Director's Report for October 2025

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*

Library staff continually work at connecting with residents to promote, encourage, and introduce library services. Indeed, our libraries are more than books and have the ability to connect patrons to a world of resources and learning in our buildings and at their fingertips. We offer a wealth of programming for all ages, and online resources that complement our physical collection and offer the convenience of access online and at home. Staff participate in outreach activities and front desk conversations to sign up new cardholders, and demonstrate through tours, hands-on demonstrations, and handouts the abundance of good things that happen every day at LCL.

The NLHA's Annual Spelling Bee took place last month and was a rousing success. FLCL's Tiffani Childress, Jennifer Waye and their committee did a great job to bring out attendees, and the crowd had a fun, competitive evening with emcee John Baylor keeping things light and loose!

A reminder that reciprocal borrowing will end between Omaha Public Library and Lincoln City Libraries on December 31. We'll deliver news to our patrons beginning December 1 via email and direct notifications to current OPL users of LCL resources. Our LCL patrons who use OPL have already received a notification from Omaha.
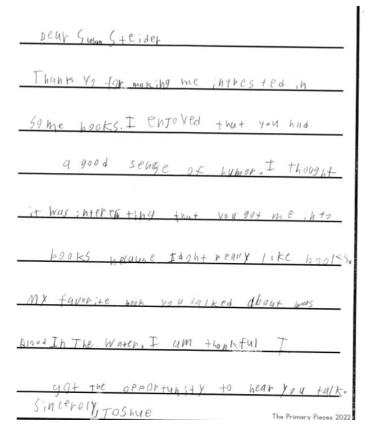
Central Library News
- Sampson Construction was awarded the CMaR work, and our team is working quickly to get them onboarded and up to date so they can begin their work soon. Part of the process will approving a contract with them at City Council in December.
- The Mill Coffee was awarded the coffee shop RFP, and next steps are to finalize the design-assist agreement (to be signed any day), and have them begin working with the architects; and then to finalize a lease agreement which will also come before this Board and City Council.

- We have initial cost estimates on 2nd floor partner spaces and will be working with our potential partners and architects to narrow costs and land on more specific layout and design needs, and then ultimately sign agreements there as well.
- Schematic Design documentation was just received (milestone delivery date was met, 11/14/25). Next phase is design development and working more closely with Sampson to begin creating everything necessary for bid packages. Design development is scheduled to wrap up by end of February 2026.
- The project is officially seeking two "Green Globes" as part of the plan to incorporate sustainability and energy efficiency into the design of the building. This is relatively equivalent to LEED silver status. As a reminder, Green Globes is another certification process often used by local governments as an alternative to the more costly LEED process.

Examples of the Library's Strategic Plan in Action

- Tami R. (Eiseley) reported on this year's Pumpkin and Print Program: We had 10 kids participate in Pumpkins in Print this year (half of what we had last year). What we lacked in participants this year, we made up for in votes with a whopping 215 votes (double from last year). We had some showstoppers. The age level of 6-11 ended in a tie, literally coming down to the last vote! Staff and patrons look forward to this program every year.

- A young patron came in to Eiseley Branch with her mom the evening before Halloween. Celeste W. was helping them. Celeste said to the young girl "You're Katniss!" The patron was so happy to be recognized! Her mother told Celeste that they had been to a couple other places that evening and the girl was disappointed that no one recognized who she was supposed to be. Her mother told her "Wait until we get to the library. They'll know who you are!" And she was right! Celeste made that young patron's day.

- During regular programming in September at Eiseley and Williams Branches, Pam C. reached 34 children at Project Future in Air Park. Celeste W. provided storytime for 52 children at Project Future in the Highlands. At Williams, Pam C. also provided Family Storytime to 37 patrons and Stay and Play to 43 patrons. Williams staff checked out resources to 73 Park & Rec Students during their biweekly visits. At Eiseley, Tami B. reached 57 children through pre-school storytime. Susan S. reached 140 toddlers through toddler storytime. Susan also provided storytime programming at Belmont Preschool for 40 children, and reached 73 patrons through evening preschool storytime at Eiseley. Stay and Play at Eiseley was attended by 368 children.

- Maddie O. provided interactive storytimes to 91 children during Wee Workout Sessions, and Celeste W. provided Baby Storytime to 41 participants.

- Heritage Room Curator, Deb Arenz presented a program about the Heritage Room and Nebraska authors at The Landing Retirement Community on October 14 and 35 people attended.

- Library services were affected by two major tech incidents in October. On October 20, some of our most popular online resources, including Hoopla and Ancestry, were unavailable for several hours due to an Amazon Web Services outage, and on October 29, the Library website was down a total of 13 times in seven hours for periods ranging from less than a minute to almost two and a half hours, due to a widespread Microsoft Azure outage, but our Virtual Services team worked hard at attending to the outages and keeping staff (and patrons!) informed along the way.

Thank you note delivered to staff at Eisely Branch.

- October is traditionally a busy month at the Northeast Service Unit, and this year proved no exception. Eight of NESU's 12 classified employees participated in a total of 7 outreach events – sharing information about Lincoln City Libraries with 3,041 individuals.

- Bethany BookTalks continued this month. Combined attendance at the 5 BookTalks sessions in October was 95. This is even higher than attendance at Bethany Branch Preschool Storytimes which had 92 attendees at 5 sessions. The highest BookTalks attendance of the month took place 10/03/2025. The ever-popular dynamic duo of Stephanie E. and Karrie S. presented to a crowd of 28!

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- Marie' M. (NESU) reported 10/11/2025, "An older gentleman with an *'I love Brooklyn'* shirt came into Bethany. He said he didn't want a library card but just wanted to read in-house, so he sat for awhile and read. Later, he brought up a cookbook and said that he *did* in fact want a library card because he wanted to check out the book. He told me it was perfect because he loves to cook with his grandchildren, which he described to me with much animation and tenderness. He said, "This will be *perfect* for me and my grandbabies," and he seemed so pleased. I am happy to think of him creating more happy memories with his grandkids by using our materials from Bethany Branch! It was a lovely interaction.""

- Vicki C. (Walt) wrote, "A person had been reviewing current issues of the Lincoln Journal Star for articles related to a specific topic. I used the Lincoln Journal Star Image Edition from NewsBank in our online databases and was able to locate additional articles over a year old in a matter of minutes. We were both surprised, yet very encouraged that this information could be found so quickly and prints could be made so easily, just as they appeared in the newspaper."

- Wyatt P. (Walt), Selena S. (Eiseley/Williams), and Yoel S. T. (Gere/South) completed the most recent round of Technology Basics workshops, teaching learners Videoconferencing Basics and Mobile Device Basics. 20 people attended. As part of this grant funded project, Wyatt is also providing Tech Time appointments at Walt and met with three learners in October.

- Jessica S. wrote, "The costumed character, Pete the Cat, visited Saturday Family Storytime on 10/25 with 125 attendees! Walt's own Laurie J. volunteered to wear the costume and she did a great job with the kids, especially one overzealous child that was a self-proclaimed HUGE Pete the Cat fan. I taught a Pete the Cat themed storytime first, before Pete made his appearance at the end. At the end, we called out for Pete. Once he arrived in the storytime room, he did a meet and greet and took photos with the young attendees."

- Due to constructive complaints from library customers that Walt's storytime crowds are large, Kate H., the Read Aloud Librarian, began offering a new Music and Movement storytime on Monday mornings at 10:15am. 20 attended the first two sessions with no marketing, so we expect that this will become a popular offering, made possible only thanks to an additional staff person.

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Memory Café program at Walt Branch.

- This month, Scott S. presented a Polley program called "Slide Rules," in which he talked about the history of slide-based instruments in the last 150 years, and performed some representative examples of music. He brought in a variety of instruments (dobro, lap steel, weissenborn, mohan veena, and tanpura/swarmandal) to show/explain to attendees, along with a powerpoint presentation. Along with bass player Eric Aspengren, He played examples of Hawaiian, country, Americana, Bollywood, and Hindistanti-influenced music using each of the instruments. We had 7 attendees and some good questions!

Top Twenty Website Pages for October 2025:

Page title	Views
Home	45,362
Locations and Hours	11,427
Get a Library Card	1,113
Databases and Research	1,090
Storytimes	932
Due and Renew	808
Print, Scan and Copy	801
One Book One Lincoln	794
eBooks and Audiobooks	777
Kids	717
New Books and DVDs	650
Borrow and Learn	635
3D Printing Request	630
Our Apps	610

Ryan Wieber,
Library Director
11.14.25

Lincoln City Libraries
October 2025 Use Report

Location	Loans/Circulation Oct 2025	Oct 2024	Change	Visits Oct 2025	Oct 2024	Change	October 2025 Other Use Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	Meeting Room Attendance	Study Room Attendance	Total Other Use	October 2024 Other Use Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	Meeting Room Attendance	Study Room Attendance	Total Other Use	Change: Total Other Use
Bennett Martin Public Library	12,906	12,886	0.16%	10,840	11,090	-2.25%	2,747	1,094	243	58	4,142	2,630	796	308	65	3,799	9.03%
Anderson Branch Library	12,545	12,100	3.68%	6,486	6,229	4.13%	765	3,521	203	0	4,489	900	3,105	288	0	4,293	4.57%
Bethany Branch Library	8,062	8,339	-3.32%	2,926	3,153	-7.20%	232	283	0	0	515	219	235	0	0	454	13.44%
Eiseley Branch Library	20,499	21,564	-4.94%	9,320	10,038	-7.15%	1,280	3,027	404	330	5,041	1,513	2,603	379	313	4,808	4.85%
Gere Branch Library	50,381	55,000	-8.40%	15,439	19,966	-22.67%	1,156	3,528	514	341	5,539	1,243	2,167	671	356	4,437	24.84%
South Branch Library	9,870	9,039	9.19%	4,297	4,180	2.80%	510	357	0	0	867	481	225	0	0	706	22.80%
Walt Branch Library	41,003	38,321	7.00%	14,157	13,358	5.98%	1,519	2,596	338	424	4,877	1,019	1,666	333	421	3,439	41.81%
Williams Branch Library	970	1,001	-3.10%	1,303	1,257	3.66%	303	380	1	0	684	224	580	0	0	804	-14.93%
Lied Bookmobile	1,843	1,781	3.48%	432	579	-25.39%	0	78	0	0	78	0	55	0	0	55	41.82%
InterLibrary Loan	169	191	-11.52%	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	516	0	0	516	0	445	0	0	445	15.96%
SUBTOTAL	158,248	160,222	-1.23%	65,200	69,850	-6.66%	8,512	15,380	1,703	1,153	26,748	8,229	11,877	1,979	1,155	23,240	15.09%
DownloadStream Audio	49,861	46,026	8.33%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBooks	34,058	33,537	1.55%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	1,097	1,098	-0.09%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Download SUBTOTAL	85,016	80,661	5.40%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	243,264	240,883	0.99%	65,200	69,850	-6.66%	8,512	15,380	1,703	1,153	26,748	8,229	11,877	1,979	1,155	23,240	15.09%

Holdings Report	PRINT Adult	Youth	NON PRINT Adult	Youth	Total
Owned	341,701	306,813	74,104	32,508	755,126
Added	2,145	1,524	250	110	4,029
Withdrawn	-2,046	-2,510	-803	-112	-5,471
Current	341,800	305,827	73,551	32,506	753,684

REGISTRATIONS	2025	2024	Change
Purged	672	604	11.26%
Active			
Resident	148,639	148,231	0.28%
Library OneCard	57,617	52,513	9.72%
County	8,730	8,952	-2.48%
NonResident	997	952	4.73%
Reciprocal	493	490	0.61%
Limited Use	10,740	9,861	8.91%
Total Active	227,216	220,999	2.81%

	2025	2024	Change
WiFi Sessions	145,456	137,856	5.51%
WiFi Users	9,492	9,833	-3.47%
Website Users	80,412	88,755	-9.40%
Website Sessions	127,989	122,339	4.62%
Database Use	8,570	6,830	25.48%

October 2025 Use Compared to October 2024
Lincoln City Libraries

Location	Print Checkouts 2025	Print Checkouts 2024	Print Loan Change	Non-Print Checkouts 2025	Non-Print Checkouts 2024	Non-Print Loan Change	Total Checkouts 2025	Total Checkouts 2024	Total Loan Change
BMPL	10,317	10,445	-1.23%	2,589	2,441	6.06%	12,906	12,886	0.16%
Anderson	10,660	9,719	9.68%	1,885	2,381	-20.83%	12,545	12,100	3.68%
Bethany	7,169	7,467	-3.99%	893	872	2.41%	8,062	8,339	-3.32%
Eiseley	18,075	19,253	-6.12%	2,424	2,311	4.89%	20,499	21,564	-4.94%
Gere	44,676	48,426	-7.74%	5,705	6,574	-13.22%	50,381	55,000	-8.40%
South	8,476	7,916	7.07%	1,394	1,123	24.13%	9,870	9,039	9.19%
Walt	36,260	34,097	6.34%	4,743	4,224	12.29%	41,003	38,321	7.00%
Williams	799	792	0.88%	171	209	-18.18%	970	1,001	-3.10%
Lied Bookmobile	1,724	1,628	5.90%	119	153	-22.22%	1,843	1,781	3.48%
InterLibrary Loan	169	191	-11.52%	0	0	0.00%	169	191	-11.52%
Subtotal Checkouts	138,325	139,934	-1.15%	19,923	20,288	-1.80%	158,248	160,222	-1.23%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	49,861	46,026	8.33%	49,861	46,026	8.33%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	34,058	33,537	1.55%	34,058	33,537	1.55%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,097	1,098	-0.09%	1,097	1,098	-0.09%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	138,325	139,934	-1.15%	104,939	100,949	3.95%	243,264	240,883	0.99%

Location	Youth Checkouts 2025	Youth Checkouts 2024	Youth Loan Change	Adult Checkouts 2025	Adult Checkouts 2024	Adult Loan Change	Visits 2025	Visits 2024	Visits Change
BMPL	5,016	4,282	17.14%	7,890	8,604	-8.30%	10,840	11,090	-2.25%
Anderson	6,844	6,034	13.42%	5,701	6,066	-6.02%	6,486	6,229	4.13%
Bethany	5,032	5,157	-2.42%	3,030	3,182	-4.78%	2,926	3,153	-7.20%
Eiseley	13,298	14,440	-7.91%	7,201	7,124	1.08%	9,320	10,038	-7.15%
Gere	29,801	31,640	-5.81%	20,580	23,360	-11.90%	15,439	19,966	-22.67%
South	5,703	5,168	10.35%	4,167	3,871	7.65%	4,297	4,180	2.80%
Walt	27,932	26,288	6.25%	13,071	12,033	8.63%	14,157	13,358	5.98%
Williams	713	746	-4.42%	257	255	0.78%	1,303	1,257	3.66%
Lied Bookmobile	1,221	1,178	3.65%	622	603	3.15%	432	579	-25.39%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	169	191	-11.52%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	95,560	94,933	0.66%	62,688	65,289	-3.98%	65,200	69,850	-6.66%
Download/Stream Audio	7,532	6,964	8.16%	42,329	39,062	8.36%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	8,261	8,300	-0.47%	25,797	25,237	2.22%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,097	1,098	-0.09%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	111,353	110,197	1.05%	131,911	130,686	0.94%	65,200	69,850	-6.66%

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth 2025	2024	P&O Att - Youth Change	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult 2025	2024	P&O Att - Adult Change	Computer Use 2025	2024	Computer Change
BMPL	929	138	573.19%	165	658	-74.92%	2,747	2,630	4.45%
Anderson	3,498	3,093	13.09%	23	12	91.67%	765	900	-15.00%
Bethany	188	187	0.53%	95	48	97.92%	232	219	5.94%
Eiseley	2,965	2,584	14.74%	62	19	226.32%	1,280	1,513	-15.40%
Gere	3,241	2,003	61.81%	287	164	75.00%	1,156	1,243	-7.00%
South	344	215	60.00%	13	10	30.00%	510	481	6.03%
Walt	2,265	1,425	58.95%	331	241	37.34%	1,519	1,019	49.07%
Williams	380	571	-33.45%	0	9	-100.00%	303	224	35.27%
Lied Bookmobile	30	0	0.00%	48	55	-12.73%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	16	0	0.00%	500	445	12.36%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	13,856	10,216	35.63%	1,524	1,661	-8.25%	8,512	8,229	3.44%

Location	Meeting Room Attendance 2025	2024	Meeting Room Att Change	Study Room Attendance 2025	2024	Study Room Att Change	2025	2024	
BMPL	243	308	-21.10%	58	65	-10.77%			0.00%
Anderson	203	288	-29.51%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Bethany	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Eiseley	404	379	6.60%	330	313	5.43%			0.00%
Gere	514	671	-23.40%	341	356	-4.21%			0.00%
South	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Walt	338	333	1.50%	424	421	0.71%			0.00%
Williams	1	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
TOTAL	1,703	1,979	-13.95%	1,153	1,155	-0.17%	0	0	0.00%

Lincoln City Libraries
October 2025 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report

Location	Loans/Circulation FY 25-26 YTD	Loans/Circulation FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change	Visits FY 25-26 YTD	Visits FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change
	Loans/Circulation			**Visits**		
Bennett Martin Public Library	25,053	25,454	-1.58%	21,090	25,344	-16.79%
Anderson Branch	25,070	23,935	4.74%	12,672	11,918	6.33%
Bethany Branch	15,636	15,383	1.64%	5,621	5,917	-5.00%
Eiseley Branch	40,773	43,379	-6.01%	18,317	19,549	-6.30%
Gere Branch	102,213	107,836	-5.21%	31,117	38,670	-19.53%
South Branch	19,169	17,609	8.86%	8,316	8,032	3.54%
Walt Branch	81,461	76,010	7.17%	27,274	25,639	6.38%
Williams Branch	1,935	1,973	-1.93%	2,822	2,268	24.43%
Lied Bookmobile	3,267	3,238	0.90%	667	878	-24.03%
InterLibrary Loan	333	387	-13.95%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
SUBTOTAL	**314,910**	**315,204**	**-0.09%**	**127,896**	**138,215**	**-7.47%**
DownloadStream Audio	99,042	89,794	10.30%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBooks	68,208	63,626	7.20%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	2,170	2,109	2.89%	0	0	0.00%
Download SUBTOTAL	**169,420**	**155,529**	**8.93%**	**0**	**0**	**0.00%**
Total	**484,330**	**470,733**	**2.89%**	**127,896**	**138,215**	**-7.47%**

	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registration	235	123	91.06%
Overall Registrations	2,540	2,137	18.86%

	FY 25-26 YTD	FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change
WiFi Sessions	280,159	261,990	6.93%
WiFi Users	18,429	19,158	-3.81%
Website Users	150,694	175,259	-14.02%
Website Sessions	251,795	240,196	4.83%
Database Use	17,711	13,856	27.82%

Year-to-Date Holdings Report	PRINT Adult	PRINT Youth	NON PRINT Adult	NON PRINT Youth	Total
Owned 9/1/2025	341,902	307,684	74,444	32,485	756,515
Added YTD	4,380	2,673	475	269	7,797
Withdrawn YTD	-4,485	-4,530	-1,368	-248	-10,631
Current - 10/31/2024	341,797	305,827	73,551	32,506	753,681

Other Use

Location	Computer Reservations FY 25-26 YTD	Computer Reservations FY 24-25	YTD Change	Program & Outreach Attendance FY 25-26 YTD	Program & Outreach Attendance FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change	Meeting Room Attendance FY 25-26 YTD	Meeting Room Attendance FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change	Study Room Attendance FY 25-26 YTD	Study Room Attendance FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change	Total Other Use FY 25-26	Total Other Use FY 24-25 YTD	YTD Change
Bennett Martin Public Library	5,435	5,221	4.10%	1,843	1,900	-3.00%	527	498	5.82%	126	116	8.62%	7,931	7,735	2.53%
Anderson Branch	1,480	1,778	-16.76%	4,150	3,417	21.45%	299	468	-36.11%	0	0	0.00%	5,929	5,663	4.70%
Bethany Branch	500	421	18.76%	527	433	21.71%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,027	854	20.26%
Eiseley Branch	2,583	3,092	-16.46%	3,973	3,898	1.92%	683	644	6.06%	716	600	19.33%	7,955	8,234	-3.39%
Gere Branch	2,346	2,245	4.50%	5,732	3,605	59.00%	983	1,213	-18.96%	635	696	-8.76%	9,696	7,759	24.96%
South Branch	980	1,014	-3.35%	641	442	45.02%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,621	1,456	11.33%
Walt Branch	2,782	1,962	41.79%	4,530	3,065	47.80%	812	727	11.69%	820	767	6.91%	8,944	6,521	37.16%
Williams Branch	694	399	73.93%	559	767	-27.12%	1	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,254	1,166	7.55%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	171	110	55.45%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	171	110	55.45%
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%	1,403	445	215.28%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,403	445	215.28%
Total	**16,800**	**16,132**	**4.14%**	**23,529**	**18,082**	**30.12%**	**3,305**	**3,550**	**-6.90%**	**2297**	**2,179**	**5.42%**	**45,931**	**39,943**	**14.99%**