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City Libraries

Director's Report for June 2025

Summer at Lincoln City Libraries is a special time! Our teams at all locations have put in a lot of effort in creating memorable experiences for our library visitors young and old alike. It is so rewarding to visit a library during this time of year and be reminded of the joy that we can help provide for patrons through books, programs, and opportunities for connection and learning.

Several of our staff team assisted as greeters at the annual Library Night at the Ballpark (Saltdogs baseball game) held on June 6, where they welcomed attendees and distributed library fans. The park was a sea of library purple with hundreds of summer reading participants and their families in attendance.

I attended the Lincoln – Topeka “City Swap” event coordinated by the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce. The visit to Topeka included talks on economic development initiatives and tours of new developments and city highlights, including their newer 178,000 sq. ft library. It was plain to see the admiration that local leaders had for their library and how it was recognized as vital for their city. It was also nice to see how some of our future ideas for activities and spaces at the new Central Library are actually being utilized in their beautiful facility.

The final two Central Library Open Houses took place on June 26 at Walt and July 7 at 1111 O Street. Walt saw 30-40 attendees, and roughly 120 visited at the SCC site. We had about 30 “ambassadors” helping at the event on July 7, including former Library Director Pat Leach, former FLCL Director Gail McNair, Library Board and Foundation Board members, library staff, and many folks who have been close to the library and this project over the years.

Project O Street is in the news recently. This work involving utilities replacement, repaving, and streetscape enhancements between 9th and 16th streets will take place from 2025-2027 and be coordinated with the library project. Libraries, LTU, and the engineers and architects had an opening coordination meeting to get caught up on both projects and identify a strategy for coordination.

In early June I participated in a panel discussion for UNL Libraries’: “Library Leadership Panel – The Impact of Current Challenges on Libraries” with library leaders from UNL and past ALA President Emily Drabinski. Other recent talks include presentations before Downtown Lincoln Association, Chamber of Commerce, LIBA, and the Mayor’s Neighborhood Roundtable.

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, Mission and Priorities in our daily work:

- Catherine S. (Eiseley-Williams) shared this story: "I had a mother and her son stop at the front desk of Eiseley last Monday, June 23rd. The young boy was very excited about the puzzle hunt picture he had been putting together over the last couple of weeks. They had found the last puzzle piece in the youth section. I gave them their copy of the piece along with a bit of tape to attach it to the rest of the picture, and the boy just absolutely lit up. He started describing each section of the pieced-together painting to me in detail and then included a too-fast-to-follow story of him finding each quarter of the painting. I was happy to just stand and listen to him ramble until they finished checking out and left the library. Jackie S.'s Art Puzzle Piece of the Week activity may not include any grand prizes, but it's been bringing a number of kids joy at Eiseley!"
- Jackie S. shared this from Williams: "I was talking with one of my seniors after Senior Coffee and he was telling me how last time he was there he got a library card. He was very excited about having a card and asked me to grab a book for him to checkout. I asked him if he had anything in mind, he said no, any book will work as it will be the first book he has read in over a decade. I also had another senior sign up for a new card that same day."
- From Jill D. at Eiseley-Williams: "During Adventures in Art program at Eiseley, a young man working on his art portfolio told me he never wanted to leave and told me he'd give me \$1,000 a night if he could stay in the library. I asked him where he was going to get that kind of money and he very nonchalantly pointed to his Dad, then re-iterated that he really didn't want to ever leave!"
- Susan S. worked with sculptor Eddie Dominguez to create a program entitled Story Stones at Eiseley. Participants worked with clay and the first letter of their name to create a story about themselves. It was especially nice to have Professor Dominguez here since his artwork *Heritage* is currently housed at Eiseley. This was an all-age program and there were 40 in attendance.
- Polley Librarian Scott S. relates: "I'm working on moving some Polley events over to the new MBX facility across the street from BMPL starting in September when they officially open to the public. There are a few musical ideas I've been holding onto for a while because they're logistically difficult to do in a library setting, but might work better in that music-focused environment. I anticipate that we'll be able to reach an even wider audience for music events in collaboration with MBX as the direction of the space starts to take shape."
- In the Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors, the Nebraska Heritage Book Club met on June 27, 2025 to discuss *It's No the End of the Earth But You Can See It From Here* by Roger Welsch; 13 people attended. Linda Welsch, Roger's wife, attended.
- A few months ago, Nancy E. and Kolette S. proposed that Anderson Branch Library host some sessions at which adults could learn to play the Chinese game of Mahjong. Nancy and Kolette, along with Librarian Karrie S., enlisted the help of former LCL employee Roddy H. and some members of her weekly Mahjong group. *Mahjong 101* took place at Anderson Branch Library 2-4 PM every Wednesday during the month of June. Combined attendance at the four sessions was 45. At the end of the month, one of the regular attendees approached NESU Manager Kim S. to request additional sessions of Mahjong at the library. The Anderson Branch meeting room has been booked for one afternoon every other week during July and August to provide those who are interested with a place to continue playing and learning.

- Lisa V. from NESU facilitated the *Splish Splash Storytime* at Ballard Pool on 06/20/2025. 85 people attended, and Lisa reported, "There was a great mix of ages including babies, preschoolers, and elementary aged kids as well as parents and grandparents." According to Librarian Karrie S., "Lisa thought the event was super fun and is excited to do another one!"
- Summer teen volunteers, referred to as VolunTEENs, contributed 30 hours of volunteer help at Anderson Branch Library during the month of June. They performed a wide array of tasks such as assembling summer reading registration packets, putting carts of "to be shelved" materials in order to speed up the shelving process, and assisting with youth and teen events. One VolunTEEN helps with Toddler Time and *Stay & Play* sessions every Monday morning at Anderson Branch Library. Karrie S., NESU VolunTEEN coordinator, shared, "Seven VolunTEENs attended our June meeting [06/16/2025]. We did some brainstorming for future teen programs, and they helped me pull books for upcoming June displays."
- Meagan M. (Walt) showed a patron Tumblebooks. "I showed her the Tumblebook app and explained that it's akin to a digital Wonderbook. She was very pleased to learn about this new-to-her offering."
- Wyatt Packard shared, "A regular customer who likes to sit in the Learning Lab and spread out his papers commented to me that 'I think it is great that families can come put those models together. It is nice to see families working together on something,' referring to the LEGO sets that we have for in-house use."
- Lisa W., Shannon K., and intern Kya B. (Walt) hosted the Family Fun Night Lego Challenge. Lisa wrote, "76 children and their family members took part in Duplo and Lego challenges, crafts, and building activities. We also had drawings for door prizes."
- Courtney S. reported that "The Saltdogs visited Walt on June 24. 130 people came to see the players and Homer! One family even convinced the three players to have a dance-off, which Homer won!"
- Storytimes at Walt are frequently reaching the capacity for the community rooms. In June, storytimes reached a total attendance of 1,064. Maintaining a weekly Family Storytime on Saturdays remains a priority as it has strong attendance of about 45, made possible thanks to rotating presenters Jessica S., Lisa W., Courtney S., and Andrea C.
- Walt Manager Wyatt Packard writes: "We were happy to see that Walt's circulation for June was up 11.15% compared to June of last year. It is also up 23.93% from last month. I believe one reason circ is up is because of the great work done to get items checked in and shelved promptly. Our traffic report also shows that we saw almost 23% of all LCL traffic. I am continually impressed and proud of this team."
- Meet an Illustrator on the 18th hosted by Erica P., Chad S. and Leanne D. at Gere had 155 attending at Gere. Chloe Burgett was on hand to talk about her book – *Camp Grandma and Grandpa* – and give a presentation for kids with time for questions and then a guided drawing lesson with Chloe, where the attendees sketched the dog in the story.
- Diane V. (Gere-South) hosted 9 Baby Storytimes with 247 attending and themes of: Pond; Park; Walk; Backyard; and Fireworks. Diane shared: "Throughout this month we have been using props to name and find body parts as well as showing parents that for babies even a simple trip into their own backyard can be an adventure."

- The Community Crops Garden Party Event was at Gere on Saturday, the 28th. Ronda H. and Gina C. were present with activities and information on library services. Ronda said: "There were a lot of great booths! Someone had even made fresh ice cream. Bryan Health was there demonstrating cooking with fresh vegetables. There was a local artist right next to us, who had a group painting going along with chalk art on the parking lot. Gina and I had bubbles, butterflies, coloring sheets, flannels boards with fruits and vegetables, and the beanbag toss. The kids and adults loved to make the giant bubbles. They were beautiful floating over the garden." It was a celebration of Gardens, Gardeners, and Local Food with 175 attending. This has been a great partnership with LCL and the community garden now at Gere.
- Anthony V. (BMPL) shared a variety of items he 3D printed this month including a detachable stand for Kitchenaid products, a custom skateboard part, fidget puzzles, and a miniature model house. He said, "We have been getting some exciting requests and I'm happy to deliver on the projects."

2025 SRC Statistics:

Registrations through June

	2025	2024	% Change
Children	9952	8147	22.16%
Teen	1399	1215	15.14%
Adult	6997	5514	26.90%
Overall	18348	14876	23.34%

Completions through June

	2025	2024	% Change
Children	1319	1307	0.92%
Teen	241	120	100.83%
Adult	884	748	18.18%
Overall	2444	2175	12.37%

Completion Percentage through June

	2025	2024	% Change
Children	13.25%	16.04%	-17.39%
Teen	17.23%	9.88%	74.42%
Adult	12.63%	13.57%	-6.87%
Overall	13.32%	14.62%	-8.90%

Ryan Wieber,
Library Director
7.11.25

Lincoln City Libraries
June 2025 Use Report

Location	Loans/Circulation			Visits			June 2025 Other Use					June 2024 Other Use					Change: Total Other Use
	June 2025	June 2024	Change	June 2025	June 2024	Change	Program & Outreach		Meeting Room		Total Other Use	Program & Outreach		Meeting Room		Total Other Use	
							Computer Reservations	Attendance	Attendance	Study Room Attendance		Computer Reservations	Attendance	Attendance	Study Room Attendance		
Bennett Martin Public Library	15,355	16,156	-4.96%	11,996	11,243	6.70%	2,797	1,928	266	44	5,035	2,490	2,926	180	0	5,596	-10.03%
Anderson Branch Library	16,417	14,617	12.31%	7,449	6,550	13.73%	632	1,844	41	0	2,517	779	907	157	0	1,843	36.57%
Bethany Branch Library	9,492	9,745	-2.60%	3,553	3,563	-0.28%	203	408	0	0	611	222	376	0	0	598	2.17%
Eiseley Branch Library	27,070	27,139	-0.25%	11,176	11,095	0.73%	1,465	1,668	192	281	3,606	1,314	1,564	233	0	3,111	15.91%
Gere Branch Library	67,680	68,868	-1.73%	21,132	23,804	-11.23%	1,193	3,379	335	283	5,190	1,214	2,696	423	0	4,333	19.78%
South Branch Library	11,025	10,646	3.56%	4,774	4,538	5.20%	463	520	0	0	983	619	557	0	0	1,176	-16.41%
Walt Branch Library	53,558	48,186	11.15%	18,188	17,049	6.68%	1,120	2,447	177	348	4,092	1,115	3,204	203	0	4,522	-9.51%
Williams Branch Library	1,477	1,131	30.59%	1,387	1,112	24.73%	178	570	0	0	748	105	428	0	0	533	40.34%
Lied Bookmobile	1,188	1,604	-25.94%	156	379	-58.84%	0	107	0	0	107	0	44	0	0	44	143.18%
InterLibrary Loan	141	189	-25.40%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	1,330	0	0	1,330	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
SUBTOTAL	203,403	198,281	2.58%	79,811	79,333	0.60%	8,051	14,201	1,011	956	24,219	7,858	12,702	1,196	0	21,756	11.32%
DownloadStream Audio	49,533	44,104	12.31%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBooks	33,800	31,394	7.66%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	1,148	1,161	-1.12%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Download SUBTOTAL	84,481	76,659	10.20%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	287,884	274,940	4.71%	79,811	79,333	0.60%	8,051	14,201	1,011	956	24,219	7,858	12,702	1,196	0	21,756	11.32%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2025	2024	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged	998	973	2.57%
Owned	341,558	307,014	73,713	32,365	754,650	Active			
Added	1,815	1,700	349	22	3,886	Resident	148,869	148,141	0.49%
Withdrawn	-651	-620	-23	-21	-1,315	Library OneCard	53,399	48,249	10.67%
Current	342,722	308,094	74,039	32,366	757,221	County	8,852	9,007	-1.72%
						NonResident	988	955	3.46%
						Reciprocal	490	491	-0.20%
						Limited Use	10,485	9,744	7.60%
						Total Active	223,083	216,587	3.00%

	2025	2024	Change
WiFi Sessions	133,436	128,259	4.04%
WiFi Users	9,196	9,499	-3.19%
Website Users	75,812	96,069	-21.09%
Website Sessions	137,352	133,521	2.87%
Database Use	8,351	7,216	15.73%

June 2025 Use Compared to June 2024
Lincoln City Libraries

Location	Print Checkouts		Print Loan	Non-Print Checkouts		Non-Print	Total Checkouts		Total Loan
	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Loan Change	2025	2024	Change
BMPL	12,823	13,113	-2.21%	2,532	3,043	-16.79%	15,355	16,156	-4.96%
Anderson	14,039	12,346	13.71%	2,378	2,271	4.71%	16,417	14,617	12.31%
Bethany	8,538	8,742	-2.33%	954	1,003	-4.89%	9,492	9,745	-2.60%
Eiseley	24,460	24,454	0.02%	2,610	2,685	-2.79%	27,070	27,139	-0.25%
Gere	60,133	60,572	-0.72%	7,547	8,296	-9.03%	67,680	68,868	-1.73%
South	9,776	9,230	5.92%	1,249	1,416	-11.79%	11,025	10,646	3.56%
Walt	47,843	42,919	11.47%	5,715	5,267	8.51%	53,558	48,186	11.15%
Williams	1,364	1,039	31.28%	113	92	22.83%	1,477	1,131	30.59%
Lied Bookmobile	1,073	1,446	-25.80%	115	158	-27.22%	1,188	1,604	-25.94%
InterLibrary Loan	141	189	-25.40%	0	0	0.00%	141	189	-25.40%
Subtotal Checkouts	180,190	174,050	3.53%	23,213	24,231	-4.20%	203,403	198,281	2.58%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	49,533	44,104	12.31%	49,533	44,104	12.31%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	33,800	31,394	7.66%	33,800	31,394	7.66%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,148	1,161	-1.12%	1,148	1,161	-1.12%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	180,190	174,050	3.53%	107,694	100,890	6.74%	287,884	274,940	4.71%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Change
BMPL	6,598	7,013	-5.92%	8,757	9,143	-4.22%	11,996	11,243	6.70%
Anderson	9,748	8,172	19.29%	6,669	6,445	3.48%	7,449	6,550	13.73%
Bethany	6,244	6,533	-4.42%	3,248	3,212	1.12%	3,553	3,563	-0.28%
Eiseley	19,253	19,030	1.17%	7,817	8,109	-3.60%	11,176	11,095	0.73%
Gere	42,605	42,418	0.44%	25,075	26,450	-5.20%	21,132	23,804	-11.23%
South	6,956	6,511	6.83%	4,069	4,135	-1.60%	4,774	4,538	5.20%
Walt	39,215	34,635	13.22%	14,343	13,551	5.84%	18,188	17,049	6.68%
Williams	1,199	932	28.65%	278	199	39.70%	1,387	1,112	24.73%
Lied Bookmobile	719	1,017	-29.30%	469	587	-20.10%	156	379	-58.84%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	141	189	-25.40%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	132,537	126,261	4.97%	70,866	72,020	-1.60%	79,811	79,333	0.60%
Download/Stream Audio	7,097	6,421	10.53%	42,436	37,683	12.61%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	7,031	5,360	31.18%	26,769	26,034	2.82%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,148	1,161	-1.12%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	146,665	138,042	6.25%	141,219	136,898	3.16%	79,811	79,333	0.60%

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth		P&O Att - Youth	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult		P&O Att - Adult	Computer Use		Computer
	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Change
BMPL	1,745	2,409	-27.56%	183	517	-64.60%	2,797	2,490	12.33%
Anderson	1,794	899	99.56%	50	8	525.00%	632	779	-18.87%
Bethany	384	359	6.96%	24	17	41.18%	203	222	-8.56%
Eiseley	1,639	1,263	29.77%	29	301	-90.37%	1,465	1,314	11.49%
Gere	2,930	2,672	9.66%	449	24	1770.83%	1,193	1,214	-1.73%
South	508	557	-8.80%	12	0	0.00%	463	619	-25.20%
Walt	2,230	3,059	-27.10%	217	145	49.66%	1,120	1,115	0.45%
Williams	489	396	23.48%	81	32	153.13%	178	105	69.52%
Lied Bookmobile	20	0	0.00%	87	44	97.73%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	725		0.00%	605		0.00%			0.00%
TOTAL	12,464	11,614	7.32%	1,737	1,088	59.65%	8,051	7,858	2.46%

Location	Meeting Room Attendance		Meeting Room Att	Study Room Attendance		Study Room Att			
	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	Change	2025	2024	
BMPL	266	180	47.78%	44		0.00%			0.00%
Anderson	41	157	-73.89%	0		0.00%			0.00%
Bethany	0	0	0.00%	0		0.00%			0.00%
Eiseley	192	233	-17.60%	281		0.00%			0.00%
Gere	335	423	-20.80%	283		0.00%			0.00%
South	0	0	0.00%	0		0.00%			0.00%
Walt	177	203	-12.81%	348		0.00%			0.00%
Williams	0	0	0.00%	0		0.00%			0.00%
Lied Bookmobile			0.00%			0.00%			0.00%
TOTAL	1,011	1,196	-15.47%	956	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%

Lincoln City Libraries
June 2025 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report

Location	Loans/Circulation			Visits		
	Loans/ Circulation FY 24-25 YTD	Loans/ Circulation FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change	Visits FY 24-25 YTD	Visits FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change
Bennett Martin Public Library	133,372	141,875	-5.99%	109,390	109,006	0.35%
Anderson Branch	125,916	117,310	7.34%	60,803	55,170	10.21%
Bethany Branch	81,756	77,183	5.92%	29,296	30,027	-2.43%
Eiseley Branch	221,540	228,270	-2.95%	98,882	94,437	4.71%
Gere Branch	558,597	588,822	-5.13%	190,576	191,580	-0.52%
South Branch	90,780	92,694	-2.06%	39,532	36,418	8.55%
Walt Branch	399,304	405,393	-1.50%	135,921	131,107	3.67%
Williams Branch	10,400	9,725	6.94%	12,890	15,367	-16.12%
Lied Bookmobile	14,991	15,102	-0.74%	3,396	3,565	-4.74%
InterLibrary Loan	1,614	1,936	-16.63%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
SUBTOTAL	1,638,270	1,678,310	-2.39%	680,686	666,677	2.10%
DownloadStream Audio	480,843	426,744	12.68%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBooks	346,656	324,078	6.97%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	10,943	9,575	14.29%	0	0	0.00%
Download SUBTOTAL	838,442	760,397	10.26%	0	0	0.00%
Total	2,476,712	2,438,707	1.56%	680,686	666,677	2.10%

	FY 24-25 YTD	FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	1,147	1,553	-26.14%
Overall Registrations	9,763	10,616	-8.04%

	FY 24-25 YTD	FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change
WiFi Sessions	1,193,911	1,230,983	-3.01%
WiFi Users	92,082	95,102	-3.18%
Website Users	848,762	980,197	-13.41%
Website Sessions	1,240,270	1,320,258	-6.06%
Database Use	78,386	81,725	-4.09%

Year-to-Date Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth	
Owned 9/1/2024	372,148	329,191	80,850	34,144	816,333
Added YTD	20,640	19,886	2,683	1,448	44,657
Withdrawn YTD	-50,066	-40,983	-9,494	-3,226	-103,769
Current - 6/30/2025	342,722	308,094	74,039	32,366	757,221

Location							Other Use								
	Computer Reservations FY 24-25 YTD	Computer Reservations FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change	Program & Outreach Attendance FY 24-25 YTD	Program & Outreach Attendance FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change	Meeting Room Attendance FY 24-25 YTD	Meeting Room Attendance FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change	Study Room Attendance FY 24-25 YTD	*Study Room Attendance FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change	Total Other Use FY 24-25 YTD	Total Other Use FY 23-24 YTD	YTD CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	23,979	22,327	7.40%	7,217	10,513	-31.35%	2,131	1,887	12.93%	558	0	0.00%	33,885	34,727	-2.42%
Anderson Branch	7,736	7,414	4.34%	8,467	6,289	34.63%	1,838	1,994	-7.82%	0	0	0.00%	18,041	15,697	14.93%
Bethany Branch	2,219	2,427	-8.57%	2,505	2,098	19.40%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	4,724	4,525	4.40%
Eiseley Branch	13,703	13,755	-0.38%	13,563	11,090	22.30%	3,110	3,314	-6.16%	2,941	0	0.00%	33,317	28,159	18.32%
Gere Branch	12,065	12,341	-2.24%	18,403	18,013	2.17%	5,806	6,169	-5.88%	2,880	0	0.00%	39,154	36,523	7.20%
South Branch	4,445	4,773	-6.87%	2,443	2,681	-8.88%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	6,888	7,454	-7.59%
Walt Branch	11,299	10,610	6.49%	14,720	19,563	-24.76%	3,562	4,481	-20.51%	3,450	0	0.00%	33,031	34,654	-4.68%
Williams Branch	2,368	1,702	39.13%	2,860	1,871	52.86%	20	24	-16.67%	0	0	0.00%	5,248	3,597	45.90%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	980	529	85.26%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	980	529	85.26%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	5,104	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	5,104	0	0.00%
Total	77,814	75,349	3.27%	76,262	72,647	4.98%	16,467	17,869	-7.85%	9,829	0	0.00%	180,372	165,865	8.75%

*Study Room Attendance tracking began 9/1/2024