Annual Report  
Lincoln City Libraries  
Lincoln, Nebraska  

September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015

Literacy, learning and literature continue to be the big ideas behind Lincoln City Libraries. As is true of libraries across the country, Lincoln City Libraries is monitoring changes in society that impact how people engage with those big ideas. Some of the services we offer look very familiar, such as preschool storytimes that support important literacy skills, while others look very different, such as the online resource, Lynda.com, which provides high quality video instruction through the library’s website. The library takes great pride in the high community satisfaction scores it garnered in the City’s Taking Charge Customer Satisfaction survey, as an indicator that we are providing the kinds of services that meet community needs. We are committed to ongoing evaluation, adjustment, and investment in maintaining a strong and sustainable library system.

The Central Library project continues to be a focus for Library Board and staff. Over 30 presentations were made to community groups and organizations, with the focus on what 21st century libraries offer, how libraries benefit communities generally, and on more specific aspects of Lincoln City Libraries’ Central Library project. The Library Board responded to Central Library-related articles in the news media, and reaffirmed its support for a new Central Library by updating its position paper “Why Lincoln Needs a New Downtown Library” at the August Board meeting.

Two major planning documents were developed and approved during this fiscal year. The Library Board approved a new Strategic Planning document at its September meeting. The outline reflects the information organized by the Lincoln Vital Signs report, and focuses on four key areas: success, access, achievement, and opportunity.

The Library Board approved a facilities study in March, assessing the condition of our facilities and detailing the various deferred maintenance, enhancement, or efficiency projects at the branch library buildings.

2014-2015 was a big year for technology at Lincoln City Libraries. In April, the library migrated to a new Integrated Library System (ILS), the Symphony product offered by the SirsiDynix company. This is the inventory/checkin/checkout/customer/fee system for the entire library system. Such a migration requires a good deal of staff effort prior to the change, as well as extensive training of all staff to work well with customers throughout the transition.

In May, a fully rebuilt library website was revealed. The library’s website receives hits from up to 60,000 unique IP addresses each month. The website features
photographs of people using Lincoln City Libraries, and incorporates software that streamlines the process of providing up-to-date information.

Also in May, the Nebraska Public Service Commission announced that they would fully fund the grant project submitted by Nebraska Link to construct fiber connections for all eight Lincoln City Libraries locations. This will improve our broadband services exponentially. We expect the construction to be complete around November 1, with upgrades to our wireless network to follow. Among the advantages of this upgrade is the library’s enhanced ability to be the wireless provider of choice for LPS students who have received a school-issued tablet but do not have Internet service at home.

Programming has taken on a re-invigorated role at the library. Schedules for “Library Learning Time” programming for babies, toddlers, and preschooler were expanded to offer additional times for working families. The Summer Reading Program registered 15,803 people; 10,759 children in “Every Hero Has a Story,” 2,696 teens in “Unmask!” and 2,348 adults in “Escape the Ordinary.” The 2015 “One Book – One Lincoln” community reading program featured title was “Amerikanah” by Chigamanda Ngozie Adichie. The other finalists were “Just Mercy” by Bryan Stevenson and “Station Eleven” by Emily St. John Mandel. The titles were revealed at a special event at The Mill in the Haymarket on Memorial Day.

As the Library Board and staff of Lincoln City Libraries adjust to changing services and use patterns in our public libraries, some national studies provide additional perspective. The Aspen Institute’s Report, “Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries” and a Pew Research Report, “Libraries at the Crossroads” detail how people view libraries and how libraries across the country are adapting and contributing to their communities. Strong 21st century libraries provide an excellent return on the investment made in them, to the benefit of individuals and communities.

Submitted by:  
Pat Leach  
Library Director
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Lincoln City Libraries
136 So. 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
www.lincolnlibraries.org
library@lincolnlibraries.org
402-441-8500

Population of Legal Service Area: 285,407
Public Service Hours Per Week: 470
Total Circulation: 3,056,989
Visits: 1,266,831
Number of Facilities: 8
Number of bookmobiles: 1

HEADQUARTERS:
Bennett Martin Public Library
136 So. 14th Street
Circulation: 548,833*
Visits: 222,115
Public Service Hours Per Week: 54
Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Dan A Williams Branch
5000 Mike Scholl Street
Circulation: 24,908
Visits: 19,880
Public Service Hours Per Week: 28
Monday – Thursday 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday – Sunday 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

BRANCH LIBRARIES:
Bess Dodson Walt Branch
6701 So. 14th Street
Circulation: 608,747
Visits: 217,005
Public Service Hours Per Week: 64
Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Loren Corey Eiseley Branch
1530 Superior Street
Circulation: 424,119
Visits: 201,916
Public Service Hours Per Week: 64
Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Bethany Branch
1810 No. Cotner Blvd.
Circulation: 130,549
Visits: 63,183
Public Service Hours Per Week: 48
Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday Closed

South Branch
2675 South Street
Circulation: 142,078
Visits: 78,783
Public Service Hours Per Week: 64
Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Charles H. Gere Branch
2400 So. 56th Street
Circulation: 914,503
Visits: 332,887
Public Service Hours Per Week: 64
Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Victor E. Anderson Branch
3635 Touzalin Avenue
Circulation: 229,294
Visits: 121,794
Public Service Hours Per Week: 64
Monday – Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Bookmobile
Circulation: 29,917
Visits: 9,268
Public Service Hours Per Week: 20
*Includes InterLibrary Loan and electronic downloadable eBooks/audiobooks
LIBRARY MATERIAL HOLDINGS (volumes)
Adult Print: 408,875
Adult NonPrint: 92,281
Youth Print: 308,435
Youth NonPrint: 38,559
Total Owned: 848,150

LIBRARY SERVICES
Number of registered borrowers 231,235
Annual library visits 1,266,831
Annual reference transactions 305,041
Number of Public Internet computers 142
Annual Public Internet Computer Reservations 223,240
Children's program attendance 95796
Adult program attendance 3309
Circulation of adult materials 1,466,324
Circulation of children's materials 1,590,665
Circulation total 3,056,989
Total lost materials 13,962
Materials loaned to other libraries 1658
Materials borrowed from other libraries 2713
Number of public access catalog computers 64
Total employees (FTEs) 105.54
Total number of volunteers 932
Number attending meetings/activities in meeting rooms 66,862
REVENUES:

Local Government Revenue: This includes all local government funds designated by the community and available for expenditure by the public library. Does not include the value of any contributed or in-kind services or the value of any gifts and donations, library fines, fees, or grants.

City of Lincoln: $7,563,110.22
Lancaster County: 761,853.00
Keno & Interest Earned: 524,570.26
Total Local Revenue: $8,849,533.48

State Revenue: These are funds distributed to public libraries by Nebraska state government for expenditure by the public libraries. This does not include federal money distributed by the state.

State Aid: $54,011.00
Other State Gov. Revenue: 39,448.00
Total State Government Revenue $93,499.00

Federal Government Revenue: This includes all federal government funds including federal money distributed by the Nebraska Library Commission as Library Improvement grants.

Total Federal Government Revenue $0.00

Other Revenue: This is all operating revenue other than that reported under local, state, and federal operating revenue including monetary gifts and donations received, interest, library fines, fees for library services, and grants. Does not include the value of any contributed or in-kind services or the value of any non-monetary gifts and donations.

Other Revenue $684,442.80
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE $9,627,475.28

TOTAL CAPITAL REVENUE: $419,065.00

EXPENDITURES:

Operating Expenditures are current and recurrent Costs necessary to support library services.

Salaries and Benefits: $6,328,079.56
Collection Materials: $1,382,489.46
Facility: $310,039.30
Utilities: $312,422.34
Office Supplies: $88,328.34
Postage: $22,342.90
Telephone: $20,857.57
Insurance: $57,591.01
Contracts for Services: $389,052.54
Computer Hardware & Software: $334,493.36
Electronic Access: $40,347.77
Continuing Education: $15,146.01
Miscellaneous: $160,064.73

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES: $9,461,256.89

TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES: $279,938.13