



LINCOLN

City Libraries

- 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

Director's Report for August 2026

- Our staff had a busy summer with programming, outreach, and welcoming patrons of all ages to library locations and demonstrating every day the **power a library card can offer**. August provides a blip of time with a bit of reduced programming that allows staff to recoup, reenergize, and plan ahead for activities and services that reach our neighborhoods and community. I'm thankful and immensely proud of how our teams pull together during the crazy summer season with heart-led love for service to patrons.
- We bid fond farewell and **happy retirement** to Gere-South Manager, Brenda Ealey, with a moment of celebration in her honor at Gere last week. Staff and patrons are grateful for her many years of authentic, caring, and empathetic service to patrons—and to the Nebraska librarian community, too! She was a long-time leader here and across the state. She was a strong voice and advocate for public libraries, her staff, and for fairness and equitable services.
- One Book One Lincoln winning author **Bruce Holsinger** is visiting Lincoln High School on Tuesday, October 20 at 7pm for a dialogue with Librarian Jen Jackson on his book, *Culpability*. We're excited to welcome Bruce, who is also an English professor at the University of Virginia, and expect another great audience to celebrate this year's top selection. Please mark your calendar—and the regularly scheduled board meeting for that evening has been switched to 8am that morning at Bennett Martin Library.
- As you know, the Central Library's team of architects at MSR and BVH received an "**On the Boards**" interior design award from IIDA/ALA at the American Library Association annual conference in late June. Our profession's regular magazine publication, American Libraries, featured images of Lincoln's Central Library as part of its annual Library Design issue this month! I expect more recognition to happen down the road.
- We're embarking on a **parking lot expansion** at Bethany Branch. Project Control will assist as owner's rep and work with Buildings Superintendent Dan Miller and designers at Olsson to bring it to fruition. The plan is not only to greatly increase the number of parking stalls, but also add some green space for the ability to have occasional outdoor programming.

- A reminder that **Staff Inservice Day** is scheduled for September 18, which means the system will be closed to the public that day. Board President Lisa Hale will provide the opening welcome, and our planning committee has put together an excellent lineup of sessions and activities.
- Staff interview teams have been busy the past month with **new hires** and getting the new Library Service Associate positions filled at Gere, Walt, NESU, and Williams locations. The new Maintenance Worker position has interviews scheduled for this month.
- We've partnered with the City-County HR Department in promoting our **LinkedIn Learning** catalog of streaming video courses. This is a great resource for online learning not only for library patrons but also for city and county employees. In order to use LinkedIn, you of course only need a library card, so we're sending library staff over the next month to various departments to conveniently offer library card signup opportunities.

Examples of the Strategic Plan in action:

- Kim Shelley, Branch Manager for NESU (Anderson & Bethany reports "All LCL employees who provide storytime sessions were invited to training with Alyssa Jewell on Monday, August 24. The *La La Librarian* presented an all-day training entitled "Leveraging the Power of Play in Storytime." The training was funded by the Nebraska Library Commission through a Youth Grant for Excellence. Nearly 30 LCL storytellers participated in the training. Following the session, several employees commented that they found the training fun and informative. One stated, "I really enjoyed it, and I came away with some really great information and ideas that I will be implementing!" A couple of attendees said the training reinvigorated them. Nearly everyone stated that they enjoyed the camaraderie with their colleagues – as well as the great snacks!
- At the end of the month, Stephanie E. and Karrie S. and Harris L. (Bookmobile) represented NESU and LCL at Summerfest – a maker festival held in University Place on Saturday, August 29. Karrie and Stephanie saw 270 people during the event. They said that attendees were really interested in the bookmobile. We say that "Libraries are more than books." Even our mobile library is more than books – the bookmobile awning served as a nice dry spot for Karrie and Stephanie during the intermittent downpours that took place.
- During the summer, Anderson Branch Library featured a tent and "camping supplies" in the middle of the youth area. (Archeologists needed someplace to stay when digging up all those dinosaur bones during the *Unearth a Story* summer reading challenge.) Many children were disappointed to discover that the tent was gone, but it is highly likely that the popular play area will make another appearance in the future.
- Karrie S. (NESU) shared that "The Puppet Stand has turned into an Ice Cream stand for the months of August and September. The kids are always so excited to come in and see what's new."
- From Selena S. (Eiseley): Vivian S. and I had a lot of success at the Saltdogs game outreach on August 9th. Ali B. had sent us a box filled with maybe about 300 fans and those drew crowds back to our table. Initially, game goers would stop by, pick up a few items and quickly scurry off but, as the heat rose, we had more families circling back to our table for a fan. It was almost like a conversation starter that led into them asking more questions about the library and our services which we we're happy to tell them about. With the amount of people coming back to our table we ended staying a bit

longer than our scheduled time. We were able to hand out all of our outreach swag and share a decent amount of library information with visitors.

- Lisa Olivigni at Eiseley writes: "Recently, I was working at Williams and a Mom came up to the circ desk to check out. As I checked out her books, she held up some National Geographic animal books (JF PBs) and said her son loved them. She then told me that her young son was autistic and didn't talk very much. However, once she started taking home the "animal books" and reading them with him, he started speaking the animal names. She said their family recently went to the Children's Zoo and her son would talk out loud and identify the animals he knew.
- Tami B. (Eiseley) set up a fun display in the Blue Room that's appealed to a variety of ages, not just children. ZOOMED IN! Can you guess the book? Tami noticed one afternoon that even a group of teens were having a great time guessing and talking about the books they read as children.



- Chrystal D. (BMPL) said "We had a patron come in to pick up sheet music for his wife. His library account had been deleted due to inactivity, so we were able to sign him up for a new card. He also needed some help locating the item that he was looking for. Despite the item being shelved in the wrong place, Lauren E. found 'the needle in the haystack', as he said. He raved about us going the extra mile to ensure that he and his wife got the music she needed for one of her classes, and talked about what a great resource Polley Music Library is for music students in Lincoln."
- Walker D. (BMPL) shared this delightful interaction: A patron came in with her two young granddaughters and explained that they had just showed the girls Star Wars for the first time and were wondering if I could point them in the direction of some Star Wars kid's books. I found several different spots where they could browse Star Wars books and the patron could be heard remarking to her granddaughters, "Isn't this place wonderful? The librarians here are so helpful!" They checked out several books and left with smiles on their faces.
- Caralyn K. (BMPL), "I spoke with one of our Home Patrons on the phone. She asked if it would be possible to have some children's books sent to her in her blue bag. She explained that she has a little neighbor girl, about 3 years old that comes to visit her and she would love to be able to share some reading time with the little girl. I emailed our Storyteller team to get some recommendations and gathered together a few picture books I thought they might enjoy. I also looked on Novelist to find a list of age appropriate books, which I modified to only include books owned by Lincoln City Libraries. This is such a fun idea and I can't wait to hear back on how it went!"
- Laura N. (BMPL) relayed, "I checked out a couple of books to a high school student who had her keychain library card on a short necklace around her neck, something I hadn't seen before. She said

she runs to the library (about a half mile) and walks back with the book she checks out, whenever she needs a break from doing homework and wants to get out and get some exercise. The current temperature was 93 during this conversation. I was impressed and loved that someone made the library part of their decompression and exercise routine, even on the hottest of days."

- Amber S. (BMPL) relayed this interaction: "A woman came in with her children so they could all charge their devices. She said their power was cut off, so they came here to cool off and charge. I heard her say something along the lines of 'it's okay, the library people understand what it's like.' I made sure the family was comfortable and didn't hurry them out the door so they could get as much charge as possible."
- Lauren E. (BMPL) said, "A Freshman Art History class came into the library with their professor to tour the building and learn about the library. I notified Kim that they were here and she came down to give them an in-depth run through of the building's history and artists represented. Prior to her coming down from second floor, I gave a brief run through of how to sign up for a library card and advertised our digital services and many items available for check out. Two of the students came back after their class and signed up for library cards that same day!"
- Deb A. reports the inventory, organization, and rehousing non-book collection items in the Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors to improve long-term preservation and retrieval is almost complete. The next step is working with support services to get items not currently listing in the online catalog included.
- The list of 250 authors that relates to the *Nebraska Voices: 250 Authors* exhibits (in the HR and on the 2nd floor), has been made available on the HR webpage. All of these author profiles in Nebraskaauthors.org were updated in preparation for this exhibit.
- Ronda H. (Gere) worked on the interactive concert with LaLa Librarian, with 30 people attending. "This was a fun night. It was fun for me to see Alyssa (La La Librarian) perform before our training. The kids were great and enjoyed the concert. She does a great job engaging the crowd."
- Gere Library had 1079 books shared through 172 youth book bundles.
- Gere Library had the following displays this month: Find Your Inner Nerd; Back to School – Film Edition; Late Summer Lawlessness; Gothic Novels; Relaxation; Music in the Margins; Physical Activities (Youth Items); and Plan of Snack. They were put together by various staff, and for the month there were 519 checkouts from the displays.
- Diane V. (Gere) led one Baby and one Toddler Time to kick off the new fall session of storytime on August 31. The theme for both was Hello World. "We waved and said hello to our new friends and old and everyone was excited to be back at Storytime. One parent commented "It feels like it's been years!" There were 86 in attendance.
- Cally O (Gere) reported that we welcomed the Theater Arts Academy for their last show preview, *We are Monsters*, on August 7, with 60 attending, and the La La Librarian for a family concert on 8/24 with 30 attending.
- Scott S. in the Polley Music Library reports: "One of my more interesting reference requests this month regarded some questions about support for hearing-impaired artists working in large spaces as artists-in-residence. I have a bit of background both from musical and hearing-tech perspectives

that came in handy toward making some suggestions to check into for this patron and their organization.”

- The Polley had the good fortune to have one of the longest-running chamber-pop ensembles in Lincoln perform at the library this month: Floating Opera, who have been playing since the 90s, and have had a roster that reads like a who's who of Lincoln musicians of the last 30+ years, came by to play and talk about their long history. We had 30 attendees, great questions from the audience, and it never hurts to have a band in the library named after a book (their name is a reference to John Barth's first novel, *The Floating Opera*).

Ryan Wieber

9/10/2026

Lincoln City Libraries
August 2026 Use Report

Location	Loans/Circulation			Visits			August 2026 Other Use					August 2025 Other Use					Change: Total Other Use
	Aug 2026	Aug 2025	Change	Aug 2026	Aug 2025	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	13,617	14,189	-4.03%	10,181	11,400	-10.69%	2,618	201	82	61	2,962	2,967	802	232	53	4,054	-26.94%
Anderson Branch Library	13,272	12,259	8.26%	6,672	6,275	6.33%	938	1,197	98	0	2,233	717	795	174	0	1,686	32.44%
Bethany Branch Library	9,316	7,787	19.64%	3,240	2,970	9.09%	248	19	0	0	267	274	30	0	0	304	-12.17%
Eiseley Branch Library	25,366	22,417	13.16%	9,598	9,348	2.67%	1,672	691	246	364	2,973	1,396	90	267	259	2,012	47.76%
Gere Branch Library	61,199	56,222	8.85%	18,917	16,207	16.72%	2,618	486	482	377	3,963	1,164	311	444	268	2,187	81.21%
South Branch Library	10,010	9,285	7.81%	4,271	4,160	2.67%	526	10	0	0	536	502	0	0	0	502	6.77%
Walt Branch Library	44,758	43,791	2.21%	14,977	14,485	3.40%	1,116	890	250	507	2,763	1,659	2,207	270	355	4,491	-38.48%
Williams Branch Library	1,110	912	21.71%	952	998	-4.61%	143	54	0	0	197	172	158	0	0	330	-40.30%
Lied Bookmobile	1,899	1,162	63.43%	467	194	140.72%	0	1,062	0	0	1,062	0	115	0	0	115	823.48%
InterLibrary Loan	130	157	-17.20%	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	1,730	0	0	1,730	0	925	0	0	925	87.03%
SUBTOTAL	180,677	168,181	7.43%	69,275	66,037	4.90%	9,879	6,340	1,158	1,309	18,686	8,851	5,433	1,387	935	16,606	12.53%
DownloadStream Audio	58,010	51,366	12.93%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBooks	38,149	35,661	6.98%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	1,216	1,207	0.75%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Download SUBTOTAL	97,375	88,234	10.36%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	278,052	256,415	8.44%	69,275	66,037	4.90%	9,879	6,340	1,158	1,309	18,686	8,851	5,433	1,387	935	16,606	12.53%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2026	2025	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged	2,232	723	208.71%
Owned	342,276	305,637	69,810	30,274	747,997	Active			
Added	2,436	3,126	456	192	6,210	Resident	118,847	148,665	-20.06%
Withdrawn	-1,127	-2,571	-65	-104	-3,867	Library OneCard	43,094	56,659	-23.94%
Current	343,585	306,192	70,201	30,362	750,340	County	6,999	8,785	-20.33%
						NonResident	865	989	-12.54%
						Reciprocal	358	494	-27.53%
						Limited Use	9,361	10,612	-11.79%
						Total Active	179,524	226,204	-20.64%

	2026	2025	Change
WiFi Sessions	127,474	134,370	-5.13%
WiFi Users	8,864	9,137	-2.99%
Website Users	88,775	71,764	23.70%
Website Sessions	139,859	128,182	9.11%
Database Use	11,448	7,867	45.52%

August 2026 Use Compared to August 2025
Lincoln City Libraries

Location	Print Checkouts		Print Loan Change	Non-Print Checkouts		Non-Print Loan Change	Total Checkouts		Total Loan Change
	2026	2025		2026	2025		2026	2025	
BMPL	11,097	11,579	-4.16%	2,520	2,610	-3.45%	13,617	14,189	-4.03%
Anderson	11,385	10,513	8.29%	1,887	1,746	8.08%	13,272	12,259	8.26%
Bethany	8,356	6,882	21.42%	960	905	6.08%	9,316	7,787	19.64%
Eiseley	22,483	19,899	12.99%	2,883	2,518	14.50%	25,366	22,417	13.16%
Gere	54,696	49,791	9.85%	6,503	6,431	1.12%	61,199	56,222	8.85%
South	8,748	8,060	8.54%	1,262	1,225	3.02%	10,010	9,285	7.81%
Walt	40,261	38,852	3.63%	4,497	4,939	-8.95%	44,758	43,791	2.21%
Williams	1,004	817	22.89%	106	95	11.58%	1,110	912	21.71%
Bookmobile 1	1,347	1,049	28.41%	78	113	-30.97%	1,425	1,162	22.63%
Bookmobile 2	400		0.00%	74		0.00%	474	0	0.00%
InterLibrary Loan	130	157	-17.20%	0	0	0.00%	130	157	-17.20%
Subtotal Checkouts	159,907	147,599	8.34%	20,770	20,582	0.91%	180,677	168,181	7.43%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	58,010	51,366	12.93%	58,010	51,366	12.93%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	38,149	35,661	6.98%	38,149	35,661	6.98%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,216	1,207	0.75%	1,216	1,207	0.75%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	159,907	147,599	8.34%	118,145	108,816	8.57%	278,052	256,415	8.44%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan Change	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan Change	Visits		Visits Change
	2026	2025		2026	2025		2026	2025	
BMPL	6,022	5,448	10.54%	7,595	8,741	-13.11%	10,181	11,400	-10.69%
Anderson	7,875	6,592	19.46%	5,397	5,667	-4.76%	6,672	6,275	6.33%
Bethany	6,045	4,661	29.69%	3,271	3,126	4.64%	3,240	2,970	9.09%
Eiseley	17,085	14,632	16.76%	8,281	7,785	6.37%	9,598	9,348	2.67%
Gere	37,663	33,502	12.42%	23,536	22,720	3.59%	18,917	16,207	16.72%
South	5,892	5,478	7.56%	4,118	3,807	8.17%	4,271	4,160	2.67%
Walt	31,102	30,240	2.85%	13,656	13,551	0.77%	14,977	14,485	3.40%
Williams	861	711	21.10%	249	201	23.88%	952	998	-4.61%
Bookmobile 1	866	645	34.26%	559	517	8.12%	347	194	78.87%
Bookmobile 2	372		0.00%	102		0.00%	120		0.00%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	130	157	-17.20%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	113,783	101,909	11.65%	66,894	66,272	0.94%	69,275	66,037	4.90%
Download/Stream Audio	7,891	7,713	2.31%	50,119	43,653	14.81%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	10,789	8,259	30.63%	27,360	27,402	-0.15%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,216	1,207	0.75%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	132,463	117,881	12.37%	145,589	138,534	5.09%	69,275	66,037	4.90%

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth		P&O Att - Youth Change	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult		P&O Att - Adult Change	Computer Use		Computer Change
	2026	2025		2026	2025		2026	2025	
BMPL	100	648	-84.57%	101	154	-34.42%	2,618	2,967	-11.76%
Anderson	903	795	13.58%	294	0	0.00%	938	717	30.82%
Bethany	0	0	0.00%	19	30	-36.67%	248	274	-9.49%
Eiseley	400	83	381.93%	291	7	4057.14%	1,672	1,396	19.77%
Gere	189	71	166.20%	297	240	23.75%	2,618	1,164	124.91%
South	0	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	526	502	4.78%
Walt	426	1,840	-76.85%	464	367	26.43%	1,116	1,659	-32.73%
Williams	49	34	44.12%	5	124	-95.97%	143	172	-16.86%
Bookmobile 1	29	40	-27.50%	425	75	466.67%	0	0	0.00%
Bookmobile 2	195		0.00%	413		0.00%	0		0.00%
System Outreach	406	425	-4.47%	1,324	500	164.80%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	2,697	3,936	-31.48%	3,643	1,497	143.35%	9,879	8,851	11.61%

Location	Meeting Room Attendance		Meeting Room Att Change	Study Room Attendance		Study Room Att Change			
	2026	2025		2026	2025		2026	2025	
BMPL	82	232	-64.66%	61	53	15.09%			0.00%
Anderson	98	174	-43.68%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Bethany	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Eiseley	246	267	-7.87%	364	259	40.54%			0.00%
Gere	482	444	8.56%	377	268	40.67%			0.00%
South	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Walt	250	270	-7.41%	507	355	42.82%			0.00%
Williams	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%			0.00%
TOTAL	1,158	1,387	-16.51%	1,309	935	40.00%	0	0	0.00%

