



LINCOLN
City Libraries

Director's Report for May 2025

Anderson Branch has received updated exterior signage with the City's new branding. Both outdoor signs (north and south sides) will be updated and lighted for evening visibility.

Youth Services & Outreach Coordinator, Ali Bousquet, reports that the Summer Reading Challenge registrations are 17% higher than this time last year. Ali and all of our staff at all locations have put in much time and effort to plan outstanding programs and activities and encouraged patrons to participate. Spring and summer are the times when we outreach heavily at community events, and staff promote the SRC and point people to the easy signup process.



Due to difficulties in procurement of some library media through our longtime vendor, Baker & Taylor, we're establishing an additional agreement with Ingram Content Group as another source. Delays and canceling of items and orders through B & T has resulted in noticeable shortages of newer materials available for patrons, but we hope to soon begin ordering through Ingram and stocking shelves with the books our patrons are expecting. This is an issue for most libraries who work with B & T.

The bookmobile's generator is no longer functioning, and we're not going to invest in the repairs/replacement estimated at near 10k. The generator provides air conditioning and lighting at stops. We'll instead adjust service and schedules, and we've created a heat policy to dictate this summer and beyond when we'll go out and when we won't. The new bookmobiles are still on target for late summer and fall, however, and one of the final steps is coordinating the design of the graphic art wraps for the vehicles.

A happy welcome to the Library's new Accountant, Jennifer Hatfield, who began her new role on June 5. Jennifer has years of experience in state and local government accounting.

Central Library

The June 4 Open House at Bennett Martin saw 75 attendees who viewed drawings, spoke with Board members, staff, and the architect, and were able to participate in a tour of the library. Many thanks to staff and board members who assisted in listening to residents who had concerns, suggestions, and questions. We're compiling a summary of feedback and ideas that will assist us as we move forward with planning. The next open house is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 6:30pm at Walt Branch, followed by Monday, July 7, 6:30pm at SCC's Education Square (1111 O Street). Other community engagement presentations include Mayor's Multicultural Advisory Committee, Downtown Lincoln Association, Chamber of Commerce, Mayor's Neighborhood Roundtable, Lincoln Independent Business Association (June 17), Rotary 14 (July 15).

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:

- Cally O. (Gere-South) created a signup sheet for the Summer Reading challenge with a QR code that leads to the LCL Beanstack page to help with registration. Cally said: "It has worked really well to have people easily use their own devices to create accounts, and I shared the sheet with the other youth librarians."
- Araya W. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: "On 5/16 I helped three patrons get set up with library accounts and showed them how to access Libby. It was an elderly mother and her two daughters; the mother is visually impaired and so she needed things magnified on her tablet. We were able to tweak Libby to her liking by making the font the biggest it could be (Libby has accessibility settings!) and bolding the text. They were happy with the results and remarked about how easy the setup was."
- Toni Y. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: Helped a patron who had come in with a client to help her print. They had previously been to Kinkos where after what sounded like a frustrating time, they were unable to successfully print out two documents. I introduced them to Princh and within a matter of minutes they had the medical documents they needed. The patron mentioned that she had just moved from Chicago to be closer to her grandchildren. She then asked about getting a library card and I signed her up. The home health aide, said as they left, "Next time, we'll just come to the library first."
- Yoel S-T. shared this interaction: "I was able to assist a couple at South Branch in Spanish. The gentleman asked if I spoke Spanish and I said a little and I could try to help. We ended up using the photocopier, scanning on a computer, and using Princh to print from their phone, all in Spanish. They might not have been impressed, but they sure were thankful."
- Ronda H., Chad S. and Corey G. hosted 4 Circle of Friends at Gere Branch with 166 attending.
- Toni Y. shared this interaction at Gere: "Helped an Arabic speaking family who were coming to the Lincoln libraries for the first time. I got the parents set up with library cards first, and then helped the middle child who was very excited to learn where we keep *Dork Diaries*. I offered them a brief tour of the library, and Mom was excited to learn about the private study rooms. This was in the first week of the month, and I have seen them back at least twice since."
- Diane V. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: "A grandma brought her grandkids to the library while they were staying with her and she paused by the info desk to say "my grandma brought me so I brought them." She said the first thing they wanted to do when they got to Lincoln is come to the library. Then they raced off to do the book character scavenger hunt."

- Susan S. (Eiseley) shared this staff effort to help a family with library resources: “A gentleman came up to the desk and he wanted us to review a letter he needed to write for the State of Nebraska Board of Engineers. He has his degree in Engineering from another country and has to provide a letter and also a CLEP test to prove his qualifications. I told him that we couldn't do proof the letter for him but did connect him with JobNow and Homework Help. Kate then brought his wife and son to the desk; the wife was seeking books to help her with her English. She had *Bud, Not Buddy* and I suggested that she listen to the book through Libby, while reading it so that she could both see and hear the words. I also showed her Transparent Language and that she could learn English through the database and it could also be downloaded as an app. The mom then proceeded to get a card. The husband then came up and Selena helped him figure out what test he needed to meet the Nebraska Board of Engineers' requirements and then got him a library card. While it was a long and somewhat involved transaction, the family left with library cards, summer reading information and hopefully, the information necessary for the State of Nebraska Board of Engineers.
- On a recent Sunday, a young man asked Lisa Olivigni at Eiseley-Williams for assistance with printing. “A student at SCC, he wanted to print door flyers he had created himself to advertise his part-time lawn care business. We made some adjustments and tested his slightly thicker paper to make sure it would work with the printer. He was happy with the end result and left with flyers to advertise his business.”
- On May 29, Williams Family Storytime included setting the grown butterflies free outside the library. The life cycle of the butterfly program continues to be very popular at both sites.
- During the first nine days of the Summer Reading Challenge, (May 23-31) registrations at Anderson Branch Library reached 1,005. Bethany Branch Library had 657 individuals register for the Challenge. The combined NESU registrations (1,662) represent nearly an 8% increase over NESU registrations during May 2024 (1,543).
-
- A customer at Anderson Branch Library commented 5/23/2025 about the ever-changing puppet theater, "You guys always have the cutest imaginative play areas!" On 05/27/2025, a different customer told employees, “The puppet stand is the reason we love to come here.” Yet another customer informed an employee, “We were here earlier to play with the puppet stand, but you were having storytime. I had to promise the kids we would come back later, so here we are!”
-
- The Bethany in Bloom neighborhood event was represented by NESU employees Karrie S., Stephanie E., Kolette S., and Christina S. During the event, they talked to 255 individuals. Karrie S. relayed, “Kids were encouraged to make a *Bethany in Bloom* button at our table and then walk up to the library to pick out a free book. 120 people came into the library wearing their buttons.” Additionally, Karrie provided a storytime at *Bethany in Bloom* to 22 attendees. Karrie commented, “Overall it was a lot of work, but a huge success!”
- Deanne J. at Walt Branch shared: “One morning, an elderly man checked out an adult biography of Taylor Swift. He told me he did not know anything about her, but his daughter-in-law loved her and he was hoping that reading the book would give him something to talk about with her. My heart! Also, I told him to give her music a listen, he might turn into a Swiftie. It happened to me!”
- Jessica S. (Walt) reported: “A gentleman asked if we had *The Hardy Boys* series by Franklin W. Dixon. I took him to the section, and he was thrilled. He advised he is reading it with his two grandsons, ages 8 and 10. They live in Wisconsin while he resides in Lincoln, so they are going to begin reading the books and then talk about them on the phone and via Zoom. The man said he

read the books with his brother when he was young, and now his grandsons are doing the same thing. He is excited to join them in the discussions.”

- Courtney S. (Walt) shared: “A woman brought her daughter in to get her first library card – on her first birthday! It’s exciting to see the library be such an important part of a family’s life that they include it in their birthday celebration!”
- Deanne J. (Walt) wrote: “Early in the month, a woman came in wanting to make a copy of an article from the Omaha World-Herald, but someone had the paper for that day. Since she said she wanted to make a copy of the article, I found it via our NewsBank database and printed it out for her. She was very happy!”

Per Walt Branch Manager Wyatt Packard, he offers the following report on the PLA Digital Literacy Grant:

During the Technology Basics grant project, Lincoln City Libraries successfully:

- Provided **12 free Technology Basics workshops** to the Lincoln community.
- Presented **six different 90-minute workshop topics**.
- Educated **167 attendees**, more than **double the goal of 75** set by the grant provider.
- Purchased **12 new laptops** using grant funds, now available for library programming and staff training.
- Collected **110 survey responses** from workshop participants. Among those surveyed who either **agreed** or **strongly agreed** that they benefitted from the program:
 - **97%** felt more knowledgeable about using digital resources.
 - **97%** intended to apply what they learned.
 - **91%** felt more confident when using digital tools.
 - **99%** reported increased awareness of library resources and services.
- Staff and public groups have greatly appreciated the recent technology upgrades in the Community Rooms and Collaborative Learning Lab, coordinated by Rod C. of Virtual Services. Staff can now connect devices via Bluetooth for storytimes, the new wireless microphones have significantly improved audio quality, and the TV in the Collaborative Learning Lab proved especially valuable during VolunTEEN training sessions. These updates make a meaningful difference in ensuring our spaces meet the evolving technological needs of both staff and the community.
- The Polley Music Library Show on KZUM had five episodes in May, which featured a new Pauline Oliveros book about the nature of deep listening and “quantum listening,” a book about the early history of electroacoustic music around the Groupe de Recherches Musicales, rock critic Dave Thompson’s latest book that looks at weird trends in the presentation of classic rock music and more, a survey of resources about glitch-related music, and the memoir of Jon King, singer for influential post-punk group Gang of Four.



- Anthony V. (BMPL) assisted a Vietnamese gentleman who had been in America about 6 months. Anthony said, “He didn’t know English, so I spoke to him in Vietnamese. He wanted to know where he could study English to get his interpreters license. I helped him on a computer and googled a few resources for him. I also gave him the contacts to Southeast Community College b/c they had an interpreter’s program that could possibly hire him. He was extremely appreciative.”
- Penny L. (BMPL) noticed a patron struggling up the staircase with her groceries, so offered to help carry them up to the computer lab for her. Penny then printed off the patron’s library card number so she could log into her chosen computer, then supported her through the process of printing something from her phone’s notes application.
- Clair S. (BMPL) coordinated a special evening storytime, to which Caralyn K. brought in her new baby chicks for kids to see. The kids were then able to build their own nests from a variety of nature and craft materials. It was a hit!
- An insightful thought from BMPL Librarian Amber S. which speaks volumes about the staff here, “The best way I can grow our support is to give the customer service BMPL is known for to each of our visitors.”
- Amber S. and Walker D. (BMPL) did outreach at the Prescott Elementary Night at Lincoln Children’s Zoo. Amber said, “An event with a projected attendance of 150 became an all ages event with 850 people! Because of the way the event was set up, the families had to come by our table to register for a prize drawing. We put SRC info in the hands of every family, and some came by specifically asking for SRC info. It was a great event, and we reached a lot of people.

Top Twenty Website Pages for May 2025:

Page title	Views
Home	52,806
Reading Challenges	6,685
Locations and Hours	6,104
One Book One Lincoln	2,445
Events Calendar	2,408
Central Library Project	1,941
Get a Library Card	1,237
Storytimes	1,097
Kids	961
Databases and Research	945
Due and Renew	780
eBooks and Audiobooks	761
Meeting Rooms and Study Rooms	740
New Books and DVDs	647
Author Alerts	619
Library Lineup	573
Print, Scan and Copy	550
Holds	350
3D Printing Request	333
Book Groups	329

Ryan Wieber,
Library Director
6.13.25

**Lincoln City Libraries
May 2025 Use Report**

Location	Loans/Circulation			Visits			May 2025 Other Use					May 2024 Other Use					Change: Total Other Use
	May 2025	May 2024	Change	May 2025	May 2024	Change	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	Meeting Room Attendance	Study Room Attendance	Total Other Use	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	Meeting Room Attendance	Study Room Attendance	Total Other Use	
Bennett Martin Public Library	13,581	14,875	-8.70%	10,891	11,233	-3.04%	1,813	949	162	51	2,975	2,490	705	256	0	3,451	-13.79%
Anderson Branch Library	13,668	12,565	8.78%	6,374	5,966	6.84%	748	534	177	0	1,459	764	452	234	0	1,450	0.62%
Bethany Branch Library	9,497	8,714	8.99%	3,325	3,457	-3.82%	224	570	0	0	794	241	216	0	0	457	73.74%
Eiseley Branch Library	23,445	23,676	-0.98%	9,921	10,407	-4.67%	1,480	1,828	192	227	3,727	1,511	1,673	379	0	3,563	4.60%
Gere Branch Library	59,162	61,327	-3.53%	18,595	20,798	-10.59%	1,268	1,953	460	278	3,959	1,286	2,529	586	0	4,401	-10.04%
South Branch Library	9,433	9,810	-3.84%	4,094	4,109	-0.37%	453	254	0	0	707	565	397	0	0	962	-26.51%
Walt Branch Library	43,216	43,869	-1.49%	14,539	14,811	-1.84%	1,186	1,540	257	368	3,351	1,116	3,703	475	0	5,294	-36.70%
Williams Branch Library	1,249	985	26.80%	1,413	1,094	29.16%	282	269	0	0	551	171	143	0	0	314	75.48%
Lied Bookmobile	1,827	2,155	-15.22%	351	539	-34.88%	0	102	0	0	102	0	41	0	0	41	148.78%
InterLibrary Loan	133	162	-17.90%	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	1,382	0	0	1,382	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
SUBTOTAL	175,211	178,138	-1.64%	69,503	72,414	-4.02%	7,454	9,381	1,248	924	19,007	8,144	9,859	1,930	0	19,933	-4.65%
DownloadStream Audio	49,894	44,120	13.09%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBooks	35,766	31,073	15.10%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	1,182	1,168	1.20%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Download SUBTOTAL	86,842	76,361	13.73%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	262,053	254,499	2.97%	69,503	72,414	-4.02%	7,454	9,381	1,248	924	19,007	8,144	9,859	1,930	0	19,933	-4.65%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2025	2024	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
Owned	344,463	305,474	73,479	32,383	755,799	Active			
Added	1,913	2,475	271	26	4,685	Resident	148,731	147,876	0.58%
Withdrawn	-4,818	-935	-37	-44	-5,834	Library OneCard	53,400	48,246	10.68%
Current	341,558	307,014	73,713	32,365	754,650	County	8,856	9,007	-1.68%
						NonResident	979	942	3.93%
						Reciprocal	487	491	-0.81%
						Limited Use	10,445	9,707	7.60%
						Total Active	222,898	216,269	3.07%

Notes for Month

	2025	2024	Change
WiFi Sessions	129,104	131,801	-2.05%
WiFi Users	9,554	9,831	-2.82%
Website Users	75,060	103,646	-27.58%
Website Sessions	133,818	141,012	-5.10%
Database Use	8,361	8,291	0.84%

**Lincoln City Libraries
May 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	118,017	125,719	-6.13%	97,394	97,763	-0.38%
Anderson Branch	109,499	102,693	6.63%	53,354	48,620	9.74%
Bethany Branch	72,264	67,438	7.16%	25,743	26,464	-2.72%
Eiseley Branch	194,470	201,131	-3.31%	87,706	83,342	5.24%
Gere Branch	490,917	519,954	-5.58%	169,444	167,776	0.99%
South Branch	79,755	82,048	-2.79%	34,758	31,880	9.03%
Walt Branch	345,746	357,207	-3.21%	117,733	114,058	3.22%
Williams Branch	8,923	8,594	3.83%	11,503	14,255	-19.31%
Lied Bookmobile	13,803	13,498	2.26%	3,240	3,186	1.69%
InterLibrary Loan	1,473	1,747	-15.68%	0	0	0.00%
System Outreach	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%
SUBTOTAL	1,434,867	1,480,029	-3.05%	600,875	587,344	2.30%
DownloadStream Audio	431,310	382,640	12.72%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBooks	312,856	292,684	6.89%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	9,795	8,414	16.41%	0	0	0.00%
Download SUBTOTAL	753,961	683,738	10.27%	0	0	0.00%
Total	2,188,828	2,163,767	1.16%	600,875	587,344	2.30%

	FY 24-25 YTD	FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	1,041	1,453	-28.36%
Overall Registrations	8,650	9,426	-8.23%

	FY 24-25 YTD	FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change
WiFi Sessions	1,060,475	1,102,724	-3.83%
WiFi Users	82,886	85,603	-3.17%
Website Users	772,950	884,128	-12.57%
Website Sessions	1,102,918	1,186,737	-7.06%
Database Use	70,035	74,509	-6.00%

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	18,825	18,186	2,334	1,426	40,771
Withdrawn YTD	-49,415	-40,363	-9,471	-3,205	-102,454
Current - 5/31/2025	341,558	307,014	73,713	32,365	754,650

Location	Computer Reservations			Program & Outreach Attendance			Meeting Room Attendance			Study Room Attendance			Total Other Use		YTD CHANGE
	FY 24-25 YTD	FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change	FY 24-25 YTD	FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change	FY 24-25 YTD	FY 23-24 YTD	YTD Change	FY 24-25 YTD	*Study Room Attendance	YTD Change	FY 24-25 YTD	FY 23-24 YTD	
Bennett Martin Public Library	21,182	19,837	6.78%	5,289	7,587	-30.29%	1,865	1,707	9.26%	514	0	0.00%	28,850	29,131	-0.96%
Anderson Branch	7,104	6,635	7.07%	6,623	5,382	23.06%	1,797	1,837	-2.18%	0	0	0.00%	15,524	13,854	12.05%
Bethany Branch	2,016	2,205	-8.57%	2,097	1,722	21.78%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	4,113	3,927	4.74%
Eiseley Branch	12,238	12,441	-1.63%	11,895	9,526	24.87%	2,918	3,081	-5.29%	2,660	0	0.00%	29,711	25,048	18.62%
Gere Branch	10,872	11,127	-2.29%	15,024	15,317	-1.91%	5,471	5,746	-4.79%	2,597	0	0.00%	33,964	32,190	5.51%
South Branch	3,982	4,154	-4.14%	1,923	2,124	-9.46%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	5,905	6,278	-5.94%
Walt Branch	10,179	9,495	7.20%	12,273	16,359	-24.98%	3,385	4,278	-20.87%	3,102	0	0.00%	28,939	30,132	-3.96%
Williams Branch	2,190	1,597	37.13%	2,290	1,443	58.70%	20	24	-16.67%	0	0	0.00%	4,500	3,064	46.87%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	873	485	80.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	873	485	80.00%
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%	3,774	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	3,774	0	0.00%
Total	69,763	67,491	3.37%	62,061	59,945	3.53%	15,456	16,673	-7.30%	8,873	0	0.00%	156,153	144,109	8.36%

*Study Room Attendance tracking began 9/1/2024