

Library Director's Report for September 2023

The Library's annual Staff In-Service Day on September 22 at UNL- County Extension turned out nicely with a variety of informative and engaging offerings. Brenda Ealey and the committee who planned and executed everything did a great job, and there was a really nice energy level throughout the day. The opportunity to meet off-site and gather together with LCL team members from across the system is always a good thing. Several staff were recognized for their perfect and near-perfect attendance since this event began several decades ago. The day's theme was "We're with the Banned" and included:

- Service award recognitions for staff achieving milestone anniversaries
- A "State of the Library" introduction
- Managing Negative Emotions by a representative from our EAP (Continuum Services)
- "Be Prepared for a First Amendment Audit" presentation
- A book sharing exercise on the topic of challenged books
- A presentation by Caralyn Knapp on Home Delivery Services and Interlibrary Loan changes; an overview of Support Services topics by Rebecca Aracena; a preview of the new website by Traci Glass.
- A "Future Libraries" planning activity led by BVH architects

There's been a noticeable increase in media coverage this past year for library activities, news, and planning efforts—all due to a purposeful plan to inform the public on the library's efforts and positive impact for the community. LCL's Amy Huffman does an outstanding job in this work and she's able to capitalize on the many great things that are happening as a result of our staff's love for what they do.

The target go-live date for the new website is Thursday, November 30.

The "Future Libraries" planning initiative with BVH and MSR Design began with community engagement work in September and into October with events at Anderson, Gere, Walt, BMPL, and upcoming at Eiseley on 10/17. Each day also had time with local branch staff for their participation and feedback. The sessions have produced great conversations and invaluable feedback and ideas. We expect to have a completed report or recommendations from BVH in November. Summaries of the participation/feedback will be included in that document, and participants of the engagement sessions will be provided notification of its completion and availability on the project's microsite at futurelibrarieslcl.org. Please continue to direct people to the site for survey participation and communication updates.

The City of Lincoln and Lancaster County are entering into an agreement for placement of drop-off election boxes (in-ground) at Anderson, Eiseley, Gere, and Walt Branches. These will be maintained and accessible only by Election Commission employees, and they are being fully paid for by the County.

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

- At Streets Alive, Ali B. [BMPL] met a patron who said they do not come downtown to the library due to parking. Ali informed them that the first hour in the parking garage across the street is free. The next week, she saw them here at Bennett Martin.
- On September 21st, Walt Teen Advisory Board (TAB) member and Southwest High School Student, Claire Timperley, was chosen as one of the speakers at a press conference with Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird. The press conference announced the rebranded OneCard, formerly known as a ConnectED library account. Many library staff and administrators expressed how well Claire spoke. We were all very proud to have her as a member of the Walt TAB.
- Cindy K. [BMPL] had a fun interaction with a young boy at the Latino Festival who was showing her the sign language he'd recently learned from a DVD they had checked out. He showed her the signs for "Thank you" and "Friend" and spelled his name for her. His family talked about getting more DVDs for him to continue learning!

Programming

- Corey G. and Aubrey S. [Gere] hosted a Star Wars-themed Random Fandom on September 11th. There were Build-a-Droid craft sheets and Star Wars themed Mad Libs, as well Play-Doh for youth to make their own fandom. There were 9 attending.
- September brought a return to children's programming after the August hiatus. Most notably was Walt's Bluey Family Night. Although it is an animated series, Bluey's appeal reaches viewers of all ages with their gentle approach to parenting and love of imaginative play. This was evident with the 359-person attendance. Keeping with the theme, family night had many stations throughout the building that recreated these simple moments of connection between adults and youth from Bluey episodes.
- STEAM Storytimes started again this month at Walt Branch. Vicki C. says the children conducted sound experiments with a wire hangar and yarn and then learned balance principles by building apple trees with cardboard tubes, popsicle sticks and pom poms.
- Pat S. [Gere] worked with the Lincoln Community Playhouse in hosting a post-production discussion on the 24th of their play – Little Shop of Horrors – with 25 attending a lively discussion. The cast members talked about their characters and the puppeteering skills learned for working with the tree sizes of the Venus Flytrap plant. Morrie Enders also brought over the prop for "Audrey II" the Venus Flytrap plant as part of the promotion for the play and discussion. Library customers were able to take pictures of family and friends posing inside the mouth of the plant for a week leading up to the performance. Pat also prepared a reading list of books to augment the program which the Playhouse listed on their website.
- The annual Heavy Equipment Encounter (pre-school age) was well attended again with a great turnout at library branches.
- Polley Music Library had an informative session about synthesizers called "Synthtober," led by Omaha synthesist Aaron Gumm. He brought lots of synths to show the basics of how they made sound and how they've developed over time, and fielded lots of questions from the audience of 20.

He ended up staying for an extra hour beyond the originally scheduled hour to continue with addressing questions and allowing people to come up and check out the instruments themselves.

Outreach

- Some recent outreach at Eiseley: Kara G. began providing programming for CLC students on Thursdays afternoons at Arnold. Kara worked with 18 students as part of CLC in September; Susan Steider hosted a School Night for West Lincoln Elementary. Many staff helped out to make this successful, and 250 patrons attended.
- Cally O. [Gere] presented to 17 local area home daycare providers on the 21st. She talked about Every Child Ready to Read and how the 5 activities, Talk, Sing, Read, Write, and Play can be used to support early literacy development in their daycares. She also book-talked a selection of picture books from the last 3 years, along with sharing techniques to use when reading aloud to support early literacy skills.
- Karrie S., Librarian at NESU, reported, "Nancy E. and I attended the Northeast Cultural Diversity fair, entitled: *I am Northeast!* This is a fun event with many different booths, entertainment and food trucks. All ages attend the event, and we talked to 83 people that evening."
- Other outreach events in September included LCL staff at booths and activities at Mid-Autumn Festival, Latino Fest, Harvest Moon Fest, Lincoln Unites, Streets Alive, and at Project Connect staff members Traci G., Sharon S., Jackie S., and LeeAnn took shifts at the LCL booth at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Sharon shared this: "This was a one-day, one-stop event where individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness are able to receive a wide variety of immediate, on-site services and support for unmet needs." Jackie relayed, "I had a lot of great conversations with people about what the library offers and signed up several people for library cards. A lot of people came up to us and said how much they loved the library. One woman came up and was worried she couldn't use the library because she had fines on her account. We looked up her account and found that she was under the \$10 limit (a lot of her fines had been for late fees) and I told her she could definitely come check out items. She was so excited to hear that she could check out and didn't have a big fine to pay."

Collaboration

- National Voter Registration Day took place on 09/18/2023. Several LCL facilities, including Anderson Branch Library, served as registration sites for the event. Voter registration was performed by individuals from the Lancaster County Election Commission.
- Ronda H. [Gere] and Brenda E. [Gere] hosted a Lincoln City Libraries table at the Garden Tea on September 16th as a part of the official ribbon cutting for the Community Garden at Gere. There were several other organizations present with activities that included yoga, seeds, and vegetables. At the LCL table we had garden books to check out, pop-up story times, crafts, coloring pages, bubbles, chalk, and an apple tree bean bag toss. There was a great turnout with 200 plus attending.

Community Engagement

- Nancy P. [BMPL] pointed out that the large poster coloring we had available in the adult fiction area for patrons had been quite popular. She suggested we continue providing this as a passive activity for adults, which we have done. Nancy stated, "I have enjoyed seeing that these posters have been replaced when one is finished. I have noticed a couple that regularly come to BMPL, regularly stop and color and talk.
- Gere Library had 132 Book Bundles this month with a total of 330 books, and 1 Bound to Please.
- Gere had 14 adult volunteers that gave 138.5 hours of service this month.

Early Childhood

- Pam C. [Eiseley] provided the first Family Storytime at the new Williams. For the month total, we had 46 patrons participate. We think this is a great start for regular family story time programming at Williams.
- Eiseley kicked off preschool evening storytime with the theme Tail Gate Story Time. Children were encouraged to dress in their favorite Husker gear. Imagine our surprise when Herbie Husker himself showed up – along with several Husker Cheerleaders and members of the Husker Pep Band. Both Tami R. and Susan had tried to get some Huskers to attend the Tail Gate event but had been told no one was available. Well, they showed up anyway and helped us kick off storytime and National Library Card Month all at once!

Technology

- Chery B. [NESU] passed along this story: "Just had a mom and teenager come in at Bethany Branch and pick-up their holds. I complemented them on the YA graphic novels they chose, and Mom said, "Oh, yeah! We use the library app at Barnes & Noble, and we scan the barcodes, and check to see if you have the books in the library. Saves us a ton of money!"
- Anthony V. [BMPL] relayed that he has helped many patrons with computer technology, such as apartment applications, as well as teaching someone how to use our online catalog.
- Cindy K. [BMPL] assisted a patron who is blind on a computer in the lab so he could listen to BBC radio in Arabic.

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

Celebrating the Diversity of our city

- On September 30th Jessica S. [Walt] taught a Mixed Ages storytime to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month: Tiempos de Cuentos. The entire storytime was very high-energy with Hispanic songs, stories, and action rhymes. They read *Maria had a Little Llama* by Angela Dominguez.

Building up the Culture of Lincoln**Reading**

- Bethany BookTalks: The Fall/Winter 2023 series of Bethany BookTalks kicked off on 09/01 with a presentation by Kate K. from Eiseley Branch Library. The next Friday (09/08), Jen J. from Bennett Martin Public Library facilitated. Lisa V. from NESU finished out the month on 09/29.

- Virtual Services staff report there were a record number of Hoopla checkouts in August, exceeding 14,000 for the first time.

Local History & Genealogy

- On 09/12/2023, NESU Manager Kim S. presented *The History of Lincoln City Libraries* to a group of 20 Bethany Women's Club members.
- Gere hosted the Aging Partners Historical lunch program featuring Mary Sauers (Nebraska Library Commission) who gave a presentation on the changing demographics of Lincoln over the years. There were 50 attending.

Services to our Aging Population

- Caralyn K. [BMPL] has been compiling and sending a variety of lists to HOM patrons, including new large type, humorous fiction, and Christian fiction. The lists have created interest and lots of holds have been placed on items from them.
- Yoel Schwartz Taylor held our first monthly session with the Senior Coffee group at Air Park Community Center. Fifteen people participated.

Ryan Wieber, Library Director

October 13, 2023

**Lincoln City Libraries
September 2023 Use Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach		September 2023 Total Use	September 2022 Total Use	CHANGE
				Attendance	Total Use			
Bennett Martin Public Library	14,246	9,783	2,191	1,520		27,740	27,401	1.24%
Anderson Branch	11,715	5,469	822	216		18,222	16,967	7.40%
Bethany Branch	7,616	3,064	250	247		11,177	12,030	-7.09%
Eiseley Branch	23,277	8,914	1,189	1,241		34,621	34,520	0.29%
Gere Branch	59,622	17,667	1,251	1,519		80,059	81,330	-1.56%
South Branch	9,528	3,552	499	359		13,938	13,260	5.11%
Walt Branch	38,630	11,956	998	2,139		53,723	51,508	4.30%
Williams Branch	1,115	1,325	262	261		2,963	1,478	100.47%
Lied Bookmobile	1,534	372	0	41		1,947	2,821	-30.98%
InterLibrary Loan	193	0	0	0		193	194	-0.52%
SUBTOTAL	167,476	62,102	7,462	7,543		244,583	241,509	1.27%
DownloadStream Audio	40,126	0	0	0		40,126	34,107	17.65%
Download/Stream eBooks	32,116	0	0	0		32,116	26,220	22.49%
Stream Video	747	0	0	0		747	757	-1.32%
Download SUBTOTAL	72,989	0	0	0		72,989	61,084	19.49%
TOTAL CIRCULATION	240,465	62,102	7,462	7,543		317,572	302,593	4.95%

WiFi Sessions	124,904	106,376	17.42%
WiFi Users	10,502	10,451	0.49%
Website Users	90,858	60,319	50.63%
Website Sessions	120,001	117,280	2.32%
Database Use	9,761	12,953	-24.64%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2023	2022	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
Owned	356,935	309,557	78,196	34,189	778,877	Purged	751	603	24.54%
Added	2,470	1,750	471	126	4,817	Active			
Withdrawn	-2,179	-2,967	-631	-858	-6,635	Resident	147,280	146,518	0.52%
Current	357,226	308,340	78,036	33,457	777,059	ConnectED	46,802	48,473	-3.45%
						County	9,064	9,168	-1.13%
						NonResident	935	945	-1.06%
						Reciprocal	477	477	0.00%
						Limited Use	9,027	8,631	4.59%
						Total Active	213,585	214,212	-0.29%

**September 2023 Use Compared to September 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	11,491	10,686	7.53%	2,755	2,730	0.92%	14,246	13,416	6.19%
Anderson	9,326	9,255	0.77%	2,389	1,873	27.55%	11,715	11,128	5.27%
Bethany	6,653	7,256	-8.31%	963	1,170	-17.69%	7,616	8,426	-9.61%
Eiseley	20,328	20,259	0.34%	2,949	3,076	-4.13%	23,277	23,335	-0.25%
Gere	52,395	54,185	-3.30%	7,227	7,625	-5.22%	59,622	61,810	-3.54%
South	8,295	7,947	4.38%	1,233	1,234	-0.08%	9,528	9,181	3.78%
Walt	34,124	34,404	-0.81%	4,506	4,387	2.71%	38,630	38,791	-0.42%
Williams	900	589	52.80%	215	201	6.97%	1,115	790	41.14%
Lied Bookmobile	1,420	1,603	-11.42%	114	184	-38.04%	1,534	1,787	-14.16%
InterLibrary Loan	193	194	-0.52%	0	0	0.00%	193	194	-0.52%
Subtotal Checkouts	145,125	146,378	-0.86%	22,351	22,480	-0.57%	167,476	168,858	-0.82%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	40,126	34,107	17.65%	40,126	34,107	17.65%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	32,116	26,220	22.49%	32,116	26,220	22.49%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	747	757	-1.32%	747	757	-1.32%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	145,125	146,378	-0.86%	95,340	83,564	14.09%	240,465	229,942	4.58%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
BMPL	5,215	5,046	3.35%	9,031	8,370	7.90%	9,783	10,292	-4.95%
Anderson	5,564	5,486	1.42%	6,151	5,642	9.02%	5,469	4,759	14.92%
Bethany	4,250	5,139	-17.30%	3,366	3,287	2.40%	3,064	3,102	-1.23%
Eiseley	15,559	15,511	0.31%	7,718	7,824	-1.35%	8,914	8,422	5.84%
Gere	34,704	35,567	-2.43%	24,918	26,243	-5.05%	17,667	17,228	2.55%
South	5,370	5,198	3.31%	4,158	3,983	4.39%	3,552	3,349	6.06%
Walt	26,630	26,329	1.14%	12,000	12,462	-3.71%	11,956	11,194	6.81%
Williams	748	560	33.57%	367	230	59.57%	1,325	604	119.37%
Lied Bookmobile	974	1,071	-9.06%	560	716	-21.79%	372	678	-45.13%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	193	194	-0.52%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	99,014	99,907	-0.89%	68,462	68,951	-0.71%	62,102	59,628	4.15%
Download/Stream Audio	5,584	4,509	23.84%	34,542	29,598	16.70%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	7,263	3,681	97.31%	24,903	22,539	10.49%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	747	757	-1.32%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	111,861	108,097	3.48%	128,654	121,845	5.59%	62,102	59,628	4.15%

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	318	208	52.88%	1,202	976	23.16%	2,191	2,509	-12.67%
Anderson	216	273	-20.88%	0	0	0.00%	822	807	1.86%
Bethany	190	205	-7.32%	57	48	18.75%	250	249	0.40%
Eiseley	968	812	19.21%	273	865	-68.44%	1,189	1,086	9.48%
Gere	1,267	855	48.19%	252	224	12.50%	1,251	1,213	3.13%
South	357	257	38.91%	2	7	-71.43%	499	466	7.08%
Walt	1,516	493	207.51%	623	66	843.94%	998	964	3.53%
Williams	246	30	720.00%	15	0	0.00%	262	54	385.19%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	41	356	-88.48%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	5,078	3,133	62.08%	2,465	2,542	-3.03%	7,462	7,348	1.55%

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

Location	Loans			Visits			Computer Reservations			Program & Outreach Attendance			Total Use		
	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	14,246	13,416	6.19%	9,783	10,292	-4.95%	2,191	2,509	-12.67%	1,520	1,184	28.38%	27,740	27,401	1.24%
Anderson Branch	11,715	11,128	5.27%	5,469	4,759	14.92%	822	807	1.86%	216	273	-20.88%	18,222	16,967	7.40%
Bethany Branch	7,616	8,426	-9.61%	3,064	3,102	-1.23%	250	249	0.40%	247	253	-2.37%	11,177	12,030	-7.09%
Eiseley Branch	23,277	23,335	-0.25%	8,914	8,422	5.84%	1,189	1,086	9.48%	1,241	1,677	-26.00%	34,621	34,520	0.29%
Gere Branch	59,622	61,810	-3.54%	17,667	17,228	2.55%	1,251	1,213	3.13%	1,519	1,079	40.78%	80,059	81,330	-1.56%
South Branch	9,528	9,181	3.78%	3,552	3,349	6.06%	499	466	7.08%	359	264	35.98%	13,938	13,260	5.11%
Walt Branch	38,630	38,791	-0.42%	11,956	11,194	6.81%	998	964	3.53%	2,139	559	282.65%	53,723	51,508	4.30%
Williams Branch	1,115	790	41.14%	1,325	604	119.37%	262	54	385.19%	261	30	770.00%	2,963	1,478	100.47%
Lied Bookmobile	1,534	1,787	-14.16%	372	678	-45.13%	0	0	0.00%	41	356	-88.48%	1,947	2,821	-30.98%
InterLibrary Loan	193	194	-0.52%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	193	194	-0.52%
SUBTOTAL	167,476	165,813	1.00%	62,102	51,437	20.73%	7,462	7,269	2.66%	7,543	4,274	76.49%	244,583	241,509	1.27%
DownloadStream Audio	40,126	34,107	17.65%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	40,126	34,107	17.65%
Download/Stream eBooks	32,116	26,220	22.49%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	32,116	26,220	22.49%
Stream Video	747	757	-1.32%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	747	757	-1.32%
Download SUBTOTAL	72,989	53,297	36.95%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	72,989	61,084	19.49%
TOTAL LOANS	240,465	219,110	9.75%	62,102	51,437	20.73%	7,462	7,269	2.66%	7,543	4,274	76.49%	317,572	302,593	4.95%

	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	181	N/A	0.00%
Overall Registrations	1296	1168	10.96%

WiFi Sessions	124,904	106,376	17.42%
WiFi Users	10,502	10,451	0.49%
Website Users	90,858	60,319	50.63%
Website Sessions	120,001	117,280	2.32%
Database Use	9,761	12,953	-24.64%