

Strategic Plan 2023-2026

Ellsworth Public Library



TIMELINE

January

Staff focus groups

February

Design community survey

March

Collect survey responses

April-July

One-on-one interviews

August

Formulate goals and objectives

September

Release plan to the public

Your Window of Opportunity

This strategic plan was created based on input from staff focus groups, a community survey, one-on-one interviews with Hancock County residents, and library Board member feedback.

The following goals and objectives will be used for the next 3 years to guide decisions concerning library collections, services, and programs to best meet our community's needs.

Library Mission: The Ellsworth Public Library is a vibrant and essential community resource, educating and inspiring the people we serve.



Goal 1: Create in demand collections

The library will develop its collections with a focus on items that will add value to you and your family.

- Add new item types to the collection
- Expand e-material selection
- Reduce wait time for materials
- Promote public awareness of library materials
- Solicit input from the community to determine needs and interests

Goal 2: Improve your library experience

The library will strive to offer a safe, welcoming space for all users.

- Add ADA accessibility building features
- Increase the book store space and add merchandise
- Expand access to library services in surrounding towns
- Increase staff training on emerging technologies and customer service
- Adapt the physical space to best support user's facility needs

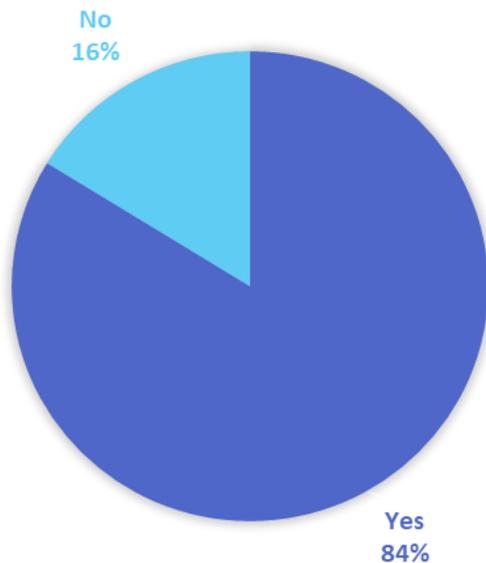
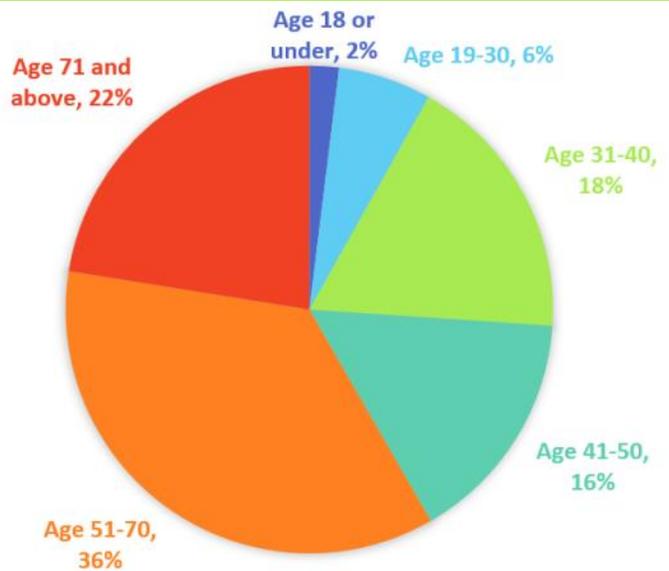
Goal 3: Build a more literate community

The library will work to improve quality of life for all of the area residents by increasing literacy rates as literacy is the foundation of a thriving society.

- Increase collaboration efforts with local organizations, businesses, and schools to raise awareness of library services
- Develop relevant programs and events for people of all ages to attract new library users and foster life-long learning
- Expand early and family literacy efforts with targeted materials and programs

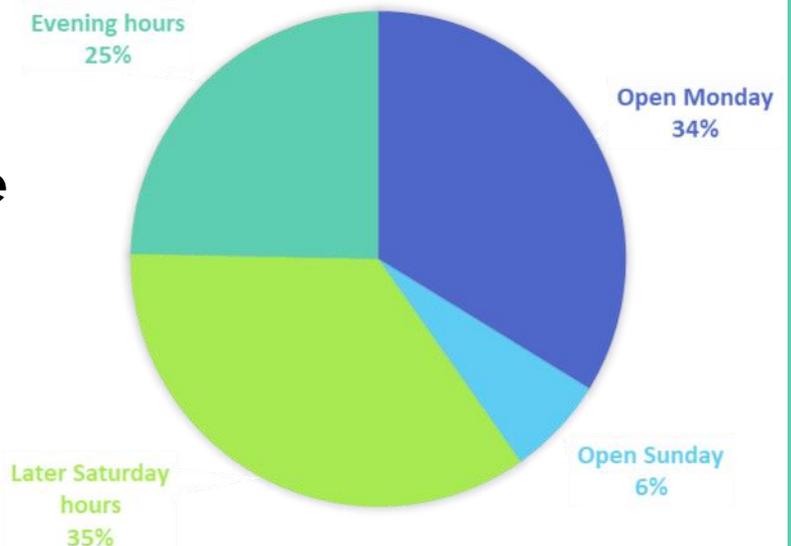
311 Patron Survey Responses

What is your age range?

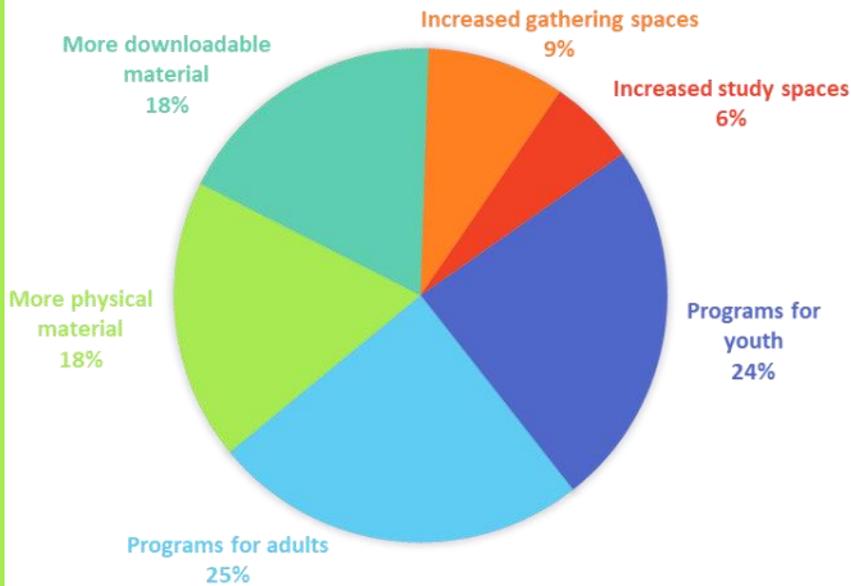


Are the library's hours compatible with your schedule?

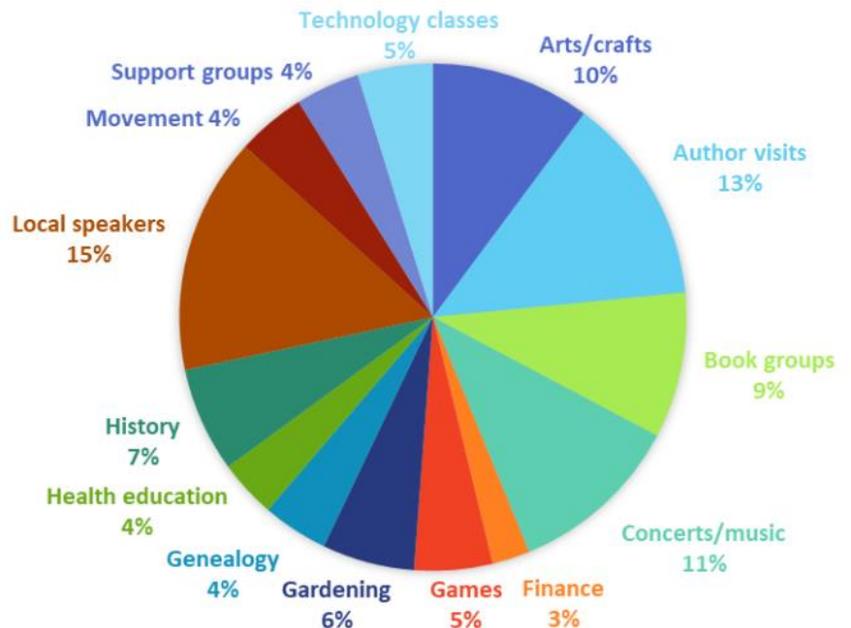
If our library hours are not compatible with your schedule, what times work for you?



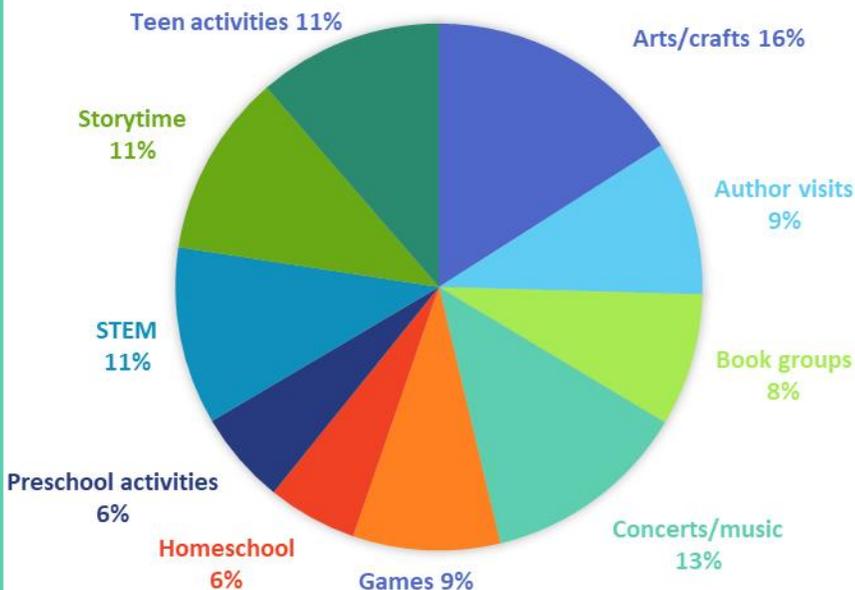
Over the next 3 years, what improvements are most important to you?



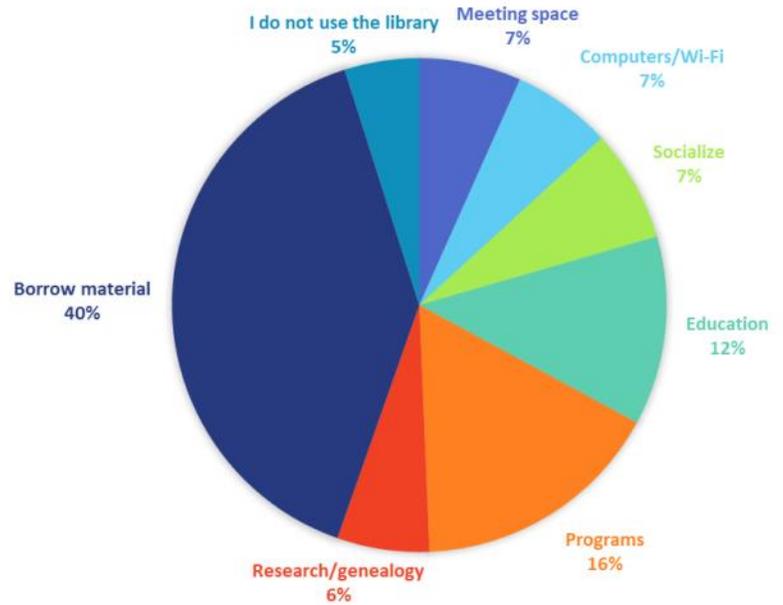
What type of adult programs would you like the library to offer?



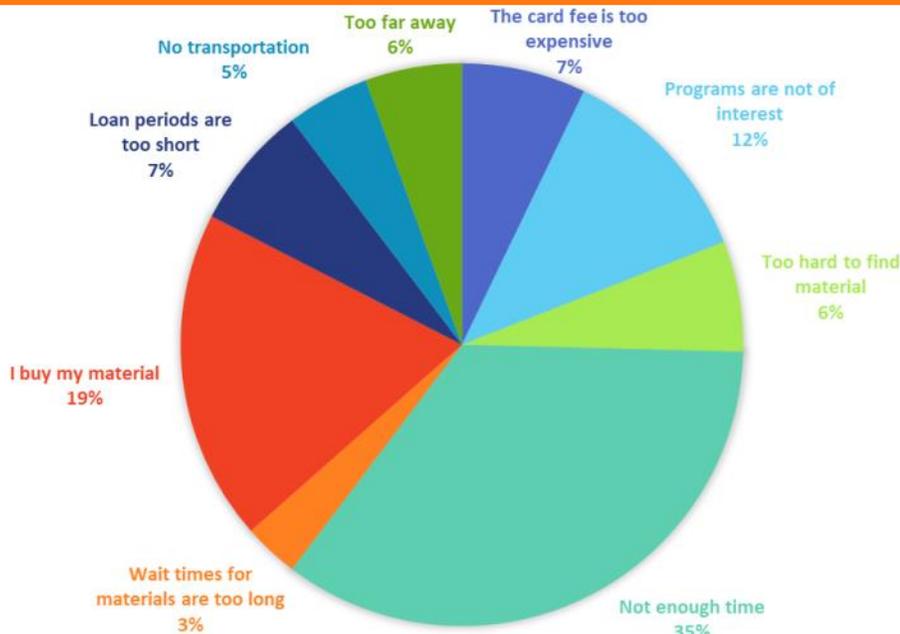
What type of youth programs would you like the library to offer?



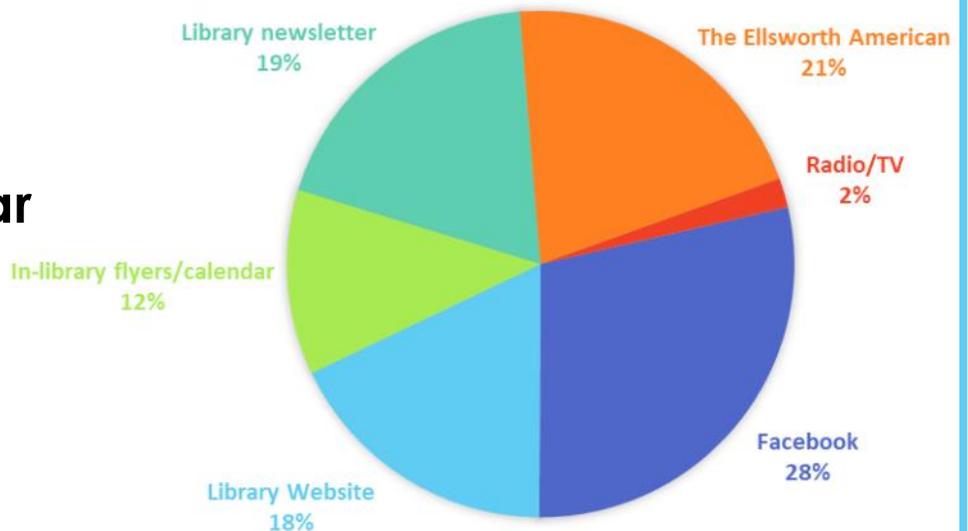
Why do you visit the library?



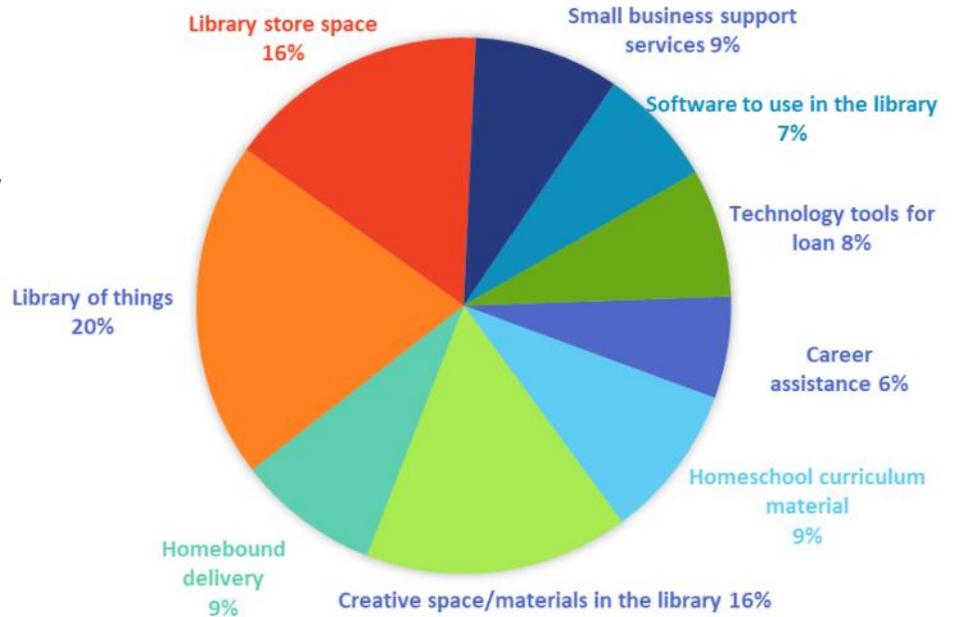
If you do not regularly visit the library, why not?



How do you hear about library happenings?



If the library were to add services or materials within the next 3 years, would add value to you or your family?



One-on-one Interviews

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What kind of community do you want to live in?
2. What are some things that need to happen to create these kinds of changes?
3. In your opinion, what are the greatest opportunities you see for Hancock County?
4. What is the library's role in the community?
5. What can the library do to assist in building the community you envision?
6. Regarding library services, do you think there are geographical or demographic areas of Hancock County that are underserved?
7. Are there types of collaboration you would like to see happen between local organizations?



Our one-on-one interviews revealed many recurring themes about the type of community people desire to live in and what they need from their library.

Residents want to live in communities where:

- People are able to age in place
- The school system is strong
- There are a wide variety of recreational activities for people of all ages
- Residents take an active role in their town's development

Residents want their library to have:

- Strong collections that contain up-to-date material both in print and digital
- Programs for children that promote literacy
- Opportunities for teens and young people to be involved in town activities
- Digital literacy assistance for all residents in need of technology instruction
- A space that is welcoming and full of life
- Events that bring people together to help build a strong sense of community
- Collaboration with local businesses, schools, and nonprofit organizations
- More visibility in the community through increased services outside of Ellsworth and a presence at local events

Thank you to the following people for your contribution!

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