

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





from the director

With the world finally seeing the end of the pandemic, 2022

was a year for renewal,

reimagining, and

recharging. The Wheaton

Public Library (WPL) Board of Trustees, staff, and I embraced every opportunity to renew, reimagine, and recharge WPL. Grants were written, programs went hybrid, staff was redeveloped, policies were reviewed, increased arts and culture opportunities were embraced, and partnerships grew. It is with great pride to report that our efforts paid off and library cardholders increased 11%, library attendance increased 32%, and collections grew 6%.

WPL patrons are using the library differently today than just three years ago. Patrons are coming into the library regularly to play bridge, buy a cup of coffee, visit a tutor, meet a friend, pick up a 3D print job, play a video game, use a study room, conduct a Zoom interview, and much more. The world truly did change in 2020 and 2021, and WPL has adapted by recognizing

the needs of people have changed as well. When people ask me if libraries are going away, I say: "No, we are only getting started." WPL is for everyone and I am proud that all who visit are welcome and truly do belong. Please enjoy this 2022 Annual Report, as it represents the work that the Library Board, staff, and I did together to grow our library. Please know that your voice matters to me and my office door is open to you for any suggestions and ideas.

Betsy Adamowski, Executive Library Director

When people ask me if libraries are going away, I say: "No, we are only getting started."

mission statement

Wheaton Public Library is a welcoming destination that connects the community to literacy, information, ideas and experiences. Grow with us!

Library Board of Trustees

Laurie Metanchuk, *President*

Alan Herbach, *Vice President*

Vallari Talapatra, *Secretary*

Christine Fenne, *Treasurer*

Simone Morton,

Robert Lyon

Stephen Siemer

Kathryn Staron

year highlights

Selected for a \$750,000 Economic Development Initiative / Community Project Funding Grant to upgrade the Library's Westside Plaza

Partnered with the Downtown Wheaton Association and 302 Wheaton to host a series of Movies Under the Stars on the Westside Plaza

Partnered with the Downtown Wheaton Association for a Summer Reading Challenge StoryWalk and a Library Card Sign-up Month Scavenger Hunt

Developed and launched a new initiative called Ignite, in partnership with the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce, with the purpose to provide programs and resources for business, career, and lifelong learning development

Hosted the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce International Business Exchange with the Northern Illinois University MBA program and WorldChicago

Partnered with the Wheaton League of Women Voters, Wheaton Park District, Wheaton Chamber of Commerce, and the Downtown Wheaton Association for a Rock the Vote series of programs

Partnered with the Illinois Secretary of State Office to provide Mobile DMV programs with various services

Collaborated with CUSD200 to launch the statewide Cards for Kids program

Started a Little Free Seed Library with a sponsorship by the Wheaton Rotary Club



Partnered with Milton Township, Wheaton Lions Club, People's Resource Center, Metropolitan Family Services, and Wheaton Junior Women's Club on multiple collection drives

Partnered with the People's Resource Center to host a Career Fair

Partnered with the Wheaton Park District and local businesses to launch the Teen Job Fair in a Bag

Hosted the annual Preschool and Community Resource Fair in partnership with the Wheaton Warrenville Early Childhood Collaborative

Hosted the Beatles 4EVER4 traveling exhibit

Successfully launched hybrid programming

Completed a Community-wide Survey asking residents for input on the future of the Library

Started a Lucky Day collection of adult popular materials

Launched a new interlibrary loan platform called Find More Illinois

Launched online library card registration and automatic renewal of adult resident library cards

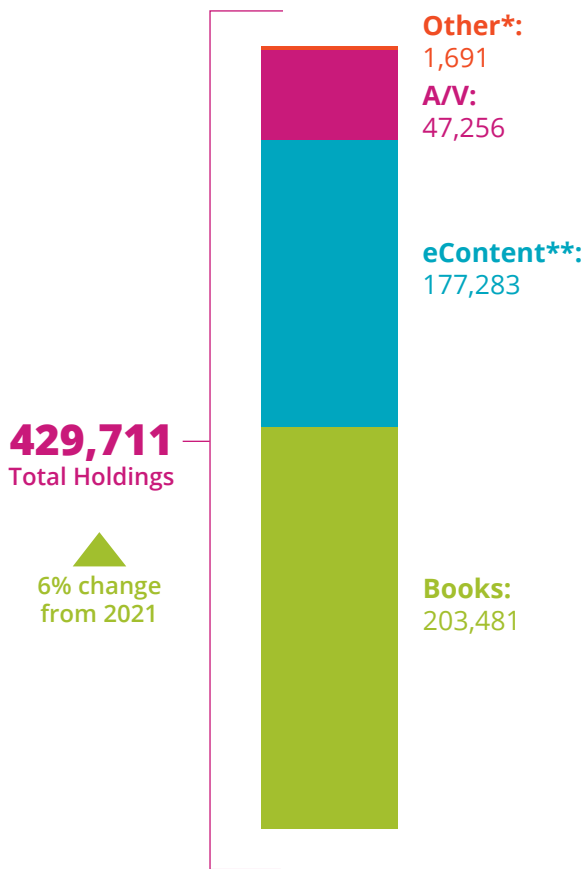
Introduced new databases, Brainfuse HelpNow and JobNow, Consumer Health Complete, and AtoZ Maps

Recognized as a Partner in Progress (PIP) along with CUSD200, Wheaton Park District, City of Wheaton, Downtown Wheaton Association, and Wheaton Chamber of Commerce



collections

Materials Held: Adult, Teen & Youth



*Other = Magazines, Newspapers, Video Games, Learning Games, CD Kits, Framed Art, Read Along Books

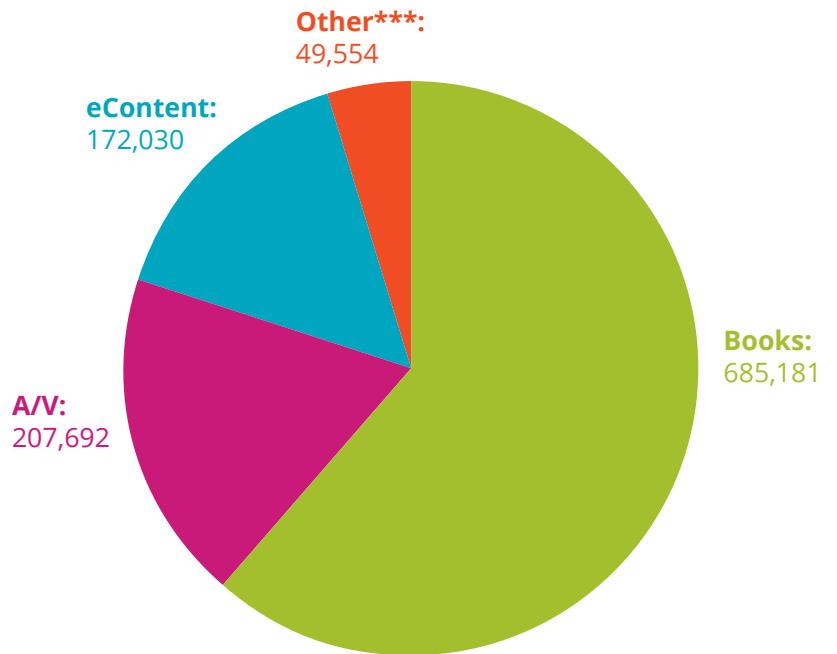
**eContent = digital books, audiobooks and magazines

circulation

1,114,457

Total Items Loaned: Adult, Teen & Youth

4% increase from 2021



***Other = Magazines, Video Games, CD Kits, Read Along Books, Discover Packs, Tech Equipment, Framed Art & Interlibrary Loan



28,410
Total Cardholders

11% increase from 2021

3,554
New Cards Issued

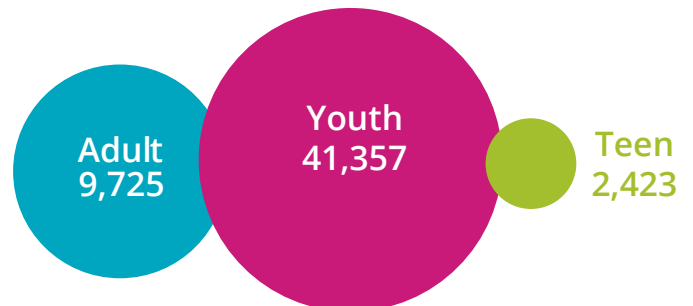
11% increase from 2021

programs

Adult, Teen & Youth

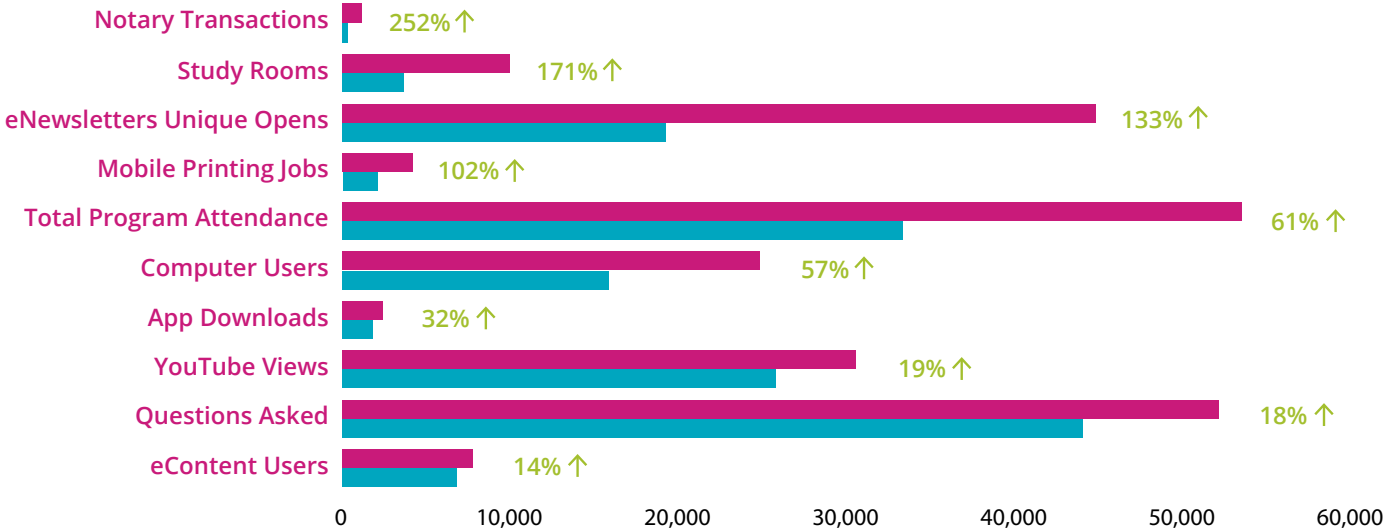


1,319
Total # of Programs

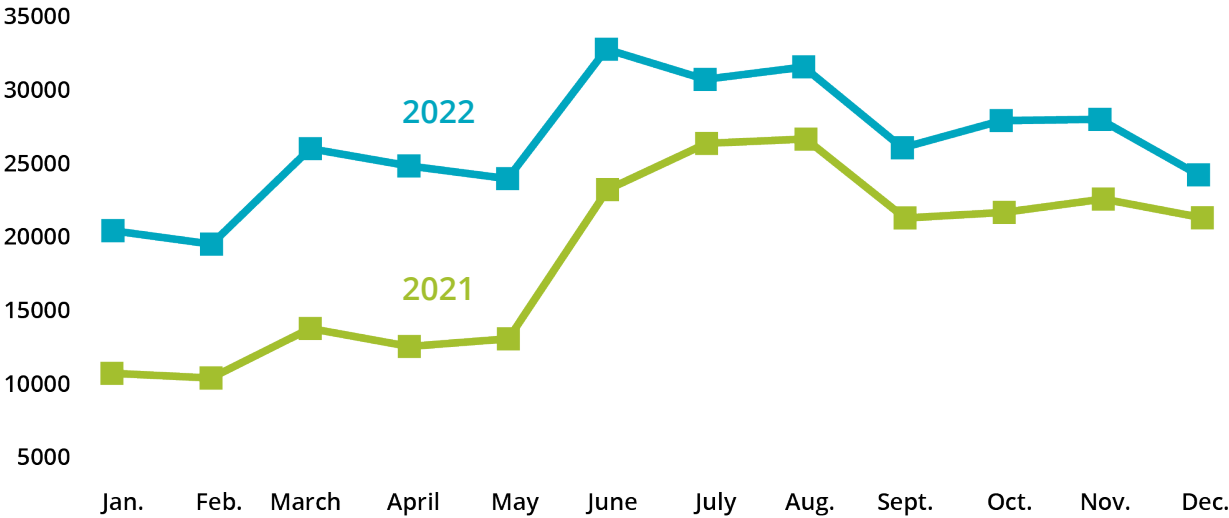


53,505
Total Attendance

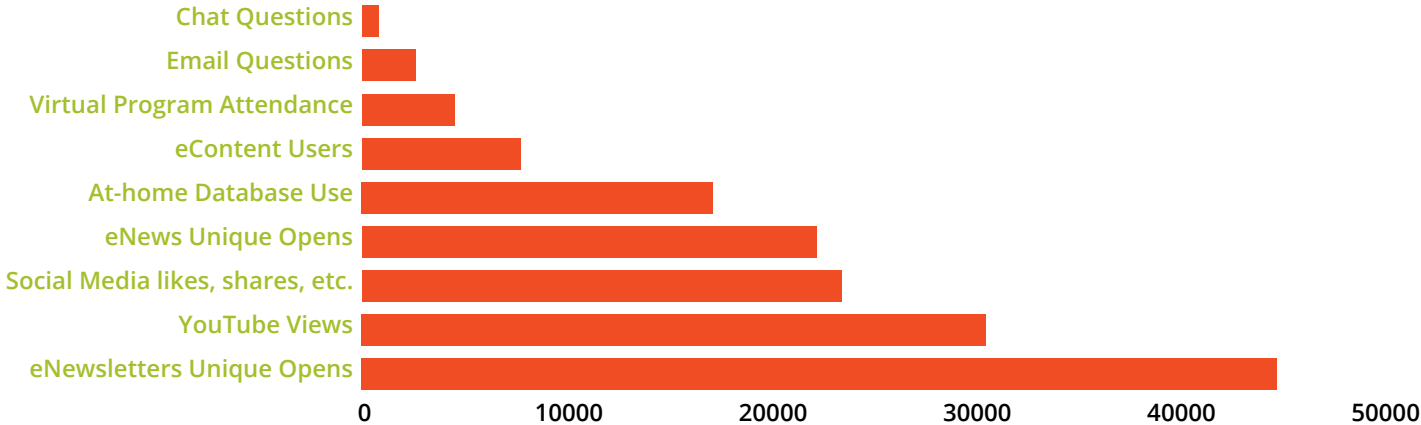
service highlights



in-person visits



virtual visitors



come grow with us



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wheatonlibrary.org

