



LINCOLN

City Libraries

## Director's Report for September 2024

Office Specialist Megan P. introduced a new and fun employee recognition program called **"Raves"** where staff can offer congratulations to fellow colleagues for their help, contributions and great service. An easy online form was developed by Virtual Services staff member Peter J. to make the awarding and resulting notification an easy process.

Great news: LCL received notification last week from the Nebraska Library Commission that it has been **accredited at Gold Level** for the period 2024-2029. "The purpose of public library accreditation is to encourage excellent library service in Nebraska communities. It is a measure of community pride in the library and the services it offers to its citizens. Accreditation is the standard by which the services are offered, as evidenced by measuring the library against guidelines developed by a task force of professional librarians." Attaining gold level is a reflection of our dedication and vision for great library service, and a recognition that a great city deserves a great library system.

Accreditation:

- establishes minimum standards for library service
- ensures that libraries adhere to certain standards
- offers libraries benchmarks
- offers libraries evidence that certain expenditures, services, and practices are needed and expected
- is required in order to receive state aid

The September 21 **Willa Cather event** at Gere was a special event and well-attended. Brenda Ealey and Wyatt Packard provided a nice, welcoming environment and the presenters, including Ashley Olson, Steve Shively, and Littleton Alston did a great job. We're incredibly thankful for the generosity of Glenda Pierce and Jeff Kirkpatrick for the donation of the Cather statuette that now welcomes visitors near the front entry.

LCL is planning an enhanced collaboration with **Lincoln Arts Council** including regular programming with artists and activities coordinated by the Council through their UpstArt program, art installations through their Blank Canvas program, and a Spring 2025 "One Score, One Lincoln" collaboration with the Council, Lincoln Symphony, and LPS. More to come!

Thanks to Building Superintendent Dan Miller for his coordination of many recent projects including Election Commission cameras, mural installation, Cather Statue installation, Eiseley tree and brush removal, coordination of carpet cleaning, elevator

replacement bidding, new BMPL carpet bidding, dealing with an unusual abundance of bats at BMPL, prepping for lighted signage at Anderson, and on and on. The Library is grateful for Mr. Miller's care and attention to keep buildings safe, clean, and accessible!

In the works: a weekly half-hour radio library spot on **KZUM** to highlight all-things library including activities, books, special programming, staff.

We are working with **Public Art Lincoln** to possibly restore/clean the Library's 1930s-era Elizabeth Dolan paintings which are housed at Bennett Martin. This may be done locally or with a restoration company, based upon cost and the potential for outside funding.

Some recent **talks** and presentations include Rotary-South, Optimists-Stauffer's, Sunrise Kiwanis, Lincoln Neighborhood Association Alliance, and MyCity Academy.

- Vision:**        **LCL: Literacy, Community, and Lifelong learning**
- Mission:**     **Lincoln City Libraries provides access to information, ideas, books and lifelong learning opportunities that inform, enrich and empower every individual in our diverse community.**
- Priorities:**    **1. Maximizing Access**  
                      **2. Communicating our Offerings**  
                      **3. Strengthening our Potential**  
                      **4. Growing our Support**

**Examples of the Library's Vision and Mission in our daily work:**

- Courtney S. (Eiseley-Williams) shared this - A man came up to the AS desk and said he was glad we had the book display on canning. He told us that when he was a kid, he remembers a trip each year to a family member's home to make homemade runzas, kolaches, and canned produce. He thanked us for having books to keep the art of canning going. I was glad that one of our book displays could bring up good memories!
- Youth displays at Anderson-Bethany during September included: Monsters; Grandparent's Day; Library Card Sign-up Month; Food; My Family; Neat Non-Fiction; and I Can Be. The adult display at Anderson Branch Library featured fiction with the word "Secret(s)" in the titles. The display was so popular that it continually needed to be refilled.
- Williams Branch is having a biweekly check out time for Air Park Community Center after-school students. For the first visit to Williams, 50 students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade all checked out books.

- Araya W. (Gere-South) shared this observation: "One night at Gere, I was present for two separate incidents where a toddler was deeply upset about having to leave the dramatic play area. One was wailing, both arms outstretched towards the dramatic play area, and begging her mom to let her keep playing. The other one kept crying "Not fairrr!" as she stomped towards the doors with her parents. Though it's sad they were so upset, I think it's a testament to how engaging the dramatic play area is for children. I continue to be impressed by how much activity it gets."
- Gyoung K. (Eiseley-Williams) provided assistance to patrons through six tech help sessions.
- A family that regularly visits the library and participates in our programs mentioned to Meagan M. (Walt) how much they appreciate the inclusivity and recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month in our displays throughout our branch every year. They found two bonus check-outs on our circulation display during their conversation.
- Gere Library had 210 Book Bundles check out this month with a total of 630 books.
- Yoel S. and Cally O. (Gere-South) hosted the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> with 9 attending. They began work on the plans for the Super Mario Bros Family Fun Night scheduled in December and ended with playing the game – Scream – with most of the kids staging dramatic deaths when caught. TAB members have given 13.5 hours of service this month.
- Anderson and Bethany Branches received some attention this month in order to keep them looking nice and welcoming. Carpets were cleaned at both branches, and both were also inspected by K9 Bed Bug Detection.
- Deanne J. (Walt) interacted with a patron that was looking for large-type books with simple concepts for adult readers. After some digging, Deanne was happy to provide a follow-up email that included the three titles that would specifically meet her needs for materials geared towards engaging and connecting with memory-challenged adults.
- Amanda T. and Ronda H. (Gere-South) hosted four meetings of Circle of Friends at Gere with 91 attending. Ronda and Amanda started the program this month and activities included origami fish crafts, butterflies, as well as, working with Playdough and Slime, and an afternoon with bubbles and sidewalk chalk on black paper set out on the tables. Amanda shared that although the activities are self-directed, Ronda and she are constantly walking around, chatting, and stopping to work one on one with people. Amanda had a woman share: "This is the best day ever."
- The Tech Time Staff at Gere (Diane V., Amanda T.-S., Leanne D., and Araya W.) helped 10 unique patrons during an equivalent of 16 half-hour appointments. Of these, 4 needed assistance with digital library services. Amanda shared: "I had a

woman needing help with canceling her Adobe Acrobat subscription. I wrote down several steps on how to print pdfs when she gets home for use on her home printer. She let me know she has early Parkinson's disease so having written notes really helps." Araya W. shared: "In an impromptu Tech Time at Gere, I helped a patron create PDFs of photos needed for a visa application.

- Laurie J. (Walt) was running the new Bambu printer at the Youth Service desk when a young patron came over and inquired about the job. They fell in love with one of the slugs that Laurie had made and paid to take it home. Having the 3-D printer running at the desks, especially in the YS area, fosters curiosity and interest in our Makerspace offerings and programs. She had at least 20 interested patrons over the two days she was showcasing it at the desk.
- South Library was a part of a community event on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with Chloe Burgett (illustrator/artist) in the parking lot of Westminster where residents took part in helping with painting the mural (by Burgett) that will be placed on the west outside wall of the Library. It was well attended with individuals of all ages taking part in the event. The event was organized and staffed by the Lux Center. Amy H., Brenda E. and Ryan Wieber attended.
- At NESU: Karrie S. noted "This winter we're going to try a monthly free-build program [Construction Crew], as well as some repeats: *Noon Year's Eve Party* and *Love My Library Family Night*." At the start of the new year, Anderson Branch Library will be offering new adult programs each month. The second Wednesday of the month will feature a Fiber Arts Workshop, and the third Wednesday of the month will have a Paper Arts Workshop. Adults are encouraged to work on their unfinished projects during these workshops.
- Nora M. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: "Helped a patron with printing at 7:45. She needed to print her dissertation so she could do her last edits. She said she had never printed it before and was visibly moved and excited to see it in print – "seven years of my life!" she kept saying. She said after this she just has to do her defense in a couple of months, and then she'll get her degree!"
- A woman pulled Liz C. (Walt) aside one morning and let her know that she has been in Lincoln for about a year and a half for school, but now she is going to be going back home to Japan. She said that the materials that she was able to check out have acted as her English textbooks and she appreciated the ability to practice learning another language. She wanted to tell us thank you and gave us a beautiful 3-dimensional origami star as a sign of appreciation which was displayed at the front desk throughout September.
- Chad S. shared this interaction: "An adult couple came into South and it was very clear from the get-go that neither spoke any English. The man and I both reached for our cell phones, and through Google translate, worked together to get them through a print job. They were very thankful, and by the end of the time, we were laughing together."

- From Scott S. in the Polley Music Library: A reference question turned into a bit of outreach for Polley this month: each year, Lincoln hosts a “Lincoln Yoga Day” event in Antelope Park, and they have usually featured a sitar performer behind the yoga instruction. Their usual performer moved away this year, and they asked for some other musical ideas. I gave them a few suggestions, and those didn't work out for them, either. As luck would have it, I've been learning about Hindustani musical traditions myself, and working on adapting them to slide-based guitar-like instruments in a manner similar to the Hindustani mohan veena instrument's repertoire, so I offered to play for them, and they accepted. They were kind enough to mention the Polley Music Library at the event on the last Sunday morning of the month, which also featured a proclamation from the Mayor!
- Peter J. (Virtual Services) came up with an approach for adding a “Featured Stories” component for the front page of the Website, and demonstrated to additional staff how to update it as needed. He also changed the Website's search box settings to default to searching the catalog instead of the Website.
- Randy and Andrew in Virtual Services replaced all the self-checks with new all-in-one computers, and made resulting changes that allowed for a better patron experience.
- Meagan M. at Walt reports that Baby Storytime started up in September after a brief hiatus in August. From the first day back, it was a large group. Two new baby mats were unveiled and added to create a larger, clean and comfortable space for babies to lay and crawl while their adults looked on. For the month of September, Jessica utilized the board book storytime tubs. One title was read each week and contained 15 copies of the title, allowing most parents to share a copy with their baby. Babies enjoyed lap bounces, farm puppets while practicing animal sounds, a fun stop and start song and counting to 3 during the month as well.
- Wyatt P. (Walt), in collaboration with Literacy Lincoln, presented information about the library application Transparent Languages. This was part of a larger Welcome Week celebration. Four people were in attendance, including a Lancaster County commissioner, a City of Lincoln HR staff member, a Lincoln Literacy presenter, and a community member. All four had ideas for how they can use Transparent Language Online. This partnership program was also a great way for attendees to learn more about services offered by Lincoln Literacy.
- At Anderson-Bethany, a customer told Marie' M.: “Thank you so much for being here. This library means a lot to me. I'm retired, and this is one of my only forms of social interaction during the day. And the library is more than just a library -- it's the people behind it that make it so special.”
- Lotería Program at Walt: This program was part of our Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations and the last event of the City's Welcoming Week Programming. Francisca Beltran from the Human Rights Commission was an

exceptional caller for this traditional Mexican bingo-style game. She described the cultural significance of the game and taught the group of 20 how to pronounce the Spanish words and describe what the specific items in the pictures were. Many varieties of Mexican candies and popcorn were enjoyed by all. We were able to use the new Document camera that Rod C. (Virtual Services) ordered for us to project the draw cards, which was wildly successful.

- Pirate Family Night: NESU Librarian Karrie S. noted, "Nancy E. planned a great Pirate Family Night to coincide with *Talk Like a Pirate Day*." The event took place September 18, and it featured a variety of activity stations. Some stations included temporary tattoos, discovering your 'pirate name,' creating a hook hand, crafting a pirate hat, and a walk-the-plank obstacle course. Seventy individuals climbed aboard and participated. Ahoy, mateys!
- Vicki C. (Walt) was checking books out to a mom who was happy to find our display of seasonal Halloween books, but she had one outlier in the stack called ***Diabetes Doesn't Stop Maddie***. She said she found this jP on display on the top of the shelves and was happy to take this home. She did not ever expect to find such a specific jP that was helpful to her family but was thrilled she did. This is a good example of the effectiveness of face-out displays.
- Eiseley Branch kicked off fall children's programs with a Bluey evening storytime, hosted by Susan S. with back up from Tami B., Tami R. and Selena S. It was very popular – 125 patrons attended. West Lincoln School Night was busy at Eiseley with 300 participants.
- School year volunteers (VolunTeens) at Walt Branch began on Monday, September 2nd. Once again, students will be working independently from a list of tasks to assist in maintaining an orderly youth services area. As assigned tasks are completed, volunteers are free to shelve paperbacks or work on other projects assigned by staff. Volunteers are scheduled for each day of the week except on Wednesdays with an extra volunteer on Saturday afternoons. In addition, we also have a volunteer on Saturday mornings that is designated as the storytime helper and a volunteer that mostly shelves paperbacks with his new mentor on Sunday afternoons.
- Paden H. (Gere): "I had an older couple who asked for help finding Looney Tunes books. They wanted to pay a painter to add more characters to their motorcycle's saddlebags. They'd found a call number in the catalog that they were having trouble finding (a periodical). We located a few graphic novel periodicals, including a Looney Tunes subscription. The couple was excited to have characters to refer to and pass along to their hired painter to further decorate their motorcycle."

Ryan Wieber, Library Director

10.11.24

**Lincoln City Libraries  
September 2024 Use Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach		September 2024 Total Use	September 2023 Total Use	CHANGE
				Attendance	September 2024			
Bennett Martin Public Library	12,568	14,254	2,591	256		29,669	27,740	6.95%
Anderson Branch	11,835	5,689	878	312		18,714	18,222	2.70%
Bethany Branch	7,044	2,764	202	198		10,208	11,177	-8.67%
Eiseley Branch	21,815	9,511	1,579	1,295		34,200	34,621	-1.22%
Gere Branch	52,836	18,704	1,002	1,438		73,980	80,059	-7.59%
South Branch	8,570	3,852	533	217		13,172	13,938	-5.50%
Walt Branch	37,689	12,281	943	1,399		52,312	53,723	-2.63%
Williams Branch	972	1,011	175	187		2,345	2,963	-20.86%
Lied Bookmobile	1,457	299	0	55		1,811	1,947	-6.99%
InterLibrary Loan	196	0	0	0		196	193	1.55%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>154,982</b>	<b>68,365</b>	<b>7,903</b>	<b>5,357</b>		<b>236,607</b>	<b>244,583</b>	<b>-3.26%</b>
DownloadStream Audio	43,768	0	0	0		43,768	40,126	9.08%
Download/Stream eBooks	30,089	0	0	0		30,089	32,116	-6.31%
Stream Video	1,011	0	0	0		1,011	747	35.34%
<b>Download SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>74,868</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>74,868</b>	<b>72,989</b>	<b>2.57%</b>
<b>TOTAL CIRCULATION</b>	<b>229,850</b>	<b>68,365</b>	<b>7,903</b>	<b>5,357</b>		<b>311,475</b>	<b>317,572</b>	<b>-1.92%</b>

<b>WiFi Sessions</b>	124,134	124,904	-0.62%
<b>WiFi Users</b>	9,325	10,502	-11.21%
<b>Website Users</b>	86,504	90,858	-4.79%
<b>Website Sessions</b>	117,857	120,001	-1.79%
<b>Database Use</b>	7,026	9,761	-28.02%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2024	2023	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
<b>Owned</b>	372,148	329,191	80,850	34,144	816,333	Active			
<b>Added</b>	2,236	1,915	248	477	4,876	Resident	148,228	147,280	0.64%
<b>Withdrawn</b>	-86	-3	-8	-1	-98	ConnectED	52,270	46,802	11.68%
<b>Current</b>	374,298	331,103	81,090	34,620	821,111	County	8,944	9,064	-1.32%
						NonResident	955	935	2.14%
						Reciprocal	490	477	2.73%
						Limited Use	9,845	9,027	9.06%
						<b>Total Active</b>	<b>220,732</b>	<b>213,585</b>	<b>3.35%</b>

**September 2024 Use Compared to September 2023  
Lincoln City Libraries**

Location	Print Checkouts		Print Loan	Non-Print Checkouts		Non-Print	Total Checkouts		Total Loan
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Loan Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	10,296	11,491	-10.40%	2,272	2,755	-17.53%	12,568	14,246	-11.78%
Anderson	9,804	9,326	5.13%	2,031	2,389	-14.99%	11,835	11,715	1.02%
Bethany	6,391	6,653	-3.94%	653	963	-32.19%	7,044	7,616	-7.51%
Eiseley	19,728	20,328	-2.95%	2,087	2,949	-29.23%	21,815	23,277	-6.28%
Gere	47,250	52,395	-9.82%	5,586	7,227	-22.71%	52,836	59,622	-11.38%
South	7,487	8,295	-9.74%	1,083	1,233	-12.17%	8,570	9,528	-10.05%
Walt	33,720	34,124	-1.18%	3,969	4,506	-11.92%	37,689	38,630	-2.44%
Williams	801	900	-11.00%	171	215	-20.47%	972	1,115	-12.83%
Lied Bookmobile	1,361	1,420	-4.15%	96	114	-15.79%	1,457	1,534	-5.02%
InterLibrary Loan	196	193	1.55%	0	0	0.00%	196	193	1.55%
<b>Subtotal Checkouts</b>	<b>137,034</b>	<b>145,125</b>	<b>-5.58%</b>	<b>17,948</b>	<b>22,351</b>	<b>-19.70%</b>	<b>154,982</b>	<b>167,476</b>	<b>-7.46%</b>
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	43,768	40,126	9.08%	43,768	40,126	9.08%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	30,089	32,116	-6.31%	30,089	32,116	-6.31%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,011	747	35.34%	1,011	747	35.34%
<b>TOTAL CHECKOUTS</b>	<b>137,034</b>	<b>145,125</b>	<b>-5.58%</b>	<b>92,816</b>	<b>95,340</b>	<b>-2.65%</b>	<b>229,850</b>	<b>240,465</b>	<b>-4.41%</b>

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	4,218	5,215	-19.12%	8,350	9,031	-7.54%	14,254	9,783	45.70%
Anderson	6,041	5,564	8.57%	5,794	6,151	-5.80%	5,689	5,469	4.02%
Bethany	4,096	4,250	-3.62%	2,948	3,366	-12.42%	2,764	3,064	-9.79%
Eiseley	15,058	15,559	-3.22%	6,757	7,718	-12.45%	9,511	8,914	6.70%
Gere	30,549	34,704	-11.97%	22,287	24,918	-10.56%	18,704	17,667	5.87%
South	4,847	5,370	-9.74%	3,723	4,158	-10.46%	3,852	3,552	8.45%
Walt	26,162	26,630	-1.76%	11,527	12,000	-3.94%	12,281	11,956	2.72%
Williams	760	748	1.60%	212	367	-42.23%	1,011	1,325	-23.70%
Lied Bookmobile	988	974	1.44%	469	560	-16.25%	299	372	-19.62%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	196	193	1.55%	0	0	0.00%
<b>Subtotal Checkouts</b>	<b>92,719</b>	<b>99,014</b>	<b>-6.36%</b>	<b>62,263</b>	<b>68,462</b>	<b>-9.05%</b>	<b>68,365</b>	<b>62,102</b>	<b>10.09%</b>
Download/Stream Audio	6,226	5,584	11.50%	37,542	34,542	8.69%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	5,174	7,263	-28.76%	24,915	24,903	0.05%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,011	747	35.34%	0	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL CHECKOUTS</b>	<b>104,119</b>	<b>111,861</b>	<b>-6.92%</b>	<b>125,731</b>	<b>128,654</b>	<b>-2.27%</b>	<b>68,365</b>	<b>62,102</b>	<b>10.09%</b>

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth		P&O Att - Youth	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult		P&O Att - Adult	Computer Use		Computer
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	75	318	-76.42%	181	1,202	-84.94%	2,591	2,191	18.26%
Anderson	312	216	44.44%	0	0	0.00%	878	822	6.81%
Bethany	156	190	-17.89%	42	57	-26.32%	202	250	-19.20%
Eiseley	1,228	968	26.86%	67	273	-75.46%	1,579	1,189	32.80%
Gere	1,260	1,267	-0.55%	178	252	-29.37%	1,002	1,251	-19.90%
South	209	357	-41.46%	8	2	300.00%	533	499	6.81%
Walt	1,278	1,516	-15.70%	121	623	-80.58%	943	998	-5.51%
Williams	179	246	-27.24%	8	15	-46.67%	175	262	-33.21%
Lied Bookmobile	20	0	0.00%	35	41	-14.63%	0	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,717</b>	<b>5,078</b>	<b>-7.11%</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>2,465</b>	<b>-74.04%</b>	<b>7,903</b>	<b>7,462</b>	<b>5.91%</b>