

Director's Report for July 2024

Begin with Books is a program where the Library uses donations and grant funds to supply cultural centers and medical facilities with free, 0-5 age-based books for distribution to families. Last month, we supplied Blue Stem Health with 48 boxes (about 1,000 books) and the Indian Center with 400 books to promote early literacy and encourage library use.

LCL will begin producing a bimonthly newsletter (name TBD!) that expands upon the quarterly "Library Lineup" by highlighting programs and services and gives residents a flavor of the depth and breadth of what our staff and library offer the community in terms of value, lifelong learning and positive impact. The first issue will be available by late August and we're confident this will become a great way for people to know what's happening and why libraries are important for great communities.

Along with Andy Peterson of the Lux Center for the Arts, I met recently with the City of Lincoln Historic Preservation Commission to review the South Branch Mural Project. We provided a general overview of the application process and timing for mural installation, and Andy gave details on the nature of the painting and removal method, assuring that the brick surface would not be damaged.

Another Summer Reading Challenge has come and gone, and we have so many library staff to be grateful for their planning, creativity, sweat!, and happiness shown to participants of all ages. This was a year of transition as several positions were being filled along the way, but we're grateful for staff across the system stepping up and pitching in to ensure families experienced the joy of reading during summer break. Newly promoted Ali Bousquet (Youth Services-Outreach Coordinator) will be holding a post-SRC "retreat" with staff involved in summer planning to assess, evaluate and begin adjusting and planning for next year. The SRC wrap-up report will be reported at the September Board meeting.

Recent speaking engagements include talks to several Kiwanis clubs and a very engaged audience at The Landing senior living. At these talks I cover the basics about the library—from funding, staffing, and technology to programs, new initiatives and future library plans. Nearly always, a majority of the attendees currently or have used the Libraries, and they all have their favorite neighborhood branch. These visits are great ways to hear ideas, and explain where libraries are, and where we're headed.

Many staff at LCL perform regular outreach by visiting schools, daycares, cultural centers. I want to call out a couple employees who take regularly demonstrate their passion and

lover for libraries with others. Kim Jorgensen (BMPL) has for years visited Morrill Hall to deliver story times and fun activities for kids and families, and Scott Clark—also at BMPL—recently took a library program outside our walls for part 2 of his Lincoln Cinema History Tour, a walkabout downtown with patrons. It's efforts like these that patrons notice and helps establish a recognition that Lincoln City Libraries goes above and beyond for service and value!

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 Offerings3. Strengthening our Potential

4. Growing our Support

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

- Maddie O. (Eiseley-Williams) shared this patron encounter: I was checking out to a patron when she told me that this was the first summer that she was retired and that her grandson was staying with her from out of town. She said that she was so appreciative of the library and of all the amazing summer programs that we had to offer and the tickets that we had given out for the summer reading program. She told me that they had come to the library multiple times a week just to make sure that they didn't miss an event and browse through all of the books and DVDs. She ended the conversation by saying that it was a very special summer that she got to spend with her grandson and thanked the library for our hard work and dedication.
- Splish Splash Storytimes in the northeast part of Lincoln proved very popular. On 7/19/2024, Karrie S. presented a storytime at the University Place Aquatic Center to a whopping 60 attendees.
- Walker D. (BMPL) shared: "A patron came in looking for the sheet music for the song "Send in the Clowns" to use in an upcoming audition. We did not have a book of music for that particular show, so I began flipping through the tables of contents for books that were collections of Broadway hits. After some time, I was able to locate the song that she was looking for. The patron was overjoyed and thanked me profusely."
- Caralyn K. at Bennett Martin said she "helped a patron find the death date of a neighbor that she couldn't remember and we were able to find other information

about him and about his wife. She didn't know that she could use Ancestry for free here in the library."

- Ronda H. (Gere-South) had a woman come in and ask for some help finding the Chilton repair books. Ronda showed her how to access them online in the library and also from home. Ronda said she was thrilled to learn that she could access the Chilton database at home.
- The Music exploration events for little ones with Music Studio LNK this month were very popular! We had over 50 attendees on the morning of July 10, and 35 attendees on July 24th. This has been a very successful partnership with the Lincoln Arts Council, and we'll have one more of these events in August.
- There were 4 weekends for Polley radio programs in June, which featured a book about composer/conductor Pierre Boulez and his early surrealist influences, a book about the notebooks of saxophonist Sonny Rollins (an excellent companion to the "Saxophone Colossus" book published last year), and two shows about John Coltrane books, one focusing on his career and long-term influence, and the other a collection of almost every interview he gave during his all-too-short career.
- Meagan M. (Walt) assisted an NDCS employee with registering for a library card. She
 mentioned she was doing so in order to provide movies for the inmates she works
 with. After signing up for the card, Meagan assisted her with navigating the catalog
 and placing holds through her account. She was excited to be able to access the
 catalog from work to make the requests and happy about being able to provide
 entertainment for those she works with.
- Ali B.'s Around Town Storytimes saw the following activity last month: Museum of American Speed had 160 attendees for story time; International Quilt Museum saw 138 attendees. In addition, Stroller Stories on 7/10 and 7/24 brought in 30 attendees.
- Ali said: A Mom and young child, who are regular Stroller Stories attendees, had a family member visiting town who attended the event alongside them. She was a super engaged attendee, singing and rhyming along with us. The family member said to me, after the event, "This was so much fun! I wish I had something like this when I was a new mom".
- Anthony V. (BMPL) stated that he's helped a number of people get set up and going
 to get their food handlers permit for employment, and Walker D. added "I registered
 a new patron for a limited use library card. The patron had just arrived in Lincoln
 from Long Island, NY, and needed his library card so that he could access the
 computers in the lab for the purpose of utilizing them to aid in his search for
 employment. After registering the patron, I directed him upstairs to the lab and he
 expressed relief and excitement at being able to get started on his job hunt."

- Diane V. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: "A customer came in to Gere work on signing up for Medicare. She needed to scan and send info to her former employer and wasn't sure how to go about it. She got on computer and I walked her through scanning and attaching to email and she said 'That's it? I was expecting so many more steps, thank you!"
- LeeAnn Sergeant was helping a gentleman find a copy of the Oxford Picture Dictionary. I took him upstairs to the language collection to show him what we had. He was so delighted and surprised to see we had books in Arabic. He asked how much for the dictionary, so I explained that they can't be purchased here and how a library card works. He told me a few times it was his first time at the library. I took him to the 2nd floor desk and asked Cindy if she could assist getting his card set up for him so I could return to the 1st floor desk. Cindy explained everything to him again in doing so. On the way out, he stopped by the desk and thanked me again. As he was leaving, he told our security guard that it was his first visit to the library. It was so great to see his excitement!
- July 3 Lincoln Public Schools generously allowed us to use their parking lot for Heavy Equipment Day at Williams. Thirty-four patrons attended, including an area daycare. The parking lot at APCC is one-way traffic only and doesn't allow for space for programs like this. We were glad to use LPS parking lot. We had a majority of very young children attending, and each and everyone of them loved honking the horns on a variety of vehicles.
- July 8 Wildlife encounter was popular at Eiseley with 68 patrons attending. It was even more popular at Williams on July10. Eighty-six patrons attended this program at Williams.
- July also marked the close of our summer collaboration with Family Service's program at Hill Elementary and our special summer stop at the Southwood neighborhood clubhouse. Hill was a very successful stop, with between 30-40 kids each visit. This is our second year serving the program, at two different locations. Hopefully we will be able to continue it in the future, depending on their location. Southwood was also a good stop, with customers of all ages from the neighborhood. Southwood board staff was very helpful with providing a place to park and access to the clubhouse if we needed it.
- July 10 Kara Goddard's Hobbit Field Day brought in 54 aspiring elves, dwarves and other interesting creatures.
- It's so fun to see the use of South Library spaces throughout the day by a diverse mix of customers sharing spaces that serve interests of all ages and needs. These photos were taken the afternoon of the 16th, and included an active chess game, newspaper readers, literacy tutor, children in youth area and on game computer.





- Leanne D. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: "A father and his two sons (ages 11 and 13) came into South Library to get library cards and the boys did not know their birthdays. They were from the Congo and that was not considered a vital piece of information. The sponsor who was with them remarked that in the US it's important to know your birthday and the father called the mother to get the dates. I did some research and found an NPR article that indicated that many immigrants coming to the US never had birth certificates or left them behind when fleeing conflict. Determining real birth dates gets complicated certain cultures simply do not celebrate birthdays or they may use completely different calendar systems.
- During June and July 2024, the Cotner Center Condominiums once again allowed Bethany Branch Library to hold its special summer events in their auditorium – at no cost to the library. Three library events were held at the Cotner Center, and the events were promoted to residents via the Cotner Center's monthly newsletter. On 07/18/2024, Magician Jeff Quinn drew a crowd of 150 attendees to the Cotner Center Condominiums auditorium – TRIPLE the number of people that can legally occupy Bethany Branch Library. Many thanks to this wonderful community partner!
- The Tech Time Staff at Gere helped 9 patrons during an equivalent of 12 half-hour appointments. Of these, four needed assistance with digital library services, including Ancestry.
- Cally O. (Gere-South) provided a tour and spoke to a class of 20 graduate students in education from Doane University on the 9th. Cally provided information on services and useful databases for those attending and their students.
- Wyatt P. (BMPL) was speaking with a customer who is facing housing insecurity and asked him what resources would be most helpful to people in his shoes right now. The customer said the library does a great job helping with resources, and suggested what helps the most right now includes air conditioning to cool down, bottled water, beverages with electrolytes, access to bathrooms, food if folks feel like they might pass out, and Karaoke (the customer is a big fan of country music).

- Araya W. (Gere-South) shared: "A customer approached me at South and told me
 they were very grateful that they could charge their phone at the library and use the
 computers for free they said they are between homes at the moment and it is nice
 to have a quiet, climate-controlled place to fill out job applications and check their
 email."
- A patron from out of state came to see the Heritage Room's Dorothy Thomas archives. This is the first time I've had a request to use that particular collection, so it was a hands-on opportunity to learn about it as I assisted the patron. His initial request was too broad; he wanted to see the manuscripts and the letters, which are about 13 boxes of materials. I provided him with a finding aid, which detailed the contents, and that enabled him to select one box at a time for researching.
- A customer at Bethany Branch Library commented "I just love your Book Nook. Almost every time I am here, I buy a couple of books for my grandsons. Then, when they come to my house, they always have new books to read. And sometimes, I put a couple into a large envelope, and I mail books to them. They're kids, and they love to get mail. Thank you for making this service available."
- While the Book Nooks may not provide a core service of Lincoln City Libraries, the Nooks are browsed and appreciated by many library customers. One afternoon at Bethany Branch Library, NESU Manager Kim S. noted, "A woman just walked into Bethany Branch and immediately turned to her right to begin browsing the Book Nook. She did that before looking at anything else in the building!"
- Members of the OverDrive Support Team assisted at least 76 patrons with OverDrive and Hoopla support requests in October.
- During a phone call with an 80-year-old patron, Deanne J. (Walt) told her about BYOB book club, and the patron asked about how the discussion usually goes. She said she was concerned about our political climate and about folks being able to have calm discussions about current issues. Deanne told her the group is small and skews towards fiction, but that they would certainly be respectful of differing views. Deanne also mentioned that sometimes they get off topic and sometimes they get silly. The patron laughed and as they ended the call she thanked Deanne and said she had started her day out "with hope".
- On July 15 at Anderson Branch Library, Kim S. overheard a 3rd-grade girl say to her mother, "Mom. I LOVE this library! They have a puppet show!"
- Family Fun Night at Gere on the 2nd was hosted by Ronda H. and Amanda T. had 97 people attend. Amanda shared: "It was cute to see families building their own

blanket forts. We had a group of kids that got really into it. They had all their snacks and a bunch of books all sprawled out under their tent. The teens did most of the clean up too!

- Jessica S. (Walt) developed a Babysitting Basics for Teens program with Extension Educator Hayley Jackson. It took place on July 17th with a good mix of male and female teen attendees, including young teens from the Malone Center Out-of-School Program and their staff. The kids were put into groups for brainstorming on a child developmental age assignment, worked with some role playing in dispelling tempertantrums, each of them was tasked with changing a dirty diaper as well as dressing and undressing a life-like baby doll.
- Liz C. (Walt) led 7 Legacy residents in a discussion of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. Three regulars were at appointments, but a new resident attended! The group had a great discussion about personal strength, struggling with morality in the face of extreme situations and the horrors we as people are capable of.

Ryan Wieber August 16, 2024

Lincoln City Libraries July 2024 Use Report

		July 2027 C	oc neport				
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	_		Computer	Outreach	July 2024 Jul	-	
Location	Loans	Visits	Reservations	Attendance	Total Use	Use	CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	15,860	11,726	2,728	2,254	32,568	36,319	-10.33%
Anderson Branch	14,589	6,716	916	762	22,983	23,531	-2.33%
Bethany Branch	9,890	3,860	221	400	14,371	14,610	-1.64%
Eiseley Branch	26,896	11,095	527	1,673	40,191	43,139	-6.83%
Gere Branch	70,111	25,093	1,320	2,926	99,450	105,338	-5.59%
South Branch	10,393	4,692	623	646	16,354	16,829	-2.82%
Walt Branch	52,543	17,669	1,189	4,427	75,828	76,871	-1.36%
Williams Branch	1,260	1,112	133	371	2,876	665	332.48%
Lied Bookmobile	1,545	380	0	65	1,990	1,759	13.13%
InterLibrary Loan	193	0	0	0	193	160	20.63%
SUBTOTAL	203,280	82,343	7,657	13,524	306,804	319,221	-3.89%
DownloadStream Audio	46,247	0	0	0	46,247	41,316	11.93%
Download/Stream eBooks	32,534	0	0	0	32,534	33,670	-3.37%
Stream Video	1,112	0	0	0	1,112	839	32.54%
Download SUBTOTAL	79,893	0	0	0	79,893	75,825	5.36%
TOTAL CIRCULATION	283,173	82,343	7,657	13,524	386,697	395,046	-2.11%
				WiFi Sessions	138,096	127,665	8.17%
				WiFi Users	9,243	10,334	-10.56%
				Website Users	95,829	100,062	-4.23%
				Website Sessions	134,134	97,666	37.34%
				Database Use	5,925	8,658	-31.57%

Change 3.49%

0.71% 11.67% -1.36% 2.02% 2.73%

10.73%

3.39%

219,022

Total Active

211,840

	PRINT		NON PRINT			REGISTRATIONS		2023
Holdings Report	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth	Total	Purged	950	918
Owned	367,415	323,900	80,274	33,543	805,132	Active		
Added	2,606	2,068	330	196	5,200	Resident	148,193	147,155
Withdrawn	62	-2	-5	-3	52	ConnectED	50,667	45,373
Current	370,083	325,966	80,599	33,736	810,384	County	8,995	9,119
_						NonResident	960	941
						Reciprocal	489	476
						Limited Use	9,718	8,776

July 2024 Use Compared to July 2023 Lincoln City Libraries

	Print Checkouts		Print Loan Non-Print Checkouts		Non-Print Total Che		ckouts Total Lo		
Location	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Loan Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	13,019	14,491	-10.16%	2,841	3,226	-11.93%	15,860	17,717	-10.48%
Anderson	12,052	12,940	-6.86%	2,537	2,498	1.56%	14,589	15,438	-5.50%
Bethany	8,868	8,750	1.35%	1,022	1,238	-17.45%	9,890	9,988	-0.98%
Eiseley	23,943	25,724	-6.92%	2,953	4,164	-29.08%	26,896	29,888	-10.01%
Gere	61,444	66,640	-7.80%	8,667	9,553	-9.27%	70,111	76,193	-7.98%
South	9,083	9,840	-7.69%	1,310	1,655	-20.85%	10,393	11,495	-9.59%
Walt	46,243	50,160	-7.81%	6,300	6,645	-5.19%	52,543	56,805	-7.50%
Williams	1,130	354	219.21%	130	76	71.05%	1,260	430	193.02%
Lied Bookmobile	1,388	1,183	17.33%	157	126	24.60%	1,545	1,309	18.03%
InterLibrary Loan	193	160	20.63%	0	0	0.00%	193	160	20.63%
Subtotal Checkouts	177,363	190,242	-6.77%	25,917	29,181	-11.19%	203,280	219,423	-7.36%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	46,247	41,316	11.93%	46,247	41,316	11.93%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	32,534	33,670	-3.37%	32,534	33,670	-3.37%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,112	839	32.54%	1,112	839	32.54%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	177,363	190,242	-6.77%	105,810	105,006	0.77%	283,173	295,248	-4.09%

	Youth Che	ckouts	Youth Loan	Adult Che	ckouts	Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
Location	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	6,639	7,629	-12.98%	9,221	10,088	-8.59%	11,726	11,974	-2.07%
Anderson	7,760	8,886	-12.67%	6,829	6,552	4.23%	6,716	6,696	0.30%
Bethany	6,357	6,388	-0.49%	3,533	3,600	-1.86%	3,860	4,012	-3.79%
Eiseley	18,730	20,886	-10.32%	8,166	9,002	-9.29%	11,095	10,798	2.75%
Gere	43,248	47,814	-9.55%	26,863	28,379	-5.34%	25,093	24,971	0.49%
South	6,250	7,184	-13.00%	4,143	4,311	-3.90%	4,692	4,302	9.07%
Walt	37,874	41,575	-8.90%	14,669	15,230	-3.68%	17,669	16,842	4.91%
Williams	1,058	290	264.83%	202	140	44.29%	1,112	120	826.67%
Lied Bookmobile	931	862	8.00%	614	447	37.36%	380	409	-7.09%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	193	160	20.63%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	128,847	141,514	-8.95%	74,433	77,909	-4.46%	82,343	80,124	2.77%
Download/Stream Audio	6,716	5,721	17.39%	39,531	35,595	11.06%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	5,807	5,781	0.45%	26,727	27,889	-4.17%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,112	839	32.54%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	141.370	153.016	-7.61%	141.803	142,232	-0.30%	82.343	80.124	2.77%

	Program & O	utreach	P&O Att -	Program & Ou	utreach				
	Attendance	- Youth	Youth	Attendance -	Adult	P&O Att - Adult	Computer	Use	Computer
Location	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	2,145	3,857	-44.39%	109	401	-72.82%	2,728	2,370	15.11%
Anderson	762	621	22.71%	0	63	-100.00%	916	713	28.47%
Bethany	388	312	24.36%	12	25	-52.00%	221	273	-19.05%
Eiseley	1,663	1,159	43.49%	10	25	-60.00%	527	1,269	-58.47%
Gere	2,873	2,558	12.31%	53	73	-27.40%	1,320	1,543	-14.45%
South	639	545	17.25%	7	5	40.00%	623	482	29.25%
Walt	4,077	1,869	118.14%	350	107	227.10%	1,189	1,248	-4.73%
Williams	364	107	240.19%	7	0	0.00%	133	8	1562.50%
Lied Bookmobile	17	0	0.00%	48	41	17.07%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	12 928	11 028	17 23%	596	740	-19 46%	7 657	7 906	-3 15%

Lincoln City Libraries

July 2024 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report

	Loans	Loans		Visits	Visits		Computer Reservations	Computer Reservations		Program & Outreach Attendance	Program & Outreach Attendance		Total Use	Total Use	
Location	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	157,735	151,402	4.18%	120,732	119,473	1.05%	25,482	26,105	-2.39%	12,240	15,208	-19.52%	316,189	312,188	1.28%
Anderson Branch	131,899	135,310	-2.52%	61,886	59,618	3.80%	8,367	7,697	8.70%	7,632	7,583	0.65%	209,784	210,208	-0.20%
Bethany Branch	87,073	94,601	-7.96%	33,887	34,804	-2.63%	2,683	2,775	-3.32%	2,897	3,218	-9.98%	126,540	135,398	-6.54%
Eiseley Branch	255,166	272,972	-6.52%	105,532	99,824	5.72%	14,043	12,974	8.24%	15,759	16,667	-5.45%	390,500	402,437	-2.97%
Gere Branch	658,933	711,113	-7.34%	216,673	209,762	3.29%	12,442	14,215	-12.47%	19,680	17,923	9.80%	907,728	953,013	-4.75%
South Branch	103,087	107,701	-4.28%	41,110	38,820	5.90%	5,341	4,983	7.18%	3,189	3,790	-15.86%	152,727	155,294	-1.65%
Walt Branch	457,936	474,465	-3.48%	148,776	140,450	5.93%	11,706	11,505	1.75%	21,334	13,526	57.73%	639,752	639,946	-0.03%
Williams Branch	10,985	7,762	41.52%	16,479	6,296	161.74%	1,435	569	152.20%	1,911	1,005	90.15%	30,810	15,632	97.10%
Lied Bookmobile	16,647	17,839	-6.68%	3,688	4,804	-23.23%	0	0	0.00%	1,068	2,701	-60.46%	21,403	25,344	-15.55%
InterLibrary Loan	1,762	2,124	-17.04%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,762	2,124	-17.04%
SUBTOTAL	1,881,223	1,975,289	-4.76%	748,763	713,851	4.89%	81,499	80,823	0.84%	85,710	81,621	5.01%	2,797,195	2,851,584	-1.91%
DownloadStream Audio	469,819	405,203	15.95%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	469,819	405,203	15.95%
Download/Stream eBooks	346,479	320,068	8.25%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	346,479	320,068	8.25%
Stream Video	10,687	9,374	14.01%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	10,687	9,374	14.01%
Download SUBTOTAL	826,985	734,645	12.57%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	826,985	734,645	12.57%
TOTAL LOANS	2,708,208	2,709,934	-0.06%	748,763	713,851	4.89%	81,499	80,823	0.84%	85,710	81,621	5.01%	3,624,180	3,586,229	1.06%

	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	1176	563	108.88%
Overall Registrations	22814	22473	2%

WiFi Sessions	1,369,079	1,049,568	30.44%
WiFi Users	104,345	106,565	-2.08%
Website Users	981,739	679,746	44.43%
Website Sessions	1,329,206	1,337,997	-0.66%
Database Use	86,842	124,104	-30.02%