

Director's Report for August 2023

LCL's "Future Libraries" community engagement activities kick off with all-day sessions at five locations over the next month. Architects from BVH and MSR will be onsite to present, gather feedback, and conduct data collection activities such as heat-mapping and survey deployment. An informational microsite will be linked to LCL's website and provide information on the engagement activities, and will also house the survey. The survey will be available in multiple languages. I'll provide an overview at the board meeting.

Updated building signage (new, easy to notice lettering) is expected to be in place by October-November at Bethany, Eiseley, South, and Walt Branches.

Valerie Calderon of Parlay Consulting will introduce their strategic planning services and give a brief overview of the planning process at the September board meeting. This work will follow the facilities' engagement and run from October-February.

The first Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries pop-up book sale on September 9 at Walt went well; Gail McNair will provide a report at the board meeting.

ConnectED, our longstanding partnership with Lincoln Public Schools where each student automatically receives a Lincoln Cities Libraries card, has officially changed its name to "Library OneCard." The change helps identify the program better, and will be more recognizable for students, families, and teachers. There will be some public promotion of this over the next few weeks.

I recently gave library presentations and met with residents and stakeholders at Rotary Club 14, and three senior living facilities, sharing the latest news, plans and library overview.

The library system will be closed for the annual staff in-service day on Friday, September 22. The day will include a variety of topics from outside presenters and staff-led sessions, including a presentation by Continuum Services, an activity by architects from BVH/MSR, and the recognition of new and milestone-setting staff.

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

- A patron came in seeking the full text lyrics to the musical Hamilton so that he could "understand all that they were saying" throughout the production showing earlier in the month at the Lied Center.

Staff were able to find him a copy of the Hamilton libretto, which contained all the information that he was seeking, and more.

- Bennett Martin's Jackie S. said, "A woman came in seeking help with the copy machine. She had several documents to copy, which I helped her with, and while we were waiting for those to print we got on the subject of ebooks. She mentioned how easy Libby makes reading for her. She uses a wheelchair, but with Libby she can always have her books right next to her and doesn't have to worry about late fees or getting materials back to the library. She loves that it automatically returns her reads and that there is so much available."
- Araya W. (Gere) shared: "Many of the library cards I issued this month were to families who were preparing to start the school year, and quite a few had just moved to Lincoln. There was a lot of excitement about the amount of materials and programs offered by Gere and the rest of LCL."

Programming

- Family Fun-Night at Gere had a salamander theme and was hosted by Cally O., Sam R. and Ronda H. on the 1st with 70 attending. There were two educators from Lower Platte South NRD who brought salamanders for the kids to observe. Cally said: "The kids were fascinated to see the salamanders eating and asked lots of great questions about amphibians."
- Walt Branch's Memory Café in August involved a scent identification/"scent"sory activity. Liz C. reported she had six participants had a set of jars with different scented cotton balls inside and tried to identify the scent (lemon, rose, cinnamon, orange, peppermint). Then they closed their eyes and tried to see if the smell brought back any feelings, memories, or ideas. Liz used a sheet of questions about each scent as a prompt that helped get imaginations and memories flowing. Afterwards everyone picked the scent they liked the most and made essential oil roller bottles to take home. They also did some coloring and listened to Johnny Mathis and Elvis and did some visiting with the remaining time we had after the activity was completed. We were also contacted this month by the daughter of a previous attendee. She stated: "I wanted to share that mom passed away this week. On behalf of the family, I want to thank you and the Walt Branch library for all her wonderful experiences with Memory Cafe. Her last craft, the beautiful bracelet, became quite a showpiece that she enjoyed showing off. Thank you again. I sincerely hope that Memory Cafe remains a vibrant community offering."
- Polley Music Library: Polley radio programs (now over 200 total) in August featured a new book that takes a unique angle into the history of the minimalism movement in classical music, a book about Bob Moog, the most important pioneer in making synthesizers available for the general public, a book about the BBC Radiophonic Workshop's music, which was very influential in bringing the sounds of electronic music to radio and television, and a book about jazz composer and multi-instrumentalist Henry Threadgill. A time change for the Saturday broadcast of the program went into effect this month as well—the show will now air Saturday mornings from 10-10:30, and Sunday evenings from 9:30-10.
- Circle of Friends met twice this month at Walt with Liz C. and Vicki C. assisting. For the first session, the group had a variety of "old fashioned" items to entertain themselves with: some items they might never have used and were able to experiment with, and some items they might remember

from their past that would bring back memories. There were three manual typewriters, two coffee bean grinders, calligraphy/fountain pens, an ancient toy train track with buildings and train cars, an old train schedule, a rotary phone, an antique watch and a whittling tool. Liz brought in a modern coffee press and everyone had a fresh ground cup of coffee (or two) that they made themselves from start to finish!

- Lane G. (Gere) hosted the LGBTQ (Let's Get Books Together) Book Group on the 30th featuring Graphic Novels & Comics with 10 attending. Lane shared that while book talking Maia Kobabe's *Gender Queer*, she shared information about book bans and intellectual freedom and provide a link to the NLA Advocacy tool.

Outreach

- NESU sent staff to four different elementary schools for their Back to School Nights [all on the same evening!]. Seven staff members all helped promote our library services at Brownell, Pershing, Norwood Park, and Riley Elementary schools. We talked to 860 people that night and handed out free books to kids and flyers promoting our upcoming fall activities. It is such an awesome opportunity to meet such a large amount of people out in the community.
- Nancy E. (Eiseley) staffed a table at Educare's Back to School Program. She promoted library services to many current and new families whose children attend Educare.
- At BMPL, Cait L. continues to provide outreach at CEDARS Youth Outreach Center on a weekly basis. Caralyn K. and Ali B. did outreach at Downtown 101 and both said there were several UNL students who were excited to discover there was a public library so close to campus. They also enjoyed picking out Advance Reader Copies of books that staff had taken to give away.

Collections

- Nathan H. commented, "A patron at Bethany Branch Library asked for help finding resources on how to help a young child whose sibling has passed away. It was an emotional conversation, but the patron was very thankful for my assistance and Lincoln City Libraries' collection of resources."
- A family that usually visits South Branch stopped to look at Lisa W.'s Quick Trips display of travel books for neighboring states and Lincoln/Nebraska at Walt Library. They were excited to see books about the Near South Neighborhood, specifically finding pictures of "their corner." They checked out all these books and planned to use them for a walking tour of their neighborhood.

Community Engagement

- Williams Branch participated in National Night Out events along with the Community Center on August 1. It was a great opportunity to introduce the community to their new library.
- Gere Library adult displays included the following themes: Now Playing (Music & Musicians); Out of this World (SciFi); Tough Topics (Difficult Life Events); Recent Returns; 'A' is for ... (Books starting with A); D&D; Get Graphic; and World Lizard Day. Total checkouts from all the displays were 712. Gere Library had 137 Book Bundles this month with a total of 380 books.

Technology

- Virtual Services staff responded to and resolved 33 trouble tickets; refreshed a full software inventory scan of all software and versions installed on all library systems for both patrons and staff; delivered 150 new computers throughout the system.
- Anthony V. (BMPL) relayed that he helped a number of people in the computer lab working on their resumes. He showed them different ways to build resumes, including sites that allowed people to fill in the blanks with their own information, making it easier for patrons to create their resumes.

Facilities

- Walt Branch's study rooms have been in high demand the second half of August. They are used by high school and college students, adults who want a quiet space to work away from a shared office space, and tutors. In one hour, the last week of the month we counted five people turned away from using study rooms after school. To allow more people access to the study rooms, extensions of time have been reduced from two hours to one hour at a time.
- Williams Branch summer hours changed to reflect that public schools are now in session. We also added 11 additional public hours to Williams schedule, so now Williams will be open 39 hours per week. We have been adjusting to this new schedule. New program efforts include a weekly library time for Parks and Recreation students and a monthly staff book talk and tech time for the senior coffee hosted by the Community Center. Family Storytime began Thursday September 7. We are working with Parks and Recreation on shared behavior policy issues as well.

Areas of Excellence and Focus**Early Childhood**

- Diane V. (Gere) shared: "I worked with two separate parents looking for book ideas for their reluctant reader elementary age boys. Both times we took a walk through the paperback and J fiction areas, and I pointed out various titles. The parents were pleased to leave with armfuls of books to try that they thought would engage their children."

All Students

- NESU Librarian Karrie S. reported, "On August 7th, we held our fourth and final Summer VolunTEEN meeting of the year. We had a party to celebrate their hard work this year. We had ice cream sundaes, played games, and had a water balloon fight. Our sixteen VolunTEENS contributed a combined total of 173 hours this summer."

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

Celebrating the Diversity of our city

- Pat S. (Gere) shared: "A young man came to the Service Desk with an item to be Faxed. He had a limited vocabulary in English so was using talking to someone via his phone who could hear both of us. As I told him what information we would need, the person on the phone spoke to him in Spanish. It took a long time to get everything communicated and for him to get the information on

the cover sheet. The Fax was about 17 pages long, so it also took quite a while for it to be sent. In the end it all went well, and he was very pleased.”

Low-income Families

- A few staff donated packs of bottled water to make available to customers during the excessive heat we had throughout the month. It's so gratifying to see the thoughtfulness of staff looking out for members of our community, even something as seemingly simple as helping keep people hydrated.

Building up the Culture of Lincoln

Reading

- There were a record number of OverDrive audiobook, OverDrive eBook, and Hoopla checkouts in July (the last month for which figures were available as I compiled this report). Members of the OverDrive Support Team assisted at least 68 patrons with OverDrive and Hoopla issues in August.

Local History & Genealogy

- Kim J. (BMPL) relayed an interesting research request from this month: “The most interesting one was from a customer looking for ship rosters from the Spanish-American War in 1898. She was looking for a particular Nebraskan and wanted a list of members of the Volunteer Troop he was part of. I found the name of the subject on a list as well as several websites that gave historical information about the Volunteer Troop he was part of during that war.”

Ryan Wieber, Library Director
September 15, 2023

**Lincoln City Libraries
August 2023 Use Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	August 2023 Total Use	August 2022 Total Use	CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	16,324	12,201	2,542	1,033	32,100	31,213	2.84%
Anderson Branch	13,984	6,110	965	994	22,053	19,898	10.83%
Bethany Branch	8,022	3,332	320	34	11,708	12,961	-9.67%
Eiseley Branch	26,996	9,923	1,448	483	38,850	37,887	2.54%
Gere Branch	67,879	20,418	1,540	189	90,026	93,133	-3.34%
South Branch	10,745	4,109	482	7	15,343	15,483	-0.90%
Walt Branch	47,144	13,113	1,157	1,320	62,734	61,781	1.54%
Williams Branch	1,173	1,734	330	74	3,311	1,572	110.62%
Lied Bookmobile	1,209	328	0	41	1,578	2,088	-24.43%
InterLibrary Loan	238	0	0	0	238	207	14.98%
SUBTOTAL	193,714	71,268	8,784	4,175	277,941	276,223	0.62%
DownloadStream Audio	41,280	0	0	0	41,280	36,160	14.16%
Download/Stream eBooks	31,383	0	0	0	31,383	28,989	8.26%
Stream Video	981	0	0	0	981	1,122	-12.57%
Download SUBTOTAL	73,644	0	0	0	73,644	66,271	11.13%
TOTAL CIRCULATION	267,358	71,268	8,784	4,175	351,585	342,494	2.65%

WiFi Sessions	140,617	108,998	29.01%
WiFi Users	10,979	10,740	2.23%
Website Users	98,895	67,629	46.23%
Website Sessions	99,945	131,270	-23.86%
Database Use	9,173	11,620	-21.06%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2023	2022	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
Owned	356,917	308,301	77,814	34,167	777,199	Purged	690	665	3.76%
Added	2,981	2,872	379	86	6,318	Active			
Withdrawn	-2,963	-1,616	3	-64	-4,640	Resident	147,154	146,418	0.50%
Current	356,935	309,557	78,196	34,189	778,877	ConnectED	46,437	48,065	-3.39%
						County	9,094	9,168	-0.81%
						NonResident	938	945	-0.74%
						Reciprocal	477	477	0.00%
						Limited Use	8,893	8,635	2.99%
						Total Active	212,993	213,708	-0.33%

**August 2023 Use Compared to August 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	13,127	12,735	3.08%	3,197	3,131	2.11%	16,324	15,866	2.89%
Anderson	11,273	10,606	6.29%	2,711	2,380	13.91%	13,984	12,986	7.69%
Bethany	7,056	8,015	-11.97%	966	1,140	-15.26%	8,022	9,155	-12.38%
Eiseley	23,259	22,897	1.58%	3,737	3,615	3.37%	26,996	26,512	1.83%
Gere	59,222	62,062	-4.58%	8,657	9,321	-7.12%	67,879	71,383	-4.91%
South	9,154	9,386	-2.47%	1,591	1,366	16.47%	10,745	10,752	-0.07%
Walt	41,437	41,290	0.36%	5,707	5,515	3.48%	47,144	46,805	0.72%
Williams	965	596	61.91%	208	190	9.47%	1,173	786	49.24%
Lied Bookmobile	1,084	1,207	-10.19%	125	179	-30.17%	1,209	1,386	-12.77%
InterLibrary Loan	238	207	14.98%	0	0	0.00%	238	207	14.98%
Subtotal Checkouts	166,815	169,001	-1.29%	26,899	26,837	0.23%	193,714	195,838	-1.08%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	41,280	36,160	14.16%	41,280	36,160	14.16%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	31,383	28,989	8.26%	31,383	28,989	8.26%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	981	1,122	-12.57%	981	1,122	-12.57%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	166,815	169,001	-1.29%	100,543	93,108	7.99%	267,358	262,109	2.00%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
BMPL	6,086	5,930	2.63%	10,238	9,936	3.04%	12,201	11,260	8.36%
Anderson	7,213	6,648	8.50%	6,771	6,338	6.83%	6,110	5,287	15.57%
Bethany	4,590	5,480	-16.24%	3,432	3,675	-6.61%	3,332	3,489	-4.50%
Eiseley	18,201	17,801	2.25%	8,795	8,711	0.96%	9,923	9,390	5.68%
Gere	39,461	40,521	-2.62%	28,418	30,862	-7.92%	20,418	20,128	1.44%
South	6,308	6,445	-2.13%	4,437	4,307	3.02%	4,109	4,157	-1.15%
Walt	33,150	32,173	3.04%	13,994	14,632	-4.36%	13,113	13,143	-0.23%
Williams	861	571	50.79%	312	215	45.12%	1,734	741	134.01%
Lied Bookmobile	692	844	-18.01%	517	542	-4.61%	328	330	-0.61%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	238	207	14.98%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	116,562	116,413	0.13%	77,152	79,425	-2.86%	71,268	67,925	4.92%
Download/Stream Audio	5,768	4,772	20.87%	35,512	31,388	13.14%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	5,272	4,231	24.60%	26,111	24,758	5.46%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	981	1,122	-12.57%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	127,602	125,416	1.74%	139,756	136,693	2.24%	71,268	67,925	4.92%

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	462	757	-38.97%	571	612	-6.70%	2,542	2,718	-6.48%
Anderson	869	804	8.08%	125	0	0.00%	965	821	17.54%
Bethany	0	0	0.00%	34	35	-2.86%	320	282	13.48%
Eiseley	241	460	-47.61%	242	150	61.33%	1,448	1,375	5.31%
Gere	142	64	121.88%	47	62	-24.19%	1,540	1,496	2.94%
South	0	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	482	574	-16.03%
Walt	1,021	0	0.00%	299	736	-59.38%	1,157	1,097	5.47%
Williams	74	15	393.33%	0	0	0.00%	330	30	1000.00%
Lied Bookmobile	0	209	-100.00%	41	163	-74.85%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	2,809	2,309	21.65%	1,366	1,758	-22.30%	8,784	8,393	4.66%

Lincoln City Libraries
August 2023 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report (End of Fiscal Year)

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	167,726	173,497	-3.33%	131,674	109,491	20.26%	28,647	26,996	6.12%	16,241	17,452	-6.94%	344,288	327,436	5.15%
Anderson Branch	149,294	138,286	7.96%	65,728	55,964	17.45%	8,662	9,343	-7.29%	8,577	4,031	112.78%	232,261	207,624	11.87%
Bethany Branch	102,623	101,454	1.15%	38,136	35,254	8.17%	3,095	2,858	8.29%	3,252	1,616	101.24%	147,106	141,182	4.20%
Eiseley Branch	299,968	279,145	7.46%	109,747	97,603	12.44%	14,422	12,965	11.24%	17,150	12,360	38.75%	441,287	402,073	9.75%
Gere Branch	778,992	765,714	1.73%	230,180	207,467	10.95%	15,755	15,330	2.77%	18,112	7,908	129.03%	1,043,039	996,419	4.68%
South Branch	118,446	116,903	1.32%	42,929	41,181	4.24%	5,465	5,932	-7.87%	3,797	2,799	35.66%	170,637	166,815	2.29%
Walt Branch	521,609	506,135	3.06%	153,563	135,107	13.66%	12,662	11,724	8.00%	14,846	8,648	71.67%	702,680	661,614	6.21%
Williams Branch	8,935	9,278	-3.70%	8,030	6,981	15.03%	899	528	70.27%	1,079	661	63.24%	18,943	17,448	8.57%
Lied Bookmobile	19,048	24,648	-22.72%	5,132	2,250	128.09%	0	0	0.00%	2,742	12,378	-77.85%	26,922	39,276	-31.45%
InterLibrary Loan	2,362	2,967	-20.39%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	2,362	2,967	-20.39%
SUBTOTAL	2,169,003	2,118,027	2.41%	785,119	691,298	13.57%	89,607	85,676	4.59%	85,796	67,853	26.44%	3,129,525	2,962,854	5.63%
DownloadStream Audio	446,483	378,688	17.90%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	446,483	378,688	17.90%
Download/Stream eBooks	351,451	309,446	13.57%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	351,451	309,446	13.57%
Stream Video	10,355	10,057	2.96%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	10,355	10,057	2.96%
Download SUBTOTAL	808,289	698,191	15.77%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	808,289	698,191	15.77%
TOTAL LOANS	2,977,292	2,816,218	5.72%	785,119	691,298	13.57%	89,607	85,676	4.59%	85,796	67,853	26.44%	3,937,814	3,661,045	7.56%

	FY 22-23 YTD	FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	738	0	0.00%
Overall Registrations	24563	15409	59.41%

WiFi Sessions	1,418,784	1,158,566	22.46%
WiFi Users	125,986	117,305	7.40%
Website Users	812,749	747,375	8.75%
Website Sessions	1,389,555	1,469,267	-5.43%
Database Use	129,246	135,724	-4.77%