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LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES
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Director's Report for April 2023

The Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on April 16 was a special event that recognized the efforts of our volunteers. Heartland Hall at Union College was a perfect location, and all tables were filled with volunteers and their families. I'm so impressed with all who were involved in making a nice memory. NESU Manager Kim Shelley coordinated this year's ceremony, Susan Steider served as emcee, Mayor Gaylor Baird and Board Chair Sloan spoke words of appreciation, and representative staff from all locations helped in many ways to make a great afternoon for LCL's treasured volunteers. Nearly 200 volunteers in 2022 gave 6,235 hours of service to LCL, and the library is a better place because of it.

A new "Onboarding Committee" (Jodene Glaesemann, Traci Glass, Brenda Ealey, LeeAnn Sergeant, and Heath Gewecke) are currently working on a standardized new employee onboarding process that welcomes new employees and sets expectations for general training on many things LCL (circulation, customer service, systems, building tours). Heath is also serving on the upcoming onboarding review process for City HR.

Online Card signup is now available, courtesy of a coordinated effort from Support Services staff, Virtual Services, and Public Services.

Facilities manager Dan Miller will be receiving a used city fleet truck for inter-branch travel and hauling.

Close to 200 people attended the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries' annual Wine and Dine fundraiser on April 27 had a fun time bidding on items and celebrating and supporting LCL. A ceremonial check for $240,000 was presented to the library at the event, representing the full amount of funds provided to the library by the Foundation for the year.

Gifts to the Foundation via the annual Lincoln Community Foundation-coordinated **Give to Lincoln Day** (givetolincoln.com) help pay for books that are distributed by Youth Services staff in early literacy-based programs like Begin with Books, Read Aloud, and Books for Babies. The giving event runs through May 24.

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

- Jackie S. at BMPL said, "A regular patron came in wanting to discuss some of the Interlibrary Loans they had coming in and possibly needing to cancel them. We then got to talking and they mentioned how hard it's been, and the mental and financial strain of being on a fixed income. They were pretty upset, so I got

them our community resource flyer and highlighted several of the organizations that I thought could be helpful. I visited with them a number of times over the next two hours, checking in on them and making sure there wasn't anything else they needed. The next day they called and asked for me by name. They wanted to let me know how much better they were feeling. It was a great example of how much many people rely on us for things other than just checking out books."

- Maddie O. at Eiseley noted this: While I was working the front desk, a patron was inquiring about a book that she needed for their book club. After a search, I let her know that we only had the item on our Hoopla app but we had it in audiobook format and an ebook format. She immediately took out her phone and I let her know about the wide variety of apps and digital resources that the library had to offer. She said she had no idea but that she was excited to be able to listen to the audiobook as she read along with the ebook.

Programming

- On April 22, Polley Music Library had Lincoln guitarist Dennis Taylor perform at the library, a fitting program for International Guitar Month. Dennis' 1983 album "Dayspring" has enjoyed a bit of a revival in the last five years, having been reissued by two record labels on CD and again on LP, and he's gotten some national and international attention for the record since then as a kind of bridge between the "modern primitive" and "new age" guitar styles of the 70s and 80s. Around 20 people attended.

- The "bee hotel" Crafternoon at Walt Branch was an educational craft project that helped twenty participants learn how to best support native bees and other pollinators in their own yards. Liz C. went over everything from the type of environment bees need to survive, to the inadvertent ways humans can do more harm than good when we have good intentions but haven't done our research. Everyone made a cute appropriate bee hotel but learned that it's much better to help nature by correcting our behavior rather than trying to make it conform to our wishes.

Outreach
- Karrie S. and Stephanie E. represented LCL and NESU at Pershing Elementary School on April 18. Karrie said, "Steph and I hosted a booth at Pershing Elementary School's "60 Minutes Around the World" event. We took along some examples of our multi-language books. But the big hit was our button maker. Each student was able to make a button celebrating diversity and unity. They decorated with colored pencils, and Steph made their art into a button. We saw almost 100 people in 60 minutes. They were so busy, they hardly had time to listen to me tell them about Summer Reading!"

Collaboration

- Department of Aging Partners reserved two of Gere's study rooms during April 17-28 for daytime appointments with their clients, while their offices are in the process of being moved to a new location.
- Award winners from the Nebraska Center for the Book's annual program "Letters About Literature" visited the Heritage Room on April 3rd for a tour and to sign their letters for inclusion in the Heritage Room files. There were 25 attendees.

- Vicki W. met with the group organizing the Field Trip Across Lincoln. The libraries are added sites this year and also points of distribution for the Field Trip passports.

- Assistant Director Traci Glass reports that she continues to work with LCL staff and the folks at Community Crops regarding the installation of a community garden at Gere. The deep well situation has been sorted out, and we are now working on putting a shed in place in time for proposed late spring unveiling.

Community Engagement

- Longtime volunteers JoAnne Thiele and Judy Smith were recognized along with other volunteers at the Nebraska Library Association's Advocacy Day at the Cornhusker Hotel. Vicki Clarke nominated them as Walt Library's "OG volunteers." While Walt Branch Library opened on 02-02-02, both JoAnne and Judy have volunteer hours dating back to 2001. Collectively they have given 5,493 volunteer hours to the library in the last 21 years – JoAnne, 2,890 hours and Judy 2,603 hours and counting.

- Cait Lombardo (BMPL) provided outreach to Lincoln High School in the form of the LHS Book Club. Small groups were formed to discuss a number of titles

Technology

- The Tech Time Staff at Gere-South (Cal H., Melanie N., Marcy G., Ronda H., and Hillary U.) helped 14 unique patrons during an equivalent of 23 half-hour appointments. Of those, 4 needed assistance with digital library services. Cal shared this interaction: "I had two instances this month where patrons who I helped during Tech Time explained that they had nearly become victims of financial crimes after interacting and trusting scammers on social media – Facebook, particularly. While I was sure not to provide any specific financial advice, I did offer them some basic digital security tips including a couple rules of thumb that should hopefully steer them clear of high-risk interactions. In one case, I helped the patron block the offending account."

Facilities

- Traci Glass reported that the Gere and Bethany parking lot resurfacing projects started and ended in April. "We are thrilled to these well-used branches have parking lots that are updated and leveled. Gere's was especially welcomed as previous work on the parking lot was not holding up well in the face of so much usage."

Areas of Excellence and Focus

Early Childhood

- Vicki Clarke hosted a Blessed Sacrament School Family Night at the library. 100 people attended and 20 new cards were registered! Thirty students in Preschool-6th grade completed a scavenger hunt which took them on a self-guided tour of the youth department. When they gathered all the clues, they learned the mystery phrase, "When in doubt go to the library," by J.K. Rowling. A young dad with a first-grade daughter said this was the first time he had brought her to the library, and it had been an extremely long time since he had been himself. They were both excited about the things they saw and said they would be back often.

- For the month of April, Read Aloud Advocate Ali Bousquet had 19 card sign ups and interacted with more than 600 individuals at ten outreach events. She reports she "made some really meaningful connections

with the LPS student-parent advocates. These are folks who teach, provide childcare, and do home visits with LPS students who have children. They were very excited to learn about the online resources we offer, along with the materials I provided about reading and book selection for their students."

Low-income families

- Garren H. at BMPL relayed, "Another staff member directed an unhoused adult to me who had been asking about the Magic Desktop computers, which have games and videos for children. It turned out that what she wanted was a resource to help her with elementary level math and other types of study review. I showed her how to access HelpNow. She was thrilled! It had what she was looking for, plus resources for life-skills and other academic areas that she's working on as part of a job program."

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

Employment

- Cindy K. at BMPL described interacting with a customer on a regular basis: "I have had several interactions with a recent regular patron. He told me that he "was having the best day." He had been coming to Bennett Martin daily to apply through immigration for the ability to work in the United States. Every day he can be seen in the computer lab working on the computer or in the Biography room reading a magazine or newspaper. He shook my hand and said now he will be able to get a job so he "can rise up." A few days later he flagged me down and told me he wanted to show me something. He pulled out a plastic-wrapped package and unwrapped an Employment Authorization card and handed it to me. He said it is because he could use our computers and all the times we helped him on the computers, that he was able to get that card. Without BMPL, he said he would have never been able to accomplish this. He said he is very excited because many doors are now open to him and he plans to continue to use the computers here to apply for jobs in the area."

Services to Our Aging Population

- A woman called on a Sunday because she hadn't received her Meals on Wheels delivery. She'd called the number listed in the phone book, but no one answered because it was the weekend. Laura at BMPL let the woman know that Tabitha Health Care Services was the administrator for Meals on Wheels and got her a phone number that would be answered on the weekends in order to sort out her meal situation. The woman had said she didn't know who else to call, so she called the library.

Building up the Culture of Lincoln

Arts and Music

- NESU Librarian Karrie Simpson reported, "After three years off due to COVID, we had our annual Teen Art Show with the Lincoln Northeast High School Art Department. Ninety-seven (97) people attended to view the art, take pictures with their students, and enjoy refreshments." The reception took place at Anderson Branch Library April 6, 6:30-7:30 PM. Artwork included photography, drawing, painting, pottery, and digitally-created images., and it remained on display for a couple of weeks following the event.

Ryan Wieber, Library Director
May 12, 2023

Lincoln City Libraries
April 2023 Use Report

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	April 2023 Total Use	April 2022 Total Use	CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	12,330	10,648	2,236	1,043	**26,257**	**26,740**	-1.81%
Anderson Branch	12,447	5,827	764	427	**19,465**	**17,086**	13.92%
Bethany Branch	7,782	2,920	247	288	**11,237**	**12,523**	-10.27%
Eiseley Branch	22,885	9,302	1,316	1,880	**35,383**	**33,651**	5.15%
Gere Branch	62,172	18,643	1,180	1,209	**83,204**	**79,030**	5.28%
South Branch	9,282	3,495	483	376	**13,636**	**14,034**	-2.84%
Walt Branch	41,116	12,510	1,186	1,102	**55,914**	**53,884**	3.77%
Williams Branch	829	761	95	228	**1,913**	**1,873**	2.14%
Lied Bookmobile	1,462	647	0	770	**2,879**	**3,640**	-20.91%
InterLibrary Loan	202	0	0	0	**202**	**261**	-22.61%
SUBTOTAL	**170,507**	**64,753**	**7,507**	**7,323**	**250,090**	**242,722**	3.04%
DownloadStream Audio	37,018	0	0	0	**37,018**	**31,043**	19.25%
Download/Stream eBooks	28,390	0	0	0	**28,390**	**24,771**	14.61%
Stream Video	820	0	0	0	**820**	**664**	23.49%
Download SUBTOTAL	**66,228**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**66,228**	**56,478**	17.26%
TOTAL CIRCULATION	**236,735**	**64,753**	**7,507**	**7,323**	**316,318**	**299,200**	5.72%

	April 2023	April 2022	CHANGE
WiFi Sessions	110,878	108,914	1.80%
WiFi Users	9,925	10,463	-5.14%
Website Users	61,392	62,226	-1.34%
Website Sessions	115,377	119,383	-3.36%
Database Use	11,567	8,846	30.76%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total
	Adult	**Youth**	**Adult**	**Youth**	
Owned	362,063	300,899	76,407	32,584	771,953
Added	2,255	3,747	303	56	6,361
Withdrawn	-2,099	-3,371	-150	-131	-5,751
Current	362,219	301,275	76,560	32,509	772,563

REGISTRATIONS	2023	2022	Change
Purged	782	61,560	-98.73%
Active			
Resident	146,640	145,715	0.63%
ConnectED	42,698	44,262	-3.53%
County	9,117	9,170	-0.58%
NonResident	938	924	1.52%
Reciprocal	485	475	2.11%
Limited Use	8,488	8,649	-1.86%
Total Active	**208,366**	**209,195**	**-0.40%**

April 2023 Use Compared to April 2022
Lincoln City Libraries

Location	Print Checkouts 2023	Print Checkouts 2022	Print Loan Change	Non-Print Checkouts 2023	Non-Print Checkouts 2022	Non-Print Loan Change	Total Checkouts 2023	Total Checkouts 2022	Total Loan Change
BMPL	9,886	11,517	-14.16%	2,444	3,405	-28.22%	12,330	14,922	-17.37%
Anderson	10,147	8,994	12.82%	2,300	2,199	4.59%	12,447	11,193	11.20%
Bethany	6,790	7,558	-10.16%	992	1,244	-20.26%	7,782	8,802	-11.59%
Eiseley	19,542	19,724	-0.92%	3,343	3,009	11.10%	22,885	22,733	0.67%
Gere	54,747	52,080	5.12%	7,425	8,127	-8.64%	62,172	60,207	3.26%
South	8,056	8,471	-4.90%	1,226	1,450	-15.45%	9,282	9,921	-6.44%
Walt	36,231	36,399	-0.46%	4,885	4,831	1.12%	41,116	41,230	-0.28%
Williams	589	719	-18.08%	240	198	21.21%	829	917	-9.60%
Lied Bookmobile	1,297	2,209	-41.29%	165	154	7.14%	1,462	2,363	-38.13%
InterLibrary Loan	202	261	-22.61%	0	0	0.00%	202	261	-22.61%
Subtotal Checkouts	147,487	147,932	-0.30%	23,020	24,617	-6.49%	170,507	172,549	-1.18%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	37,018	31,043	19.25%	37,018	31,043	19.25%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	28,390	24,771	14.61%	28,390	24,771	14.61%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	820	664	23.49%	820	664	23.49%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	147,487	147,932	-0.30%	89,248	81,095	10.05%	236,735	229,027	3.37%

Location	Youth Checkouts 2023	Youth Checkouts 2022	Youth Loan Change	Adult Checkouts 2023	Adult Checkouts 2022	Adult Loan Change	Visits 2023	Visits 2022	Visits Change
BMPL	4,519	5,793	-21.99%	7,811	9,129	-14.44%	10,648	9,000	18.31%
Anderson	6,394	5,410	18.19%	6,053	5,783	4.67%	5,827	4,655	25.18%
Bethany	4,618	5,368	-13.97%	3,164	3,434	-7.86%	2,920	3,220	-9.32%
Eiseley	14,975	14,908	0.45%	7,910	7,825	1.09%	9,302	7,904	17.69%
Gere	35,996	33,742	6.68%	26,176	26,465	-1.09%	18,643	16,909	10.25%
South	5,248	5,459	-3.87%	4,034	4,462	-9.59%	3,495	3,418	2.25%
Walt	28,582	28,785	-0.71%	12,534	12,445	0.72%	12,510	10,994	13.79%
Williams	586	709	-17.35%	243	208	16.83%	761	751	1.33%
Lied Bookmobile	1,010	1,587	-36.36%	452	776	-41.75%	647	140	362.14%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	202	261	-22.61%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	101,928	101,761	0.16%	68,579	70,788	-3.12%	64,753	56,991	13.62%
Download/Stream Audio	5,142	4,274	20.31%	31,876	26,769	19.08%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	4,295	3,735	14.99%	24,095	21,036	14.54%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	820	664	23.49%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	111,365	109,770	1.45%	125,370	119,257	5.13%	64,753	56,991	13.62%

Location	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth 2023	Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth 2022	P&O Att - Youth Change	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult 2023	Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult 2022	P&O Att - Adult Change	Computer Use 2023	Computer Use 2022	Computer Change
BMPL	719	177	306.21%	324	480	-32.50%	2,236	2,161	3.47%
Anderson	427	489	-12.68%	0	0	0.00%	764	749	2.00%
Bethany	254	205	23.90%	34	50	-32.00%	247	246	0.41%
Eiseley	1,874	1,882	-0.43%	6	13	-53.85%	1,316	1,119	17.61%
Gere	1,200	555	116.22%	9	23	-60.87%	1,180	1,336	-11.68%
South	366	211	73.46%	10	11	-9.09%	483	473	2.11%
Walt	1,009	555	81.80%	93	56	66.07%	1,186	1,049	13.06%
Williams	228	131	74.05%	0	0	0.00%	95	74	28.38%
Lied Bookmobile	729	767	-4.95%	41	370	-88.92%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	6,806	4,972	36.89%	517	1,003	-48.45%	7,507	7,207	4.16%

Lincoln City Libraries
April 2023 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report

Location	Loans FY 22-23 YTD	Loans FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	Visits FY 22-23 YTD	Visits FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	Computer Reservations FY 22-23 YTD	Computer Reservations FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	Program & Outreach Attendance FY 22-23 YTD	Program & Outreach Attendance FY 21-22 YTD	YTD Change	Total Use FY 22-23 YTD	Total Use FY 21-22 YTD	YTD CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	103,486	110,433	-6.29%	84,748	68,392	23.92%	19,043	17,000	12.02%	6,270	3,952	58.65%	213,547	199,777	6.89%
Anderson Branch	91,568	84,772	8.02%	39,841	33,841	17.73%	5,525	6,336	-12.80%	5,475	1,414	287.20%	142,409	126,363	12.70%
Bethany Branch	65,981	63,657	3.65%	23,196	20,671	12.22%	1,857	1,801	3.11%	2,182	705	209.50%	93,216	86,834	7.35%
Eiseley Branch	187,969	169,935	10.61%	68,227	56,844	20.02%	9,169	8,157	12.41%	12,249	7,503	63.25%	277,614	242,439	14.51%
Gere Branch	494,683	479,554	3.15%	139,619	123,366	13.17%	9,915	9,911	0.04%	10,075	2,235	350.78%	654,292	615,066	6.38%
South Branch	74,593	73,414	1.61%	26,688	24,629	8.36%	3,579	3,853	-7.11%	2,056	1,288	59.63%	106,916	103,184	3.62%
Walt Branch	318,625	309,798	2.85%	93,134	77,674	19.90%	8,000	7,421	7.80%	8,140	2,456	231.43%	427,899	397,349	7.69%
Williams Branch	6,201	5,829	6.38%	5,269	4,127	27.67%	477	409	16.63%	823	197	317.77%	12,770	10,562	20.91%
Lied Bookmobile	13,318	17,856	-25.41%	3,503	1,180	196.86%	0	0	0.00%	2,580	9,882	-73.89%	19,401	28,918	-32.91%
InterLibrary Loan	1,618	2,011	-19.54%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,618	2,011	-19.54%
SUBTOTAL	**1,358,042**	**1,317,259**	**3.10%**	**484,225**	**410,724**	**17.90%**	**57,565**	**54,888**	**4.88%**	**49,850**	**29,632**	**68.23%**	**1,949,682**	**1,812,503**	**7.57%**
DownloadStream Audio	285,122	241,432	18.10%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	285,122	241,432	18.10%
Download/Stream eBooks	225,467	198,418	13.63%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	225,467	198,418	13.63%
Stream Video	6,804	6,205	9.65%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	6,804	6,205	9.65%
	517,393	**446,055**	**15.99%**	**0**	**0**	**0.00%**	**0**	**0**	**0.00%**	**0**	**0**	**0.00%**	**517,393**	**446,055**	**15.99%**
TOTAL LOANS	**1,875,435**	**1,763,314**	**6.36%**	**484,225**	**410,724**	**17.90%**	**57,565**	**54,888**	**4.88%**	**49,850**	**29,632**	**68.23%**	**2,467,075**	**2,258,558**	**9.23%**

	FY 22-23	FY 21-22	Change
WiFi Sessions	915,218	925,373	-1.10%
WiFi Users	83,436	87,900	-5.08%
Website Users	486,150	487,044	-0.18%
Website Sessions	942,543	954,219	-1.22%
Database Use	94,988	99,794	-4.82%