



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



City of Lincoln
LIBRARIES



A Note from the Director

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) Annual Report, where we provide a glimpse into activities and highlights, statistics, and financials in order to best summarize the year.

We're fast approaching the library's 150th birthday in 2027 and annual reports have been produced for many of those years. Versions from long ago focused on telling the library story by way of figures: annual checkout totals, visits, and the number of books added each year. It is always important to measure activity levels and document patron usage—especially as a tax-funded agency providing for

residents of the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County—however, today's library story can also be told by the value it brings to local residents, and how the library offers opportunities to enrich and improve lives.

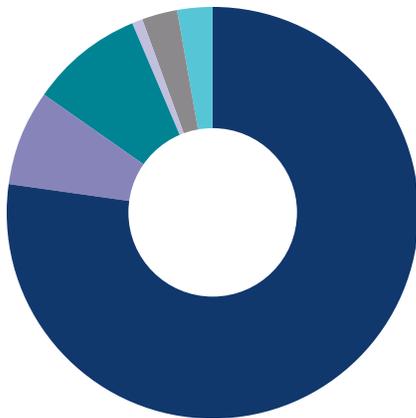
LCL's mission is to provide access to information, ideas, books and lifelong learning opportunities that inform, enrich and empower every individual in our diverse community. We strive to accomplish that by understanding our community and its needs, and by planning and partnering with many other organizations, schools and cultural organizations, and you! Thanks to YOU for being our number one partner!

-Ryan Wieber

Number of new cardholders FY24-25:
14,955

Financials

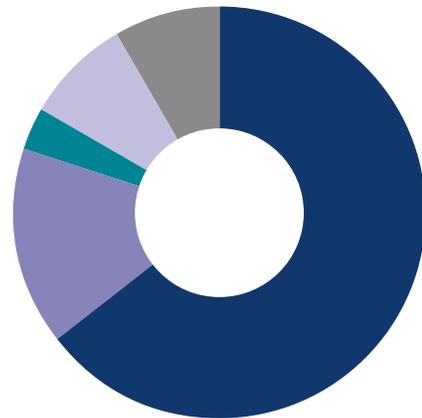
2024-25



Revenues

City of Lincoln Property Taxes	\$10,721,821
Lancaster County	\$1,061,827
Keno	\$1,231,299
State Aid and Grants	\$131,560
Donations	\$370,676
Other	\$362,119

Total Operating Revenue \$13,879,302



Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	\$8,240,789
Collections	\$1,935,049
Technology	\$843,966
Facilities	\$1,002,184
Other	\$1,034,583

Total Operating Expenditures.....\$13,056,571

A New Central Library

After many years of studying and planning for a new central Library, the City revealed plans in May 2025 for a modern central library on the site of the former Centrum Mall and Southeast Community College Education Square at 1111 O Street in downtown Lincoln.

The 80,000 square foot facility will incorporate design elements popular in urban libraries today including better accessibility and visual sightlines, flexibility of its spaces, community partner areas, and utilizing the latest in materials and designs for energy efficiency to save long term costs and reduce its carbon footprint.

Repurposing 1111 O Street and transforming it into a world class public library saves residents money from the earlier-planned general obligation tax-funded library at the former Pershing Auditorium site. It also offers better parking at the adjacent Center Park city

garage, keeps the Central Library in the heart of downtown and within the most-densely populated area of the City and provides a place for community connection, engagement, and lifelong learning.

The new library will have approximately 10,000 square feet of partner space, 8-10 study and conference rooms, a dynamic and engaging children's section,

teaching kitchen, makerspace area, attached retail coffee shop, and a rooftop auditorium for library and community use.

Utilizing a mixture of public and private funding, construction will begin by fall 2026 with a grand opening expected in 2028. For new library plans and latest updates visit the library's website at www.lincolnlibraries.org.



Central Library open house at SCC





FY 24-25 Statistics

Library Locations

CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS

Bennett Martin Public Library

136 S. 14th Street

Circulation	164,011
Visits	134,271
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

SOUTHWEST LINCOLN

Bess Dodson Walt Branch Library

6701 S. 14th Street

Circulation	496,751
Visits	169,287
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

NORTHWEST LINCOLN

Loren Corey Eiseley Branch Library

1530 Superior Street

Circulation	270,998
Visits	119,045
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

Dan A. Williams Branch Library

4900 Mike Scholl Street

Circulation	12,848
Visits	15,147
Public Service Hrs/Week	31

NORTHEAST LINCOLN

Victor E. Anderson Branch Library

3635 Touzalin Avenue

Circulation	154,047
Visits	74,981
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

Bethany Branch Library

1810 N. Cotner Boulevard

Circulation	99,537
Visits	35,982
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

SOUTHEAST/CENTRAL LINCOLN

Charles H. Gere Branch Library

2400 S. 56th Street

Circulation	682,264
Visits	227,288
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

South Branch Library

2675 South Street

Circulation	111,440
Visits	48,811
Public Service Hrs/Week	64

MOBILE OUTREACH

Lied Bookmobile

Circulation	17,349
Visits	3,737
Public Service Hrs/Week	20

ELECTRONIC MATERIALS

Ebooks, Audiobooks and Movies via Overdrive and Hoopla

Circulation	1,014,628
Website Visits	1,506,520
Public Service Hrs/Week	24/7

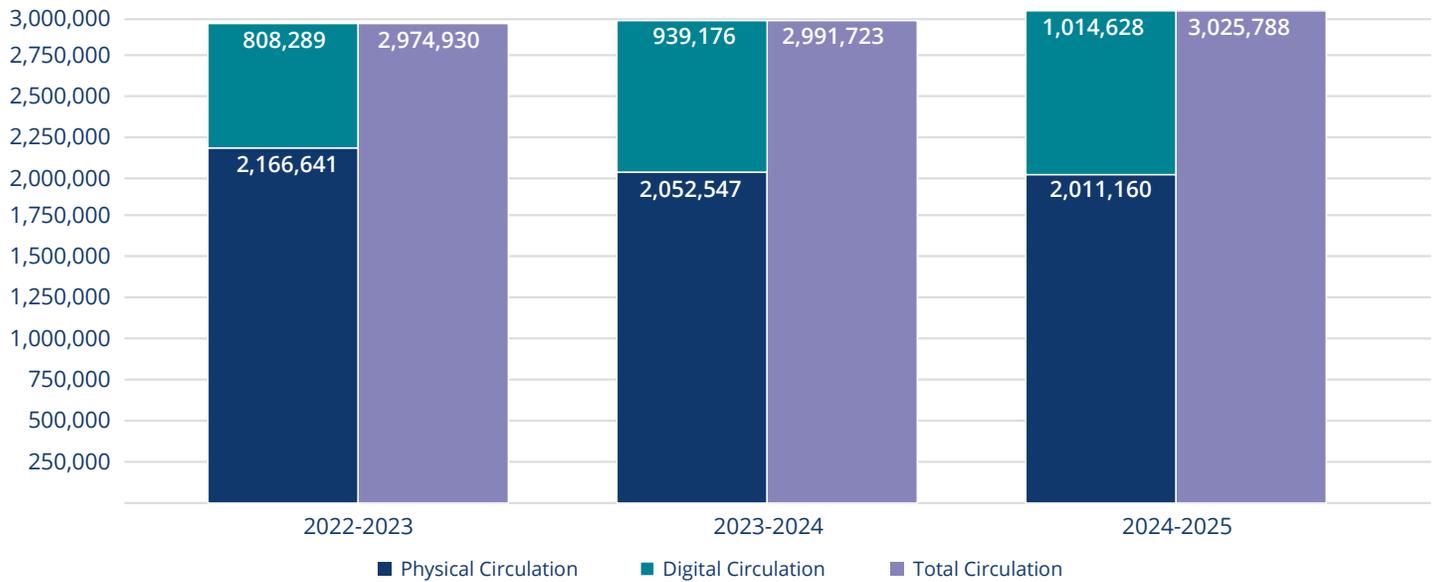
LIBRARY SERVICES

Annual Library Visits	828,549
Number of Registered Borrowers	169,545
Library OneCard (LPS Student Accounts)	41,847
Circulation of Adult Materials	1,601,553
Circulation of Children's Materials	1,429,971
Total Physical Circulation	2,011,160
Total Electronic Circulation	1,014,628
Total Physical + Electronic Circulation	3,025,788
Number of Public Internet Computers	164
Internet Computer Reservations	91,562
Program Attendance Children & Teens	79,917
Attendance in Meeting Rooms	18,744
Attendance in Study Rooms	11,682
Total Employees (FTEs)	108.5
Total Number of Volunteers	180
Total Number of Volunteer Hours	8,789

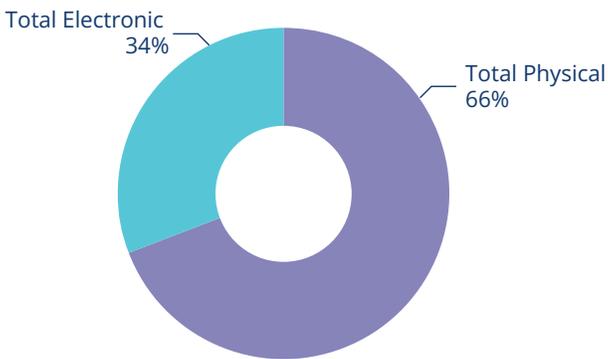
LIBRARY MATERIAL HOLDINGS

Adult Print	341,902
Adult Non-Print	307,684
Youth Print	74,444
Youth Non-Print	32,485
Total Owned	756,515

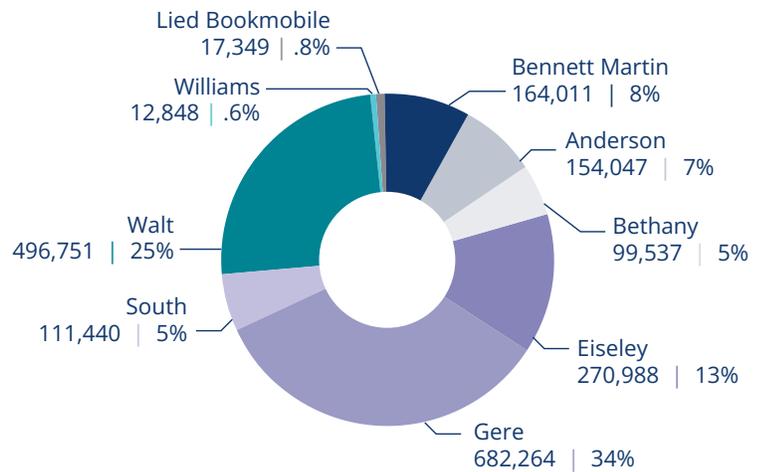
Circulation 3-year Comparison



Physical & Digital Circulation FY 24-25



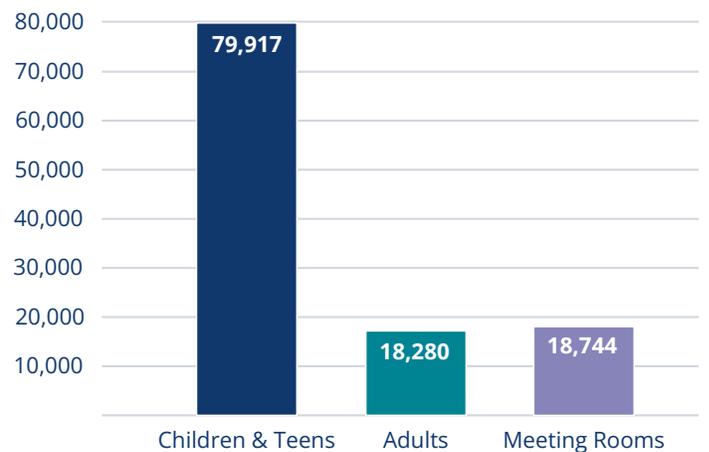
Circulation by Branch



Annual Visits 3-year Comparison



Event Attendance/ Meeting Room Use FY 24-25



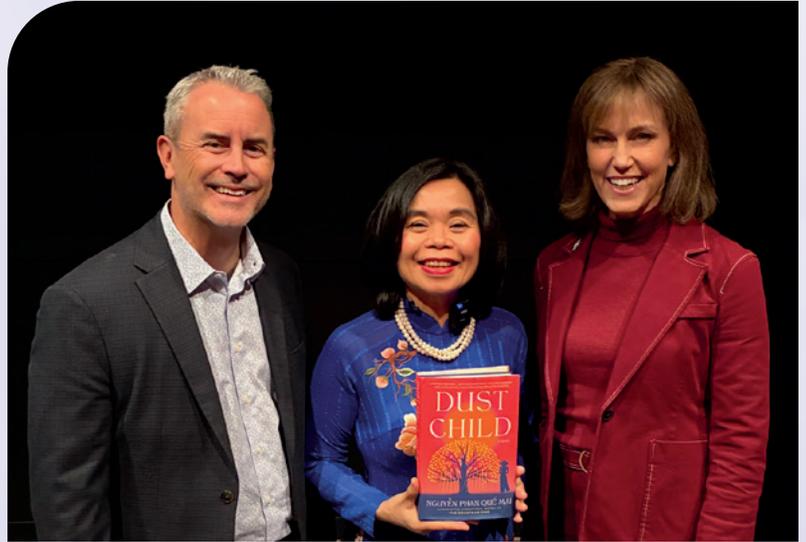
One Book One Lincoln 2025: Dust Child

One Book One Lincoln has been uniting the readers of Lincoln and Lancaster County since 2002. Community members nominate titles which are submitted to the Selection Committee composed of community volunteers. The Committee members spend two months reading, discussing and narrowing the list down to a Top Ten before voting on three finalists to present to the public on Memorial Day.

Dust Child by Vietnamese author Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai ultimately won the most community votes. The book's universal themes of love, loss, forgiveness, resilience, and identity resonated with readers as reflected in this comment from a voter, "This book was healing to me and to many Americans who served in the Vietnam War. It allows you to get a glimpse of the war from another perspective but more importantly it gives humanity to the ghosts of any war!"

Through the generous support of the Lincoln City Libraries Foundation, Quế Mai was brought to Lincoln and was able to spend time with Selection Committee and Library Board members, but also with local members of the Asian Community and Cultural Center who hosted a welcome reception for Que Mai that included Vietnamese food and dancers. The Lincoln High School Auditorium was again the venue for the public event and a special presentation during the day to approximately 90 Lincoln High students. More than 250 people attended the evening program to hear Que Mai speak about her writing journey and enjoy her performances of a poem, a song and a Vietnamese language lesson.

We are excited to celebrate our 25th One Book One Lincoln season in 2026 and look forward to continuing to the tradition of reading and discussion in our community!

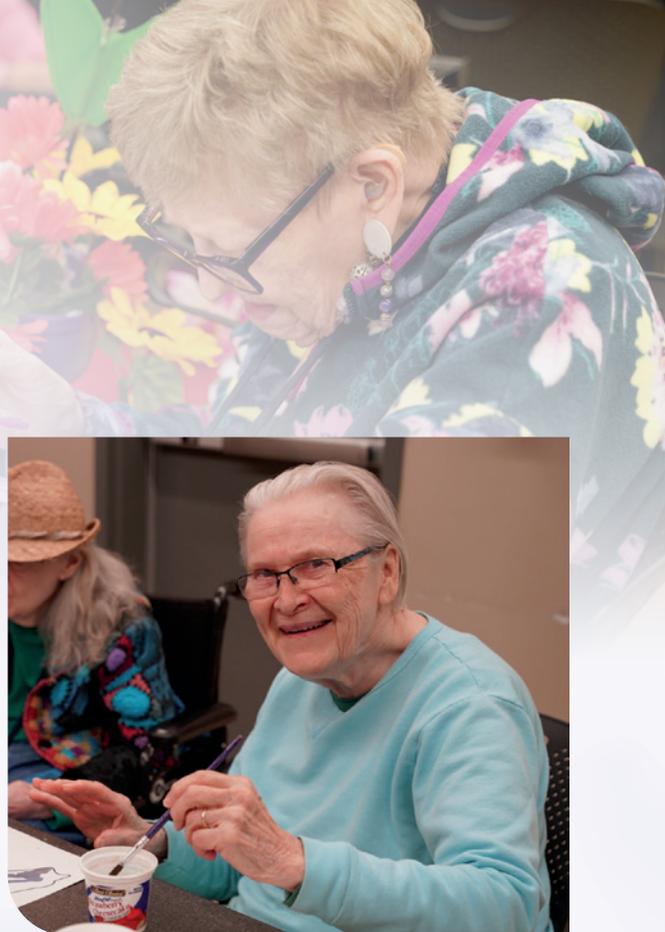


Memory Café

A GATHERING OF HEARTS AND MINDS AT WALT BRANCH LIBRARY

Every month, Walt Branch Library transforms into a place where connection takes center stage. Memory Café, a program designed for adults experiencing changes in memory or memory loss, offers a welcoming space not just for participants but also for the friends, family members, and caregivers who walk alongside them. It's a simple gathering — refreshments, a guided activity, and plenty of time to socialize — yet it has become one of the most heartfelt programs hosted at Walt Branch.

The activities vary from month to month: creative projects, gentle games, music, or themed conversations that spark memories and invite everyone to participate. Volunteers and staff help guide the experience. For caregivers, Memory Café offers a moment of respite and camaraderie — a reminder that they are not alone. For participants, it provides a chance to engage, have fun, and feel part of a supportive community. And for everyone in the room, it's an uplifting reminder of how meaningful human connection can be.



Public Art at Lincoln City Libraries

PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS AT LIBRARY BRANCHES WAS A MAJOR FOCUS IN 2024-2025



If you've driven eastbound on South Street at 27th, it's likely you've seen the beautiful mural by artist and children's book illustrator, Chloe Burgett gracing the wall of South Branch Library.



Put Eiseley Branch Library near 14th and Superior on your destination list to visit "Heritage" by Eddie Dominguez, on loan from the Museum of Nebraska Art.



At Gere Branch Library, see the maquette of Willa Cather, donated by Jeff Kirkpatrick and Glenda Pierce. The original sculpture by Littleton Alston stands in the National Statuary Hall Collection in Washington D.C.

2025 Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is an annual tradition at Lincoln City Libraries and 2025 was a record-setting year. Lincoln City Libraries encourages patrons to sign up for the challenge in order to keep their brains active and strong over the busy summer months. To complete the challenge, registered patrons need to read 10 hours, visit a Lincoln City Libraries location four times and participate in a few simple activities during the months of June and July.

2025 was a record year with over 19,000 registrants, and we also saw the highest completion rate for the Summer Reading Challenge since 2019, with over 40% of registrants finishing the challenge.

Lincoln City Libraries staff led 300 storytimes in the months of June and July, with over 9,000 attendees. Early literacy-focused storytimes are a core service at Lincoln City Libraries but building healthy brains isn't all we do! We host and lead events for all ages and interest levels. In addition to storytimes, Lincoln City Libraries staff hosted 320 events with over 12,000 attendees in the months of June and July. That's a lot of people using their library and engaging in fun, free, and educational events!



Library Board Information

Jackie Ostrowicki PRESIDENT
*Assistant VP for External Relations
University of Nebraska*
TERM: 2020-2027

Lisa Hale VICE PRESIDENT
*Vice-President, Customer Services
Lincoln Electric System*
TERM: 2021-2028

Terri Dunlap TREASURER
Retired
TERM: 2024-2031

Joe Shaw PAST PRESIDENT
*Executive Director
Lux Center for the Arts*
TERM: 2019-2029

Morgan Gerteisen
*Director, Talent Operations
LI-COR Biosciences*
TERM: 2023-2029

Patty Beutler
Freelance Writer and Editor
TERM: 2023-2030

Marilyn Moore
*Retired President at
Bryan College of Health Sciences*
TERM: 2025-2032

Nichole Bogen COUNTY LIASON
*Assistant Attorney General
State of Nebraska*
TERM: 2020-2027



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