

Director's Report for June 2023

The soon-to-be **new Williams Branch Library** is a beautiful space, modern in design and comfortable in form and function. It reflects the creativity and shared planning of staff, architects, and interior designers. Thanks to the teamwork and diligence of library team members Traci Glass, Lisa Olivigni, Jill Deisley and the Williams/Eiseley staff for bringing it to life. Patrons in Northwest Lincoln will find it a fun and eye-catching library, convenient for their neighborhood and a nice addition in combination with the Air Park Rec Center. We're grateful for the longtime partnership with Lincoln Public Schools and its students and educators at Arnold Elementary.

The upcoming **public engagement work with BVH Architecture** is designed to present the current state of the library system and its facilities, with the goal of sharing that with the community and receiving feedback on their impression of the library and what we can do facilities-wise to serve better now and in the future. September is the month planned for outreach in each of the city's quadrants with presentations, listening sessions, and online data gathering. I will be active during this time representing the library and listening to residents, but I'll also be counting on library board members to participate, advocate, and listen if able. BVH will then present a report in late Fall outlining their recommendations for meeting library service needs of the community.

Library **Strategic Planning** work will begin in October with Parlay Consulting and involve a staff/board committee of 15 participants, a series of staff forums, community focus groups, and an online survey. The work will conclude by January, with priorities set and an implementation plan prepared for year-one.

Since offering the ability to **register online for library cards** two months ago, nearly 300 new patrons have now discovered the great things that a library card at Lincoln City Libraries brings. Thanks to many staff who made that a reality, and in quick time.

Over 200 talented young artists submitted their drawings for the **Kid's Library Card Design Contest** this summer. Three lucky finalists will now have their art voted on by the general public, with the winner to have their design memorialized on a library card. Kind of inspiring, and very cool!

Improving the visibility and recognition of LCL's beautiful libraries is a priority in the upcoming months with the addition of **consistently-designed building lettering** at several branches that have signage needs. Branch managers and building superintendent Dan Miller are working together to identify good solutions.

Bennett Martin Public Library needs **handicap-accessible parking spaces** as a matter of safety, and with LTU's planning help we've identified a solution for spaces and curb access on N Street, near the 14th Street corner. We're waiting on a projected cost, and then we'll plan out the funding and timing.

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

- An older patron came who used to come to the library years ago and quit during Covid just started coming back into Walt Branch. She had started buying audio and ebooks during the pandemic and found them to be so expensive. She was thrilled to learn about Hoopla and Libby and the amount of money she will be able to save.
- At Bethany Branch Library, Jodi R. noted, "Chery B. helped a family who needed to write an obituary for their husband/father. She printed off a helpful form they could use as a template."

Programming

- Nearly 100 patrons participated in the program "Around the World in Games" at Eiseley, and the next day, 22 participants at Eiseley made a summer treat with the Blender Bike that traveled to several branches.
- At the end of June 2023, NESU had 2,573 individuals registered for the Summer Reading Challenge. Librarian Karrie S. noted, "This beats our 2022 total summer reading numbers (2,378) -- making it our highest Summer Reading yet! And July hasn't even happened yet!"
- Polley Music Library had a songwriting workshop this month featuring local songwriter Nick Vaccaro. The focus was on the "four chord song" formula and its variations. There were 8 attendees and some great interactions, as Nick referenced music all the way from the Renaissance to Lady Gaga and much more.
- Cally O. reports that Gere storytime numbers continued to grow in June with the Tuesday morning storytimes proving to be the most popular with attendance ranging from 56 to 82. Total storytime attendance for the month was 1,323 customers at 38 sessions. As far as storytime attendance at Gere goes, we are back to pre-Covid levels.
- Family Fun-Night Ice Cream Party on the 6th at Gere had 300 attend. There was free ice cream and popsicles, bubbles, and chalk outside and a painting craft project where the kids could paint pictures of popsicles and ice cream cones. Cally O., Sam R. (Summer Intern) and Ronda H. along with Volunteens hosted the event.

Outreach

- From Walt: Vicki C. and Jodene G. visited the Lincoln Square Senior Apartment complex near Tabitha. A very engaged audience turned our allotted 30 minutes into over an hour as we talked about summer reading, library cards, programming, and everything you can get with your card. We signed two residents up for summer reading and three up for library cards. The Library Lineup was a huge hit. One woman said she plans her week around the Library Lineup. Also, The Pride outreach presented a great opportunity to connect to the community. People were very excited to see the Library booth, and many shared their love for their library system. Many shared their favorite reads, as well. One patron who recently transitioned mentioned to Meagan M. how supportive LCL staff have been during her time coming out.
- Our Summer YS Outreach staff are very busy with 22 city sites and seven county sites this summer. Luckily, they work so well together as a team they manage to get all of their sites covered and their kids engaged.
- Every person who registered for the Summer Reading Challenge was provided with a free ticket to the Saltdogs baseball game on June 9. NESU employees Karrie S., Nate H., and Tracy T. were on hand at Haymarket Park that night to welcome attendees. Nate reported, "I worked the Saltdogs game, handing out hand fans at the gates. The game was well-attended, and we saw many of our regular patrons, several of whom even came to the baseball game with a library book in hand!" Karrie added, "We handed out hundreds of fans and greeted Summer Readers as they entered the stadium. They are always so excited to see their library staff and are happy to tell us that they've been doing the Summer Reading Challenge."

Collections

- During the month of June, displays in the youth areas of Anderson and Bethany Branch Libraries included the following: I'm Bored (fun things to do); Father's Day; Summer Fun; Dogs; I Like to Move It; Bugs; Dinosaurs; Friendship; Look what the wind BLUE in; Ocean Animals; Seek and Finds; Mo Willems; Garfield; Weird but True; and rotating jpb series: Big Nate, A to Z Mysteries, My Weird School, Hardy Boys/Nancy Drew, Owl Diaries, and Babysitters Club.
- Gere Library adult displays were put together by Aubrey S., Aya M., Hillary U., and Lane G. Themes this month were: Pride; Summer Blockbuster Movies; Summer Meals; Father's Day; Juneteenth; National Dinosaur Day; Pride Month Picture Books; and Adult Summer Reading. Melanie N. had the idea to promote the summer reading program to adults by pulling summer themed reads and popular items from to be shelved carts. Aubrey said she was amazed by how fast items from the display were taken with 301 circs during June. Total checkouts from all the displays were 936. Hillary put together a DVD display at South – Celebrating All Kinds of Dads with 28 checkouts.

Collaboration

- One hundred people showed up for Walt Branch's collaborative program with the Cooper YMCA. Ken from the YMCA ran two twenty-minute aerobic programs for youth. This was such an exciting program that we are already planning on holding this again during winter break and next summer also.

Community Engagement

- Karrie S. [NESU] reported, "Dawes Middle School reached out and asked if they could bring about 30 summer school kids down to the library. We were happy to have them! With teachers, 32 of them walked down to Anderson Branch on Thursday June 15th. Prior to their visit, we registered all of them for our Summer Reading Challenge. I talked to them about the program and answered a lot of good questions they had about our libraries and library cards. Then Lisa Voss, Steph Eischeid, and I gave a quick round of booktalks. We finished with a tour around the library and time to look around and check out."

Technology

- The Tech Time Staff at Gere Branch helped 13 patrons during an equivalent of 25 half-hour appointments. Of these, five needed assistance with digital library services, including Ancestry. Araya W. shared this interaction: "I met a patron for a Tech Time appointment to help him navigate Ancestry.com and we ended up making more appointments to track his family on both parents' sides from Bohemia and Germany to Nebraska. He is preparing a "How You Got Here" binder for each of his grandchildren and has really enjoyed doing investigative work with me and sharing stories about his relatives and travels."

Facilities

- Tracie Glass and the Bookmobile planning team have made refinements to the new vehicle RFP and expect it to go live in the middle of July.

Areas of Excellence and Focus

Early Childhood

- From Ali B. in Youth Services: "A ton of card sign up this month—folks were very happy to be able to do that on the spot at these outreach events. "Around Towns" are back and they are big this year. I'm expecting them to die down in July, as they did last year. While the crowds can be daunting, it has been nice to see so many folks making memories centered around reading. A mom told me at Memorial Stadium, "You just made a core memory for my kids", which is so awesome! I also had a grandmother tell me that she brought her grandkids all the way from Grand Island to attend-- and they attend weekly!

Additional Areas of Focus—in these, the library usually collaborates with other organizations

Employment

- Melanie N. [Gere] shared: "A customer inquired about using our study rooms for study sessions for the department of homeland security's immigration law test required for her employment. Due to government requirements, they can't do this at coffee shops or their hotels, or places like that due to security issues. She tested her laptop while at Gere to make sure the VPN would connect, and it

did, even though it didn't work in other public locations. Our internet security features, space, and privacy gave this patron a place to study and develop their employment skills and requirements.”

Services to Our Aging Population

- Pat Sloan [Gere] worked with Aging Partners in hosting the Historical Lunch on the 21st featuring Kim Shelley and her presentation on the history of the Lincoln City Libraries branches. There were 33 attending.

Ryan Wieber, Library Director

June 16, 2023

**Lincoln City Libraries
June 2023 Use Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	June 2023 Total Use	June 2022 Total Use	CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	16,140	12,527	2,570	4,055	35,292	36,410	-3.07%
Anderson Branch	15,843	7,226	779	1,183	25,031	21,001	19.19%
Bethany Branch	10,023	4,176	313	385	14,897	14,926	-0.19%
Eiseley Branch	30,702	10,954	1,292	1,757	44,705	44,533	0.39%
Gere Branch	74,907	25,089	1,460	3,389	104,845	102,671	2.12%
South Branch	11,436	4,227	444	733	16,840	17,215	-2.18%
Walt Branch	55,594	16,860	1,231	2,284	75,969	73,984	2.68%
Williams Branch	545	300	0	47	892	1,847	-51.71%
Lied Bookmobile	1,612	404	0	41	2,057	2,639	-22.05%
InterLibrary Loan	181	0	0	0	181	276	-34.42%
SUBTOTAL	216,983	81,763	8,089	13,874	320,709	315,502	1.65%
DownloadStream Audio	39,488	0	0	0	39,488	33,054	19.47%
Download/Stream eBooks	30,659	0	0	0	30,659	26,475	15.80%
Stream Video	743	0	0	0	743	812	-8.50%
Download SUBTOTAL	70,890	0	0	0	70,890	60,341	17.48%
TOTAL CIRCULATION	287,873	81,763	8,089	13,874	391,599	375,843	4.19%

Note: LPS Airwave server was not working during June 2022.

WiFi Sessions	118,972	n/a	0.00%
WiFi Users	10,399	n/a	0.00%
Website Users	65,180	65,113	0.10%
Website Sessions	127,687	129,749	-1.59%
Database Use	7,828	8,722	-10.25%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2023	2022	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
Owned	360,551	302,084	76,561	32,551	771,747	Active			
Added	2,049	3,298	51	33	5,431	Resident	147,071	146,264	0.55%
Withdrawn	-5,444	1,651	620	1,303	-1,870	ConnectED	42,752	44,302	-3.50%
Current	357,156	307,033	77,232	33,887	775,308	County	9,129	9,188	-0.64%
						NonResident	937	936	0.11%
						Reciprocal	480	477	0.63%
						Limited Use	8,679	8,670	0.10%
						Total Active	209,048	209,837	-0.38%

**June 2023 Use Compared to June 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	13,305	13,477	-1.28%	2,835	3,022	-6.19%	16,140	16,499	-2.18%
Anderson	13,189	11,420	15.49%	2,654	2,581	2.83%	15,843	14,001	13.16%
Bethany	8,779	9,117	-3.71%	1,244	1,325	-6.11%	10,023	10,442	-4.01%
Eiseley	26,833	25,904	3.59%	3,869	3,693	4.77%	30,702	29,597	3.73%
Gere	65,786	66,937	-1.72%	9,121	8,947	1.94%	74,907	75,884	-1.29%
South	10,066	10,106	-0.40%	1,370	1,587	-13.67%	11,436	11,693	-2.20%
Walt	49,101	48,026	2.24%	6,493	6,191	4.88%	55,594	54,217	2.54%
Williams	472	903	-47.73%	73	88	-17.05%	545	991	-45.01%
Lied Bookmobile	1,486	1,566	-5.11%	126	238	-47.06%	1,612	1,804	-10.64%
InterLibrary Loan	181	276	-34.42%	0	0	0.00%	181	276	-34.42%
Subtotal Checkouts	189,198	187,732	0.78%	27,785	27,672	0.41%	216,983	215,404	0.73%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	39,488	33,054	19.47%	39,488	33,054	19.47%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	30,659	26,475	15.80%	30,659	26,475	15.80%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	743	812	-8.50%	743	812	-8.50%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	189,198	187,732	0.78%	98,675	88,013	12.11%	287,873	275,745	4.40%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
BMPL	7,194	7,366	-2.34%	8,946	9,133	-2.05%	12,527	10,543	18.82%
Anderson	9,556	8,182	16.79%	6,287	5,819	8.04%	7,226	5,768	25.28%
Bethany	6,536	6,844	-4.50%	3,487	3,598	-3.09%	4,176	3,981	4.90%
Eiseley	22,102	21,104	4.73%	8,600	8,493	1.26%	10,954	11,479	-4.57%
Gere	47,568	47,533	0.07%	27,339	28,351	-3.57%	25,089	22,945	9.34%
South	7,301	7,224	1.07%	4,135	4,469	-7.47%	4,227	4,412	-4.19%
Walt	41,404	39,725	4.23%	14,190	14,492	-2.08%	16,860	16,359	3.06%
Williams	439	827	-46.92%	106	164	-35.37%	300	706	-57.51%
Lied Bookmobile	1,094	1,164	-6.01%	518	640	-19.06%	404	329	22.80%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	181	276	-34.42%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	143,194	139,969	2.30%	73,789	75,435	-2.18%	81,763	76,522	6.85%
Download/Stream Audio	5,526	4,632	19.30%	33,962	28,422	19.49%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	5,137	4,321	18.88%	25,522	22,154	15.20%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	743	812	-8.50%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	153,857	148,922	3.31%	134,016	126,823	5.67%	81,763	76,522	6.85%

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	3,721	6,754	-44.91%	334	220	51.82%	2,570	2,394	7.35%
Anderson	1,131	489	131.29%	52	0	0.00%	779	743	4.85%
Bethany	350	254	37.80%	35	20	75.00%	313	229	36.68%
Eiseley	1,433	1,819	-21.22%	324	462	-29.87%	1,292	1,176	9.86%
Gere	3,343	2,485	34.53%	46	91	-49.45%	1,460	1,266	15.32%
South	724	563	28.60%	9	0	0.00%	444	547	-18.83%
Walt	2,221	1,812	22.57%	63	378	-83.33%	1,231	1,218	1.07%
Williams	47	135	-65.19%	0	0	0.00%	0	15	-100.00%
Lied Bookmobile	0	190	-100.00%	41	316	-87.03%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	12,970	14,501	-10.56%	904	1,487	-39.21%	8,089	7,588	6.60%

**Lincoln City Libraries
June 2023 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report**

Location	Loans			Visits			Computer Reservations			Program & Outreach Attendance			Total Use		
	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	133,685	141,597	-5.59%	107,499	87,214	23.26%	23,735	21,516	10.31%	10,950	11,912	-8.08%	275,869	262,239	5.20%
Anderson Branch	119,872	110,958	8.03%	52,922	45,000	17.60%	6,984	7,763	-10.03%	6,899	2,560	169.49%	186,677	166,281	12.27%
Bethany Branch	84,613	82,669	2.35%	30,792	27,880	10.44%	2,502	2,326	7.57%	2,881	1,266	127.57%	120,788	114,141	5.82%
Eiseley Branch	243,084	224,321	8.36%	89,026	77,691	14.59%	11,705	10,419	12.34%	15,483	10,397	48.92%	359,298	322,828	11.30%
Gere Branch	634,920	618,693	2.62%	184,791	164,647	12.23%	12,672	12,439	1.87%	15,292	5,509	177.58%	847,675	801,288	5.79%
South Branch	96,206	95,222	1.03%	34,518	32,656	5.70%	4,501	4,822	-6.66%	3,240	2,215	46.28%	138,465	134,915	2.63%
Walt Branch	417,660	406,331	2.79%	123,608	106,454	16.11%	10,257	9,626	6.56%	11,550	5,545	108.30%	563,075	527,956	6.65%
Williams Branch	7,332	7,582	-3.30%	6,176	5,416	14.03%	561	465	20.65%	898	332	170.48%	14,967	13,795	8.50%
Lied Bookmobile	16,530	21,721	-23.90%	4,395	1,722	155.23%	0	0	0.00%	2,660	11,320	-76.50%	23,585	34,763	-32.15%
InterLibrary Loan	1,964	2,514	-21.88%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,964	2,514	-21.88%
SUBTOTAL	1,755,866	1,711,608	2.59%	633,727	548,680	15.50%	72,917	69,376	5.10%	69,853	51,056	36.82%	2,532,363	2,380,720	6.37%
DownloadStream Audio	363,887	307,484	18.34%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	363,887	307,484	18.34%
Download/Stream eBooks	286,398	251,477	13.89%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	286,398	251,477	13.89%
Stream Video	8,535	8,025	6.36%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	8,535	8,025	6.36%
Download SUBTOTAL	658,820	566,986	16.20%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	658,820	566,986	16.20%
TOTAL LOANS	2,414,686	2,278,594	5.97%	633,727	548,680	15.50%	72,917	69,376	5.10%	69,853	51,056	36.82%	3,191,183	2,947,706	8.26%

	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	269	0	0.00%
Overall Registrations	9396	9875	-4.85%

WiFi Sessions	1,150,512	960,365	19.80%
WiFi Users	104,673	93,722	11.68%
Website Users	613,792	615,964	-0.35%
Website Sessions	1,191,944	1,208,216	-1.35%
Database Use	111,415	115,257	-3.33%