



LINCOLN

City Libraries

Director's Report for April 2024

- City operational updates:
 - 1) Lincoln's Health Department is working with all city departments in creating an Extreme Heat Response Plan with guidance on heat thresholds for the various National Weather Service-issued stages and coordinated communications. As always, the Library is a cooling center and a source for disseminating information and necessary city communications.
 - 2) Human Resources in coordination with representatives from several departments have created a comprehensive new employee onboarding program to ensure a quality start to someone's employment. Weekly orientation sessions will be provided to all new employees beginning in late June. The Library will follow this with our own "Welcome to the Library" orientation process later this year to ensure staff receive a consistent introduction to the library.
 - 3) As part of its Climate Action Plan, the city is creating a grant-funded "Municipal Building Energy Management Plan," with representatives from each department, with the goal to assess buildings and systems for improving efficiencies and sustainability—with a mission to eventually reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2035. I'm currently serving on the committee and expect future assistance from our building superintendent, too.
- The library currently has several staffing vacancies with positions posted or coming up for announcement. Open Library Service Associate positions are available at Bennet Martin and Gere, and a Librarian position at Bennett Martin will be reposted this summer. The Assistant Director posting ends May 19, and the Youth Services and Outreach Coordinator posting will go live by the week of May 20. The Library Services Supervisor at Walt is on its way to being filled, and overall, many managers and supervisors have been involved in interviewing and soon, training. We have nearly on board all new interns and temporary employees for the summer, too, and we are grateful for the many hours devoted to this important work over the past month!
- LCL is grateful for the Library Foundation and the superb turnout at the annual Wine and Dine fundraiser on April 27. The library has incredible support from so many across Lincoln and Lancaster County who value what happens here, and who know that every dollar is important in providing a great library.
- As usual many hands are on deck in preparing for the Summer Reading Challenge, and we're nearing readiness for the thousands of happy kids, adults, and families who take part every year. Summer is a fun time for patrons and staff—please take some time this summer to not only participate in the challenge, but visit one of the fun activities.

- Virtual Services has recently finished installing new staff computers across the system, and will begin the same for a large number of public-facing stations.
- We are soon replacing our long-standing online calendar software as a service product with a new version, and one that allows for patron self-reservation of many of our spaces. We project it to go live by August.

Monthly Examples of the Strategic Plan in Action in March 2024

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

Interactions

- Pam C. [Eiseley/Williams] shared this story from her growing Williams family storytime: On April 25, we had a Seed Storytime at Williams Library. I had 16 children and parents and we read stories and sang songs about planting seeds. After storytime, we went out on the patio and put some dirt in cups and planted bean seeds. We also took a look at the little caterpillars from the butterfly kit. We talked about how they will grow and hatch into butterflies in the next few weeks. The children and parents were excited and really enjoyed themselves!
- Aubrey Shumake shared: “As I was checking out DVDs for someone at the front desk – they were all nature and travel documentaries - the customer told me that she checks the ‘Discoveries – America: Alaska’ DVD out all the time. She guessed she’s probably checked it out a total of 30 times at this point, because she loves to see all of the wild animals they show. She said she shuts the curtains, puts the DVD on, and she has magically traveled to Alaska!”

Collaboration

- Cally O. and Ronda H. hosted Family night at Gere on the 2nd, and also hosted at South on the 18th. Community Crops staff provided the program at Gere and had lots of activities for families. Ronda said one of the most popular was digging in dirt to find things hidden below. They also got to plant seeds in cups and take them home, as well as do some seed identifying and seed matching at a station, too. There were 62 attending.

Community Engagement

- Gere Library had 225 Book Bundles this month with a total of 675 books; and a total of 383 study room users in April.

Programming

- From Kim S.: “Bluey Family Night was the big event at Anderson this month. Bluey seems to be the super-hot topic right now, and we hit the buzz at the exact right time! It was amazing how many people came in costume or Bluey t-shirts (including dads!). We had several stations with crafts and imaginative play. One-hundred and seventy-seven people attended.”
- Saratoga School Night was at South Library on the 12th hosted by Melanie N., Ronda H. and Jenae D. with 50 attending. Staff put out crafts of tissue paper flowers and beaded bracelets. They also had a scavenger hunt to find the different sections and offerings of the library and after completing selected a free book. Then pizza was served to students and their families and information shared on the upcoming Summer Reading Challenge. Melanie said: “At least 8 students used their Library One Cards for the first time and were delighted to take home items, especially from the Graphic Novel Collection.”
- Yoel S. [Eiseley/Williams] has started a new, unique, and fun program—“Laughing Yoga”—that has seen good participation.
- Leanne D. and Melanie N. [Gere] hosted an Indigenous Authors Books Talk at Gere on the 10th with 8 attending. Their selections included YA, youth, and adult fiction and nonfiction, as well as some movies and audiobooks. Authors included Sherman Alexie, Cherie Dimaline, Chelsea Vowel, Louise Erdrich and Tommy Orange – along with others. They had a very receptive audience eager to offer input who also shared their applause for Melanie’s and Leanne’s work at the conclusion.
- From Polley Music Librarian Scott S.: “There were 5 weekends for Polley Library radio programs in April, and featured the following topics: “3 Shades of Blue” about Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and Bill Evans (with a good helping of info on Ornette Coleman as well), the first academic survey of “rock guitar virtuosos,” the book “Transfigured New York” that covers the city’s music in the 1980s, “Musician as Philosopher” which documents NYC music developments in the 60s and 70s, and Ian Brennan’s latest book “Missing Music,” which covers his song collecting travels around the world and the US during the COVID era.

Outreach

- Nancy E. [NESU] visited the Donald D. Sherrill Education Center on April 23. Within just a couple of short hours, Nancy presented to 92 students. Upon her return from this outreach visit, Nancy commented: “I just returned from Don Sherrill Elementary School after providing information about the Lincoln City Libraries and the 2024 Summer Reading Program. This was such a positive experience for students, teachers and myself. The students were curious and enthusiastic about everything. After participating in some fun activities and listening to my hype on how magnificent our Lincoln Libraries are, they had many great questions to ask about participating in our summer reading program, getting library cards and using their Library OneCards.”

Early Childhood

- At Gere in April: Storytime attendance was 1,644 kids and adults attending 42 programs. Toddler Storytime had 5 sessions with 299 attending, and Music & Movement had 21 sessions with 920 attending.

Building up the Culture of Lincoln**All Students**

- Courtney S. [Eiseley/Williams] provided an Animal Origami program at Williams as part of the Afterschool Special programming.
- From Karrie S.: "On April 29, Anderson hosted a Norwood Park School Night. Twenty-one people came for crafts and a story time. They enjoyed taking home free books and eating cookies. Two kids got new library cards, and most families checked out. After the event, Pam Hale, long-time Norwood Principal, who is retiring this year, said "I just want to thank you for all you've done for us and everything you've done for this community!"
- Walt hosted a Family School Night for the Blessed Sacrament School (K-8) this month. Fifty-five people attended. Vicki Clarke created a Blueey scavenger hunt which led children on a tour of the youth services area (30 children completed).

Celebrating Diversity

- Leanne D. [Gere] shared this interaction: "Helped a patron who did not speak English well print documents from his email; he was very grateful to have been assisted by someone who understood what he was trying to communicate. He expressed that it made him nervous to ask questions when the other person seemed impatient with him and was glad that I took the time to understand him and not rush him."

Low-Income Families

- During February, numerous citizens utilized the free tax help at Anderson Branch Library provided by the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance [VITA] program. Unfortunately, as is always the case, there is much more demand for the service than sessions available.

Services to our Aging Population

- Aubrey S. [Gere] shared: "I assisted a group of Madonna residents in setting up library cards. Most wanted to get cards set up specifically because they had heard we had some sort of service to provide homebound patrons with books - this was a very rare outing for them as they are all completely bound to the facility. After getting cards set up, I printed them off applications, they were so excited about the service they wanted to get their applications filled out right away! Both the residents of Madonna and the staff who brought them were thrilled to hear about HOM service."
- An elderly patron came to Walt to make copies of materials for taxes. Meagan M. assisted her with how the copier functions, printed her the forms that she needed for both Nebraska and

Kansas. She mentioned that she had moved within the last year, so her tax returns were twice as detailed and frustrating. She thanked Meagan for helping her, mentioning that she felt like she might actually succeed with her tasks given the proper forms.

Ryan Wieber, Library Director

May 17, 2024

**Lincoln City Libraries
April 2024 Use Report**

| Location | Loans | Visits | Computer Reservations | Program & Outreach Attendance | April 2024 | April 2023 Total | CHANGE |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | Total Use | Use | |
| Bennett Martin Public Library | 14,430 | 11,630 | 2,256 | 697 | 29,013 | 26,257 | 10.50% |
| Anderson Branch | 11,715 | 5,863 | 855 | 683 | 19,116 | 19,465 | -1.79% |
| Bethany Branch | 7,065 | 2,917 | 278 | 220 | 10,480 | 11,237 | -6.74% |
| Eiseley Branch | 21,872 | 9,950 | 1,500 | 1,090 | 34,412 | 35,383 | -2.74% |
| Gere Branch | 58,290 | 19,582 | 1,262 | 1,849 | 80,983 | 83,204 | -2.67% |
| South Branch | 8,868 | 3,765 | 461 | 285 | 13,379 | 13,636 | -1.88% |
| Walt Branch | 39,703 | 13,839 | 1,256 | 2,201 | 56,999 | 55,914 | 1.94% |
| Williams Branch | 796 | 710 | 107 | 107 | 1,720 | 1,913 | -10.09% |
| Lied Bookmobile | 1,474 | 437 | 0 | 41 | 1,952 | 2,879 | -32.20% |
| InterLibrary Loan | 189 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 189 | 202 | -6.44% |
| SUBTOTAL | 164,402 | 68,693 | 7,975 | 7,173 | 248,243 | 250,090 | -0.74% |
| DownloadStream Audio | 43,415 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 43,415 | 37,018 | 17.28% |
| Download/Stream eBooks | 30,494 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30,494 | 28,390 | 7.41% |
| Stream Video | 1,067 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,067 | 820 | 30.12% |
| Download SUBTOTAL | 74,976 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 74,976 | 66,228 | 13.21% |
| TOTAL CIRCULATION | 239,378 | 68,693 | 7,975 | 7,173 | 323,219 | 316,318 | 2.18% |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| WiFi Sessions | 131,952 | 110,878 | 19.01% |
| WiFi Users | 9,814 | 9,925 | -1.12% |
| Website Users | 101,399 | 61,392 | 65.17% |
| Website Sessions | 138,153 | 115,377 | 19.74% |
| Database Use | 8,568 | 11,567 | -25.93% |

| Holdings Report | PRINT | | NON PRINT | | Total | REGISTRATIONS | 2024 | 2023 | Change |
|------------------|---------|---------|-----------|--------|---------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| | Adult | Youth | Adult | Youth | | Purged | | | |
| Owned | 361,034 | 315,952 | 79,420 | 33,203 | 789,609 | Purged | 755 | 782 | -3.45% |
| Added | 2,018 | 2,533 | 279 | 220 | 5,050 | Active | | | |
| Withdrawn | -45 | -5 | 0 | -2 | -52 | Resident | 147,696 | 146,640 | 0.72% |
| Current | 363,007 | 318,480 | 79,699 | 33,421 | 794,607 | ConnectED | 48,185 | 42,698 | 12.85% |
| | | | | | | County | 9,028 | 9,117 | -0.98% |
| | | | | | | NonResident | 934 | 938 | -0.43% |
| | | | | | | Reciprocal | 489 | 485 | 0.82% |
| | | | | | | Limited Use | 9,665 | 8,488 | 13.87% |
| | | | | | | Total Active | 215,997 | 208,366 | 3.66% |

**April 2024 Use Compared to April 2023
Lincoln City Libraries**

| Location | Print Checkouts | | Print Loan | Non-Print Checkouts | | Non-Print | Total Checkouts | | Total Loan |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | 2024 | 2023 | Change | 2024 | 2023 | Loan Change | 2024 | 2023 | Change |
| BMPL | 11,732 | 9,886 | 18.67% | 2,698 | 2,444 | 10.39% | 14,430 | 12,330 | 17.03% |
| Anderson | 9,647 | 10,147 | -4.93% | 2,068 | 2,300 | -10.09% | 11,715 | 12,447 | -5.88% |
| Bethany | 6,255 | 6,790 | -7.88% | 810 | 992 | -18.35% | 7,065 | 7,782 | -9.21% |
| Eiseley | 19,273 | 19,542 | -1.38% | 2,599 | 3,343 | -22.26% | 21,872 | 22,885 | -4.43% |
| Gere | 51,171 | 54,747 | -6.53% | 7,119 | 7,425 | -4.12% | 58,290 | 62,172 | -6.24% |
| South | 7,861 | 8,056 | -2.42% | 1,007 | 1,226 | -17.86% | 8,868 | 9,282 | -4.46% |
| Walt | 34,725 | 36,231 | -4.16% | 4,978 | 4,885 | 1.90% | 39,703 | 41,116 | -3.44% |
| Williams | 605 | 589 | 2.72% | 191 | 240 | -20.42% | 796 | 829 | -3.98% |
| Lied Bookmobile | 1,317 | 1,297 | 1.54% | 157 | 165 | -4.85% | 1,474 | 1,462 | 0.82% |
| InterLibrary Loan | 189 | 202 | -6.44% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 189 | 202 | -6.44% |
| Subtotal Checkouts | 142,775 | 147,487 | -3.19% | 21,627 | 23,020 | -6.05% | 164,402 | 170,507 | -3.58% |
| Download/Stream Audio | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 43,415 | 37,018 | 17.28% | 43,415 | 37,018 | 17.28% |
| Download/Stream eBook | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 30,494 | 28,390 | 7.41% | 30,494 | 28,390 | 7.41% |
| Stream Video | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 1,067 | 820 | 30.12% | 1,067 | 820 | 30.12% |
| TOTAL CHECKOUTS | 142,775 | 147,487 | -3.19% | 96,603 | 89,248 | 8.24% | 239,378 | 236,735 | 1.12% |

| Location | Youth Checkouts | | Youth Loan | Adult Checkouts | | Adult Loan | Visits | Visits | Visits |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | 2024 | 2023 | Change | 2024 | 2023 | Change | 2024 | 2023 | Change |
| BMPL | 5,219 | 4,519 | 15.49% | 9,211 | 7,811 | 17.92% | 11,630 | 10,648 | 9.22% |
| Anderson | 5,797 | 6,394 | -9.34% | 5,918 | 6,053 | -2.23% | 5,863 | 5,827 | 0.62% |
| Bethany | 4,074 | 4,618 | -11.78% | 2,991 | 3,164 | -5.47% | 2,917 | 2,920 | -0.10% |
| Eiseley | 13,966 | 14,975 | -6.74% | 7,906 | 7,910 | -0.05% | 9,950 | 9,302 | 6.97% |
| Gere | 33,614 | 35,996 | -6.62% | 24,676 | 26,176 | -5.73% | 19,582 | 18,643 | 5.04% |
| South | 4,990 | 5,248 | -4.92% | 3,878 | 4,034 | -3.87% | 3,765 | 3,495 | 7.73% |
| Walt | 26,877 | 28,582 | -5.97% | 12,826 | 12,534 | 2.33% | 13,839 | 12,510 | 10.62% |
| Williams | 518 | 586 | -11.60% | 278 | 243 | 14.40% | 710 | 761 | -6.70% |
| Lied Bookmobile | 937 | 1,010 | -7.23% | 537 | 452 | 18.81% | 437 | 647 | -32.46% |
| InterLibrary Loan | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 189 | 202 | -6.44% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Subtotal Checkouts | 95,992 | 101,928 | -5.82% | 68,410 | 68,579 | -0.25% | 68,693 | 64,753 | 6.08% |
| Download/Stream Audio | 6,210 | 5,142 | 20.77% | 37,205 | 31,876 | 16.72% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Download/Stream eBook | 5,374 | 4,295 | 25.12% | 25,120 | 24,095 | 4.25% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Stream Video | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 1,067 | 820 | 30.12% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| TOTAL CHECKOUTS | 107,576 | 111,365 | -3.40% | 131,802 | 125,370 | 5.13% | 68,693 | 64,753 | 6.08% |

| Location | Program & Outreach Attendance - Youth | | P&O Att - Youth | Program & Outreach Attendance - Adult | | P&O Att - Adult | Computer Use | | Computer |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2024 | 2023 | Change | 2024 | 2023 | Change | 2024 | 2023 | Change |
| BMPL | 481 | 719 | -33.10% | 216 | 324 | -33.33% | 2,256 | 2,236 | 0.89% |
| Anderson | 676 | 427 | 58.31% | 7 | 0 | 0.00% | 855 | 764 | 11.91% |
| Bethany | 194 | 254 | -23.62% | 26 | 34 | -23.53% | 278 | 247 | 12.55% |
| Eiseley | 1,057 | 1,874 | -43.60% | 33 | 6 | 450.00% | 1,500 | 1,316 | 13.98% |
| Gere | 1,783 | 1,200 | 48.58% | 66 | 9 | 633.33% | 1,262 | 1,180 | 6.95% |
| South | 280 | 366 | -23.50% | 5 | 10 | -50.00% | 461 | 483 | -4.55% |
| Walt | 1,910 | 1,009 | 89.30% | 291 | 93 | 212.90% | 1,256 | 1,186 | 5.90% |
| Williams | 92 | 228 | -59.65% | 15 | 0 | 0.00% | 107 | 95 | 12.63% |
| Lied Bookmobile | 0 | 729 | -100.00% | 41 | 41 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| TOTAL | 6,473 | 6,806 | -4.89% | 700 | 517 | 35.40% | 7,975 | 7,507 | 6.23% |

Lincoln City Libraries
April 2024 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 | 110,844 | 103,486 | 7.11% | 86,530 | 84,748 | 2.10% | 17,774 | 19,043 | -6.66% | 6,355 | 6,270 | 1.36% | 221,503 | 213,547 | 3.73% |
| Anderson Branch | 90,128 | 91,568 | -1.57% | 42,654 | 39,841 | 7.06% | 5,908 | 5,525 | 6.93% | 5,511 | 5,475 | 0.66% | 144,201 | 142,409 | 1.26% |
| Bethany Branch | 58,724 | 65,981 | -11.00% | 23,007 | 23,196 | -0.81% | 1,999 | 1,857 | 7.65% | 1,905 | 2,182 | -12.69% | 85,635 | 93,216 | -8.13% |
| Eiseley Branch | 177,455 | 187,969 | -5.59% | 72,935 | 68,227 | 6.90% | 10,691 | 9,169 | 16.60% | 10,849 | 12,249 | -11.43% | 271,930 | 277,614 | -2.05% |
| Gere Branch | 458,627 | 494,683 | -7.29% | 146,978 | 139,619 | 5.27% | 8,622 | 9,915 | -13.04% | 11,529 | 10,075 | 14.43% | 625,756 | 654,292 | -4.36% |
| South Branch | 72,238 | 74,593 | -3.16% | 27,771 | 26,688 | 4.06% | 3,534 | 3,579 | -1.26% | 1,589 | 2,056 | -22.71% | 105,132 | 106,916 | -1.67% |
| Walt Branch | 313,338 | 318,625 | -1.66% | 99,247 | 93,134 | 6.56% | 8,286 | 8,000 | 3.58% | 10,000 | 8,140 | 22.85% | 430,871 | 427,899 | 0.69% |
| Williams Branch | 7,609 | 6,201 | 22.71% | 13,161 | 5,269 | 149.78% | 1,026 | 477 | 115.09% | 969 | 823 | 17.74% | 22,765 | 12,770 | 78.27% |
| Lied Bookmobile | 11,343 | 13,318 | -14.83% | 2,390 | 3,503 | -31.77% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 918 | 2,580 | -64.42% | 14,651 | 19,401 | -24.48% |
| InterLibrary Loan | 1,218 | 1,618 | -24.72% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 1,218 | 1,618 | -24.72% |
| Subtotal | 1,301,524 | 1,358,042 | -4.16% | 514,673 | 484,225 | 6.29% | 57,840 | 57,565 | 0.48% | 49,625 | 49,850 | -0.45% | 1,923,662 | 1,949,682 | -1.33% |
| DownloadStream Audio | 335,348 | 285,122 | 17.62% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 335,348 | 285,122 | 17.62% |
| Download/Stream eBooks | 251,478 | 225,467 | 11.54% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 251,478 | 225,467 | 11.54% |
| Stream Video | 7,246 | 6,804 | 6.50% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 7,246 | 6,804 | 6.50% |
| | 594,072 | 517,393 | 14.82% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0.00% | 594,072 | 517,393 | 14.82% |
| TOTAL LOANS | 1,895,596 | 1,875,435 | 1.08% | 514,673 | 484,225 | 6.29% | 57,840 | 57,565 | 0.48% | 49,625 | 49,850 | -0.45% | 2,517,734 | 2,467,075 | 2.05% |

| | FY 23-24 YTD | FY 22-23 YTD | YTD Change |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Online Registrations | 909 | 0 | 0.00% |
| Overall Registrations | 7394 | 7053 | 4.83% |

| | | | |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| WiFi Sessions | 970,923 | 925,373 | 4.92% |
| WiFi Users | 75,772 | 87,900 | -13.80% |
| Website Users | 686,195 | 487,044 | 40.89% |
| Website Sessions | 920,539 | 954,219 | -3.53% |
| Database Use | 65,410 | 99,794 | -34.45% |