ages 3 to 12. Nearly 600 libraries applied for this competitive first-of-its-kind program kit, which includes materials for the libraries to host five in-person children's programs as well as a set of digital games on tablet computers that can be checked out for home use.
- 1,000 Book Reading Challenge | EPL received \$7,000 in funding from Ready, Set, Go...to Kindergarten (RSG). The funding is for a period of two years to re-establish the 1,000 Book reading initiative for ages 0 - 5. RSG is a community collaborative focused on improving kindergarten readiness for children in the Elyria City School District powered by United Way of Greater Lorain County.
- Storybook Stroll | EPL received approximately \$4,500 in funding from Keystone Empowers You (KEY). The funding purchased a renewed permanent storybook stroll for LaGrange Community Park. Storybook Stroll combines family time, physical activity, and literacy in a fun, interactive walk in nature. Through this experience, we hope to inspire a lifelong love of reading and the great outdoors! KEY is community collaborative aimed at increasing access to and awareness of physical activity and nutrition powered by United Way of Greater Lorain County.

While a few paragraphs cannot put into words all of what the Library accomplished and offered, we are excited for a new year as we continue to grow alongside our community. We hope you continue to visit us!

