

Director's Report for February 2023

Safety and Security Update - Bennett Martin Public Library's facility security audit has been conducted by Lincoln Police Department, and more are being scheduled for branch locations. Each facility will receive a report with recommendations and solutions for security enhancement. A solution to improve security in the lower level at BMPL will be implemented by early April.

Several staff participated in the Nebraska Library Association's annual **Legislative Advocacy Day** in Lincoln on March 3. The day included legislative updates, meeting with legislators at the Capitol, and a tour of the State Library. Several of LCL's staff stand out as active leaders on issues of advocacy in the State of Nebraska. Wyatt Packard and Cal Harman were instrumental in writing NLA's stance on proposed LB 441.

Board members are invited to attend the library's staff-led **Intellectual Freedom training** offered on the following dates. This training will cover the basics, as well as look at what is happening in the Nebraska Legislature and the outcome of recent censorship efforts in Nebraska.

Thursday, April 6th 9:00AM-10:30AM at Bennet Martin Auditorium

Tuesday, April 11th 6:15PM-7:45PM at Walt Meeting Room #2

Thursday, April 13th 2:15PM-3:45PM at Eiseley combined meeting rooms

Tuesday, April 18th 2:15PM-3:45PM at Gere combined meeting rooms

Wednesday, April 26th 2:15PM-3:45PM at Walt combined meeting rooms

The library will deploy a process for occasionally (once/twice per year) **measuring staff engagement** and satisfaction, in order to identify areas where improvements could be made in communications, staff development and leadership growth, and retention. We are working with City HR to bring in Glint, which is a "people success platform" that provides validated surveys and an online dashboard that presents analytics for tracking and measuring engagement, and recommendations or strategies for improvement. The goal is to keep ensuring the library remains a great place to work.

Prime Time Family Reading begins Monday, March 20 at Bennett Martin and continues weekly for six weeks. This longstanding program welcomes families with children ages 3-5 for a meal followed by a bilingual story time and activities.

Online Library Card signup will be available for patrons by mid to late April, and will be pushed promotionally by the City. The online process gives a patron instant access but also requires one to later visit a branch to verify their address and receive a permanent card.

The new **outdoor bench** at Bethany Branch has been installed, and we can expect an official unveiling of it honor of Marlene Cupp later this spring.

Message Map Work - A group of staff and board members gathered on March 2 with communications consultant Teresa Paulsen for the message map exercise. There was a good amount of brainstorming and contributions from all that day. Paulsen will take the provided input and create a “map” of key messages the library can use in future communications. Everyone will reconvene in mid-April for training on message-delivering opportunities and strategies.

Book Sales update – Library Managers, Coordinators, and the Foundation met recently to plan Fall 2023 book sales. The arrived-at format will be smaller pop up-style sales and limited to certain genres or formats. Key to planning and execution will be good communications so people clearly know these will not be similar to the massive annual sales of the past. Rather, they will be one-day events and timed for Saturdays when UNL has away games.

ConnectEd Update – Support Services staff are working with Lincoln Public Schools IT staff to ensure student privacy standards are tightened. One measure underway is to create PINs that are more unique than the current process where PINs are the same as their student ID number.

ConnectED Checkout Statistics, February 2023

Library	Total Circs	Distinct Users
ANDR	61	21
BETH	9	4
BKM	33	9
BMPL	54	16
EIS	131	43
GERE	73	29
SO	21	7
WAL	88	17
WILL	34	11
Total	504	149

Monthly Examples of the Strategic Plan in Action

Our Vision: The Library Experience—setting a distinctive tone in promoting and providing lifelong education for our entire community

Interactions

- Cindy Krushenisky described an interaction with a young woman using the lab to print at Bennett Martin. The woman said she loves the library. She uses our printers because it is more economical and reliable than using a printer at home. This way, she doesn't have to pay for ink. She grows micro greens for the farmers' market and prints little cards to go with her product to provide information for customers. She also pointed out that she uses and really loves the Transparent Language App through our databases.

- A mother who attends Baby storytime regularly at Walt Branch, mentioned to Jessica Smith how comfortable and happy Lidia is at the library. She said her baby is fussy and clingy at home, but the minute they arrive inside the library, "Lidia is like 'see ya!' and crawls away to do her own thing. She becomes very independent. It's the darnedest thing!"
- A parent came in to Walt to change the name on their transgender child's account. The father requested Meagan Moore use the birth date and other identifying information rather than the former name to look up the account. He visibly relaxed when Meagan said, "Of course." The needed changes were made, and he was pleased when Meagan let him know the ConnectED account name had already been updated.
- Monica Koehn [Gere] shared this interaction: "I helped a little girl find some books in the youth section, and about twenty minutes later she found me at the front desk. She shyly approached the desk and said, "I made this for you," and handed me a hand-made card that said "Why I Love My Library," with a big heart around it. When I opened it up it said: 1.) Because I love books 2.) Because there are nice people there to help me find a book 3.) Because there are lots of good books to read...I Love Books!"

Programming

- On February 22, Susan Steider [Eiseley] hosted a school night for Clinton Elementary School. There were 100 patrons in attendance. The school provided pizza for the families, and staff assisted at each service desk to provide library information to them.
- Librarian Karrie Simpson [NESU] reported, "On February 24, we hosted Huntington Elementary School for a Family Night at Anderson Branch Library. Sixty-three people attended this special 'after-hours event' for crafts, a scavenger hunt, and pizza!" Karrie noted that two students registered for library cards, many students checked out materials to take home, and every child left with a free book.
- This month, there were 4 weekends for Polley radio programs, which featured a book about the complex discography of Sun Ra, a phenomenal new biography on Sonny Rollins, a book about Don Cherry's period of multimedia "Organic Music," and a new retrospective on the life and work of percussionist Milford Graves.

Outreach

- Read Aloud advocate Ali Bousquet attended the Early Childhood Family Fair at Gateway Mall and spoke with over 500 attendees about reading aloud, storytimes, and gave away books.
- Caitlin Lombardo continues to visit the CEDARS Youth Outreach Center. In February, she talked to 12 teens there about library resources, getting a card, and the library being fine-free.
- Regina Merrill [Gere] was at Holmes Elementary CLC on the 28th with 40 attending. There was a dragon craft to go along with the book *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon* by Kat Zhang for the younger group and a Japanese folktale about tanuki with word searches and color sheets, and a presentation on tanuki for the older youth.

Collections

- A child and tutor were at Walt Branch for a Spanish language lesson. The student had left his materials at home. Meagan Moore was able to find several materials they could use and also shared how they could use Transparent Language as an alternative resource.

Collaboration

- The Bird EnCOUNTER returned to Walt again this year. This fun and educational event is a collaboration with both the Wachiska Audubon and Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Societies. There were eight indoor stations throughout Walt library which included bird watching in the backyard with binoculars, several educational games and activities as well as live raptors from the Raptor Conservation Alliance. Not only did families attend, but single adults whom were bird enthusiasts came too.

Technology

- Kim Jorgensen [BMPL]: "A customer came in with his military discharge paper on a piece of microfiche that he needed to convert to a paper copy for use by a funeral home for preparing military honors at his own funeral. The microfiche was not a standard size, but we were able to use the new ScanPro 3000 machine to make copies of the fiche for his personal use. This is the first time that we have used the machine for this purpose."
- Library Service Associate Nate Hamel [NESU] also provided much-needed technology assistance. He reported, "On 2/10/23, a patron came to Bethany Branch and said he needed help taking screenshots of some information on his phone and emailing the images to someone. I taught him how to take screenshots on his model of smartphone and how to attach those images to an email. He appreciated the assistance."

Areas of Excellence and Focus**Early Childhood**

- Valentines Day was the perfect day for "I Love My Teeth" storytime. Kara Danforth from Ameritas stayed for both the 10:15 and 11:00 preschool storytimes. Children loved getting to pretend to brush the teeth of the stuffed animals.
- At Gere Branch, Diane Vanek reported Baby Storytime themes of: Smiles, Hugs & Kisses; Faster Faster; and Noisy/Quiet. Diane said they enjoyed using the book boxes so everyone could look up close at a copy of the book with their grown-ups. Cally O'Brien filled in on the 6th, and Melanie Newell on the 7th. There were 7 sessions with 123 attending this month.

Additional Areas of Focus—in these, the library usually collaborates with other organizations**Low-income families**

- In mid-January, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) website began scheduling appointments for individuals for free help filing their 2022 Federal And State Income Tax returns. As in past years, appointments at Anderson Branch Library began filling quickly. By the time VITA services kicked off at Anderson on Wednesday, February 1, all February appointments were full. Throughout the month, library staff members at NESU assisted residents with making appointments at other area VITA sites.

Employment

- The summer intern positions, made available by the Nebraska Library Commission, will be posted March 11-March 26. Locations participating are Gere, Eiseley, Anderson, Walt, BMPL and Youth Outreach. Dates have been set for the interns' Friday training sessions with LCL Staff also.

Celebrating the Diversity of our City

- Walt hosted a Black History Month Storytime with special guests from the Lincoln Public Schools Equity Cadre. There were three high school students and Pete Ferguson who is the Coordinator of Culture,

Inclusion and Scholar Development for LPS. The students developed a slide show to present Storytime based on an outline that Lisa Westlund did last year at Walt during Black History Month.

- Aya Mohammed shared this interaction: "Toward the end of the last week of February, I was working at the information desk when a patron got my attention and loudly said: 'Thank you for being here.' He then explained his thanks were to express appreciation in seeing a staff person of color at Lincoln City Libraries."

Building up the Culture of Lincoln

Reading

- There were record numbers of downloadable audiobooks, eBooks, and Hoopla materials checked out in January, the last month for which figures are available.
- Members of the OverDrive Support Team assisted at least 30 patrons with OverDrive and Hoopla issues in February.

Ryan Wieber, Library Director

March 17, 2023

**Lincoln City Libraries
February 2023 Circ Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	February 2023	February 2022	CHANGE
					Total Use	Total Use	
Bennett Martin Public Library	12,318	10,331	2,126	1,105	25,880	23,948	8.07%
Anderson Branch	10,782	3,830	570	235	15,417	14,888	3.55%
Bethany Branch	7,809	2,794	232	232	11,067	9,777	13.19%
Eiseley Branch	23,068	8,486	1,072	995	33,621	28,085	19.71%
Gere Branch	58,758	17,602	1,218	1,068	78,646	72,761	8.09%
South Branch	8,997	3,149	426	189	12,761	11,921	7.05%
Walt Branch	38,975	11,352	1,096	1,320	52,743	47,555	10.91%
Williams Branch	686	613	42	145	1,486	1,085	36.96%
Lied Bookmobile	1,473	410	0	83	1,966	3,449	-43.00%
InterLibrary Loan	218	0	0	0	218	284	-23.24%
SUBTOTAL	163,084	58,567	6,782	5,372	233,805	213,753	9.38%
DownloadStream Audio	34,978	0	0	0	34,978	29,418	18.90%
Download/Stream eBooks	28,288	0	0	0	28,288	24,423	15.83%
Stream Video	925	0	0	0	925	965	-4.15%
Download SUBTOTAL	64,191	0	0	0	64,191	54,806	17.12%
TOTAL CIRCULATION	227,275	58,567	6,782	5,372	297,996	268,559	10.96%

*Visits at Anderson Branch low due to counter not working from 6 pm 2/22 thru 3 pm 2/27

WiFi Sessions	94,945	91,880	3.34%
WiFi Users	8,800	9,099	-3.29%
Website Users	59,234	62,480	-5.20%
Website Sessions	113,509	118,547	-4.25%
Database Use	11,367	14,204	-19.97%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2023	2022	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
Owned	363,339	299,451	76,295	32,417	771,502	Purged	720	48	1400.00%
Added	2,258	1,495	515	84	4,352	Active			
Withdrawn	-4,817	-2,018	-398	-95	-7,328	Resident	146,587	199,644	-26.58%
Current	360,780	298,928	76,412	32,406	768,526	ConnectED	42,447	43,131	-1.59%
						County	9,143	13,000	-29.67%
						NonResident	942	1,069	-11.88%
						Reciprocal	482	793	-39.22%
						Limited Use	8,515	10,768	-20.92%
						Total Active	208,116	268,405	-22.46%

Prepared by: Tina Queen

**February 2023 Use Compared to February 2022
Lincoln City Libraries**

Location	Print Checkouts		Print Loan	Non-Print Checkouts		Non-Print	Total Checkouts		Total Loan
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Loan Change	2023	2022	Change
BMPL	9,794	10,129	-3.31%	2,524	3,020	-16.42%	12,318	13,149	-6.32%
Anderson	8,806	8,105	8.65%	1,976	2,008	-1.59%	10,782	10,113	6.62%
Bethany	6,683	6,247	6.98%	1,126	1,060	6.23%	7,809	7,307	6.87%
Eiseley	20,107	17,408	15.50%	2,961	2,687	10.20%	23,068	20,095	14.79%
Gere	51,854	49,083	5.65%	6,904	7,716	-10.52%	58,758	56,799	3.45%
South	7,548	7,297	3.44%	1,449	1,275	13.65%	8,997	8,572	4.96%
Walt	34,333	32,432	5.86%	4,642	4,922	-5.69%	38,975	37,354	4.34%
Williams	545	507	7.50%	141	164	-14.02%	686	671	2.24%
Lied Bookmobile	1,262	2,037	-38.05%	211	145	45.52%	1,473	2,182	-32.49%
InterLibrary Loan	218	284	-23.24%	0	0	0.00%	218	284	-23.24%
Subtotal Checkouts	141,150	133,529	5.71%	21,934	22,997	-4.62%	163,084	156,526	4.19%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	34,978	29,418	18.90%	34,978	29,418	18.90%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	28,288	24,423	15.83%	28,288	24,423	15.83%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	925	965	-4.15%	925	965	-4.15%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	141,150	133,529	5.71%	86,125	77,803	10.70%	227,275	211,332	7.54%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
BMPL	4,381	4,423	-0.95%	7,937	8,726	-9.04%	10,331	8,516	21.31%
Anderson	5,604	4,670	20.00%	5,178	5,443	-4.87%	3,830	3,996	-4.15%
Bethany	4,577	4,129	10.85%	3,232	3,178	1.70%	2,794	2,254	23.96%
Eiseley	15,434	12,934	19.33%	7,634	7,161	6.61%	8,486	6,985	21.49%
Gere	33,354	31,646	5.40%	25,404	25,153	1.00%	17,602	14,664	20.04%
South	5,070	4,706	7.73%	3,927	3,866	1.58%	3,149	2,888	9.04%
Walt	26,930	25,160	7.03%	12,045	12,194	-1.22%	11,352	9,234	22.94%
Williams	509	499	2.00%	177	172	2.91%	613	379	61.74%
Lied Bookmobile	897	1,399	-35.88%	576	783	-26.44%	410	133	208.27%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	218	284	-23.24%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	96,756	89,566	8.03%	66,328	66,960	-0.94%	58,567	49,049	19.41%
Download/Stream Audio	4,826	4,412	9.38%	30,152	25,006	20.58%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	4,191	3,489	20.12%	24,097	20,934	15.11%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	925	965	-4.15%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	105,773	97,467	8.52%	121,502	113,865	6.71%	58,567	49,049	19.41%

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth		P&O Att - Youth	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult		P&O Att - Adult	Computer Use		Computer
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
BMPL	928	28	3214.29%	177	162	9.26%	2,126	2,093	1.58%
Anderson	235	10	2250.00%	0	0	0.00%	570	769	-25.88%
Bethany	197	0	0.00%	35	0	0.00%	232	216	7.41%
Eiseley	957	0	0.00%	38	0	0.00%	1,072	1,005	6.67%
Gere	1,044	11	9390.91%	24	30	-20.00%	1,218	1,257	-3.10%
South	185	0	0.00%	4	6	-33.33%	426	455	-6.37%
Walt	1,282	29	4320.69%	38	18	111.11%	1,096	920	19.13%
Williams	145	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	42	35	20.00%
Lied Bookmobile	0	772	-100.00%	83	362	-77.07%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	4,973	850	485.06%	399	578	-30.97%	6,782	6,750	0.47%

Prepared by: Tina Queen