



LINCOLN

City Libraries

Director's Report for August 2024

Interview processes for open positions continues to occupy many supervisors' time and slowly but surely those vacancies are getting filled. Teams across the system have dedicated many hours toward thoughtfully and diligently filling positions with excellent applicants and I am thankful for everyone's extra efforts to complete that work as well as keep public desk shifts filled.

The **"Celebrating Willa Cather" event** takes place Saturday, September 21, 11AM at Gere Branch. Please join us as we hear from several speakers including Ashely Olson of the National Willa Cather Center, local Cather expert Steve Shively, and noted Omaha sculptor Littleton Alston. The occasion for the event is the dedication of the new Cather statuette, a smaller version of the Alston sculpture placed in Washington D.C.'s Statuary Hall in June 2023. The statuette was donated to LCL by Glenda Pierce and Jeff Kirkpatrick.

Also on Saturday, September 21 at 2PM at Walt Branch, Jen Jackson will present **"Exploring the Works of Amy Tan"** to complement the author's visit to the Lied Center on September 24 as part of the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues.

We are pleased to bring in the 2024 **One Book One Lincoln (OBOL)** winning author Amanda Peters (*The Berry Pickers*) for a special evening on Monday, **October 14, 7PM** at Lincoln High School Auditorium. Peters is travelling from Nova Scotia and will also participate in day-of activities at Francie & Finch and Lincoln High. The evening presentation will be formatted in a sit-down discussion with Librarian Jen Jackson, followed by a Q and A with the audience and a book-signing.

Local artist **Chloe Burgett** was chosen from 40 applicants as the winner for the South Branch Mural project. Chloe is a children's book illustrator. An announcement will go out immediately to announce her selection and highlight a special "Help Paint the Mural" activity on Sunday, September 22 from 1PM-3PM at Westminster Church. Coordinated by the Lux Center for the Arts, participants can help paint the background colors for the mural, which we expect to be installed by the first week of October and then dedicated during a Mayoral press conference shortly after.

We made the move at the end of the month from Evanced to **LocalHop** for provider of our online events calendar and room reservation system. Evanced discontinued their product and was no longer supporting it and LocalHop has many advanced features that present a friendlier and modern user interface and allow patrons and outside organizations to link easier to calendar events, which was important in meeting one of our new priorities to address promotion and communication needs. We're working out a few bugs and adjusting procedures for the room reservation feature which is a fully new capability for patrons.

The staff committee led by Brenda Ealey to coordinate our September 20 **Staff Inservice Day** at the Nebraska Extension building has done an excellent job preparing a day with useful and rewarding presentations and activities, including panel sessions with Board members, Cultural Center leaders, and a talk from the Nebraska Poet Laureate, Matt Mason.

You'll notice in the below items a brief report on **Bookmobile service** from Rebecca Hueske. A series of repairs in Omaha had it off-road the past month and Rebecca and her counterpart Harris. L maintained an important level of service by delivering "hold" items to bookmobile stops. We're grateful for their extra attention given to patrons during that pause in service.

Vision: LCL: Literacy, Community, and Lifelong learning

Mission: Lincoln City Libraries provides access to information, ideas, books and lifelong learning opportunities that inform, enrich and empower every individual in our diverse community.

Priorities:

- 1. Maximizing Access**
- 2. Communicating our Offerings**
- 3. Strengthening our Potential**
- 4. Growing our Support**

Examples of the Library's Vision and Mission in our daily work:

- Megan M. at Walt Branch reports that the Circle of Friends had a boost in numbers with 110 attendees throughout August. The first session of the month had an Olympics celebration that included ring toss, bean bag throw, cup stacking, tower building and a version of bocce. Always adapting to meet needs, the second half of the room was reserved as a quieter working space for those not interested in participating in the Olympic adventures. The other sessions featured Lego day and a leaf rubbing project that resulted in creative outcomes.
- Catherine S. and Lisa O (Eiseley-Williams) participated in National Night Out at the Air Park Pool. This is an annual event hosted by Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department. They provided library information and free children's books, and heard from several families who really appreciated the expanded summer reading programming at Williams. There were 115 participants.
- Ronda H. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: "After the big storm in Lincoln, we had many people calling to see if we had internet and checking to see if it would be okay to come to the library and charge their phones. One mother called checking to see if we were open. She said that she lived a block away, and that they still had no power. She was thrilled that we were open and that she would be able to bring her one year old over to play."
- From Kim S. at NESU: "On behalf of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department, Lincoln City Libraries continue to serve as distribution sites for free COVID testing kits. During the past month, library staff members have noticed a definite increase in requests

from the public for this offering. On 8/23/2024, Bethany Branch Library distributed **29** test kits – And that is just one day at one of LCL's smallest locations.

- There were four weekends for Polley radio programs in August (the fifth weekend was labor day, which KZUM uses for their "Blues Blowout each year), which featured a book about 90s popular music hits, a book connecting post-punk music with philosophy movements, a book about the history of electronic music in the UK, and a book about the many ways that humor is incorporated into music. We officially crossed the 250 program mark this month, and have featured around 350 music books on the program in five years!
- A couple took their engagement pictures at Gere on the 4th. Pat Sloan said the couple looked very happy and thanked staff for providing the space. The bride to be had used Gere as she was growing up and had good memories.
- Vicki C. at Walt collaborated with a Pius X Librarian to provide a library card sign-up day for students. Doing so allows them to access our books and digital resources such as HelpNow for Homework, Hoopla, Libby, Transparent Languages, and Peterson's Test and Career Prep services. Having the above available helps to support students in pursuing academic success. Our apps have been approved for installation on student's iPads which they can log on to using their personal LCL card numbers. Vicki attended the Picture, Locker, Schedule Pick-up Day on August 7th, where 34 students and one adult registered for new or updated cards. The school administration sent a very supportive letter to parents in advance which helped generate interest.
- Selena S. (Eiseley-Williams) staffed a library table at Educare's Back to School program. She met many families getting ready for the new school year and shared library information with them. She visited with 97 people.
- Jessica S. at Walt led a Splish and Splash Storytime at Irvingdale pool on August 2nd as part of the end of the Summer Reading Challenge. Geared toward our storytime families, many from Walt's Toddler and Preschool classes took part as well as several from Baby storytime. 63 people attended in all.
- Cally O. (Gere-South) hosted Lincoln Community Playhouse's last summer youth production of *Imagine a Dragon* at Gere on the 9th with 42 attending.
- On 08/08/2024, five NESU employees (Jodi R., Nate H., Nancy E., Lisa V., and Karrie S) represented LCL at area Back-To-School events. Karrie S. reports, "We visited five local elementary schools: Brownell, Pershing, Riley, Norwood Park and Robinson. We handed out information about upcoming library events and (at most locations) gave each child a free book to take home. We talked to 880 people in less than two hours." According to Nate H., the principal at Pershing Elementary told him, "Thank you so much for doing this. Our families absolutely love when you are here for these Back-to-School nights."
- Behind the scenes, August was a busy month for the Virtual Services team as Rod C. and Andrew I. worked on deploying new media PCs and Magic Desktop PCs at most LCL locations; and Randy R. and Andrew updated self-check machines with new on-screen

keyboards and colors. Peter J. and the team were also very involved in the LocalHop calendar transition and setup.

- Leanne D. (Gere-South) shared this interaction: “This month, I was reminded of a passage in Neill Gaiman’s *The View from the Cheap Seats* when one day at Gere I observed a young boy see the Captain Underpants books for the first time and try to convince his mom—who was reluctant at first—to let him check some of them out. She kept showing him other, less sassy j books, but he was having none of it. This kid remained entranced with the Underpants, devouring page after page until he finished an entire book in under ten minutes. Watching this scenario play out, I knew this was this child’s “aha!” moment, and that from that moment on he would be in love with books.”
- From the Lied Bookmobile, Rebecca H. reports “What we thought was going to be a simple compressed nitrogen gas (CNG) tank inspection and a few repairs at the end of July turned into a bigger deal and the bookmobile has been at Truck Center Companies of Omaha for over a month now. So far, minor repairs have been made to a headlight and wheel covers. In addition, moderate but important repairs include replacing two leaking brake air lines and spark plugs to hopefully help with some "dead spots" when starting the vehicle. Last on the list was the generator backfiring, which seems to be a much more involved repair. Harris and I have been taking holds to customers by car when it is warranted, and luckily for us, customers continue to place holds – which, thankfully, lets us know they haven't given up hope yet. We haven't either, but our patience is getting quite a workout now that school has started. We were originally scheduled to have some body work done after the mechanical repairs were finished, but we have decided to push that back to October in hopes of getting some time back on the road first.”
- Each year, after the Summer Reading Challenge concludes, children’s materials come flooding back into the libraries. With overflowing shelves, it is a great time for staff to perform routine maintenance and weeding of youth collections. NESU Librarian Karrie S. weeded picture books at Bethany Branch Library in order to make shelf space for incoming new materials. At Anderson Branch Library, Marie’ M. weeded a sizeable number of board books that were old and/or in poor condition.

Ryan Wieber, Library Director
9.13.24

**Lincoln City Libraries
August 2024 Use Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	August 2024 Total Use	August 2023 Total Use	CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	14,826	12,782	1,280	1,574	30,462	32,100	-5.10%
Anderson Branch	12,749	5,955	954	893	20,551	22,053	-6.81%
Bethany Branch	8,143	3,179	216	27	11,565	11,708	-1.22%
Eiseley Branch	23,354	10,352	1,572	106	35,384	38,850	-8.92%
Gere Branch	59,409	21,114	1,253	186	81,962	90,026	-8.96%
South Branch	9,539	4,529	622	14	14,704	15,343	-4.16%
Walt Branch	40,934	14,322	1,246	300	56,802	62,734	-9.46%
Williams Branch	884	1,054	202	122	2,262	3,311	-31.68%
Lied Bookmobile	1,099	59	0	46	1,204	1,578	-23.70%
InterLibrary Loan	198	0	0	0	198	238	-16.81%
SUBTOTAL	171,135	73,346	7,345	3,268	255,094	277,941	-8.22%
DownloadStream Audio	46,599	0	0	0	46,599	41,280	12.89%
Download/Stream eBooks	31,939	0	0	0	31,939	31,383	1.77%
Stream Video	1,063	0	0	0	1,063	981	8.36%
Download SUBTOTAL	79,601	0	0	0	79,601	73,644	8.09%
TOTAL CIRCULATION	250,736	73,346	7,345	3,268	334,695	351,585	-4.80%

WiFi Sessions	143,803	140,617	2.27%
WiFi Users	9,855	10,979	-10.24%
Website Users	80,230	98,895	-18.87%
Website Sessions	130,785	99,945	30.86%
Database Use	5,937	9,173	-35.28%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2024	2023	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
Owned	370,083	325,966	80,599	33,736	810,384	Active			
Added	2,368	3,190	230	412	6,200	Resident	148,182	147,154	0.70%
Withdrawn	-303	35	21	-4	-251	ConnectED	51,856	46,437	11.67%
Current	372,148	329,191	80,850	34,144	816,333	County	8,960	9,094	-1.47%
						NonResident	957	938	2.03%
						Reciprocal	493	477	3.35%
						Limited Use	9,783	8,893	10.01%
						Total Active	220,231	212,993	3.40%

**August 2024 Use Compared to August 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	11,783	13,127	-10.24%	3,043	3,197	-4.82%	14,826	16,324	-9.18%
Anderson	10,612	11,273	-5.86%	2,137	2,711	-21.17%	12,749	13,984	-8.83%
Bethany	7,195	7,056	1.97%	948	966	-1.86%	8,143	8,022	1.51%
Eiseley	20,832	23,259	-10.43%	2,522	3,737	-32.51%	23,354	26,996	-13.49%
Gere	52,117	59,222	-12.00%	7,292	8,657	-15.77%	59,409	67,879	-12.48%
South	8,424	9,154	-7.97%	1,115	1,591	-29.92%	9,539	10,745	-11.22%
Walt	36,007	41,437	-13.10%	4,927	5,707	-13.67%	40,934	47,144	-13.17%
Williams	694	965	-28.08%	190	208	-8.65%	884	1,173	-24.64%
Lied Bookmobile	1,015	1,084	-6.37%	84	125	-32.80%	1,099	1,209	-9.10%
InterLibrary Loan	198	238	-16.81%	0	0	0.00%	198	238	-16.81%
Subtotal Checkouts	148,877	166,815	-10.75%	22,258	26,899	-17.25%	171,135	193,714	-11.66%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	46,599	41,280	12.89%	46,599	41,280	12.89%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	31,939	31,383	1.77%	31,939	31,383	1.77%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,063	981	8.36%	1,063	981	8.36%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	148,877	166,815	-10.75%	101,859	100,543	1.31%	250,736	267,358	-6.22%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	5,414	6,086	-11.04%	9,412	10,238	-8.07%	12,782	12,201	4.76%
Anderson	6,318	7,213	-12.41%	6,431	6,771	-5.02%	5,955	6,110	-2.54%
Bethany	4,776	4,590	4.05%	3,367	3,432	-1.89%	3,179	3,332	-4.59%
Eiseley	15,559	18,201	-14.52%	7,795	8,795	-11.37%	10,352	9,923	4.32%
Gere	34,148	39,461	-13.46%	25,261	28,418	-11.11%	21,114	20,418	3.41%
South	5,479	6,308	-13.14%	4,060	4,437	-8.50%	4,529	4,109	10.22%
Walt	27,697	33,150	-16.45%	13,237	13,994	-5.41%	14,322	13,113	9.22%
Williams	613	861	-28.80%	271	312	-13.14%	1,054	1,734	-39.22%
Lied Bookmobile	503	692	-27.31%	596	517	15.28%	59	328	-82.01%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	198	238	-16.81%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	100,507	116,562	-13.77%	70,628	77,152	-8.46%	73,346	71,268	2.92%
Download/Stream Audio	6,742	5,768	16.89%	39,857	35,512	12.24%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	6,055	5,272	14.85%	25,884	26,111	-0.87%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	1,063	981	8.36%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	113,304	127,602	-11.21%	137,432	139,756	-1.66%	73,346	71,268	2.92%

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	525	462	13.64%	1,049	571	83.71%	1,280	2,542	-49.65%
Anderson	893	869	2.76%	0	125	-100.00%	954	965	-1.14%
Bethany	0	0	0.00%	27	34	-20.59%	216	320	-32.50%
Eiseley	97	241	-59.75%	9	242	-96.28%	1,572	1,448	8.56%
Gere	169	142	19.01%	17	47	-63.83%	1,253	1,540	-18.64%
South	10	0	0.00%	4	7	-42.86%	622	482	29.05%
Walt	152	1,021	-85.11%	148	299	-50.50%	1,246	1,157	7.69%
Williams	0	74	-100.00%	122	0	0.00%	202	330	-38.79%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	46	41	12.20%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	1,846	2,809	-34.28%	1,422	1,366	4.10%	7,345	8,784	-16.38%

Lincoln City Libraries
August 2024 Fiscal Year To Date Use Report (End of Fiscal Year)

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 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD CHANGE
Bennett Martin Public Library	172,561	167,726	2.88%	133,514	131,674	1.40%	26,762	28,647	-6.58%	13,814	16,241	-14.94%	346,651	344,288	0.69%
Anderson Branch	144,648	149,294	-3.11%	67,841	65,728	3.21%	9,321	8,662	7.61%	8,525	8,577	-0.61%	230,335	232,261	-0.83%
Bethany Branch	95,216	102,623	-7.22%	37,066	38,136	-2.81%	2,899	3,095	-6.33%	2,924	3,252	-10.09%	138,105	147,106	-6.12%
Eiseley Branch	278,520	299,968	-7.15%	115,884	109,747	5.59%	15,615	14,422	8.27%	15,865	17,150	-7.49%	425,884	441,287	-3.49%
Gere Branch	718,342	778,992	-7.79%	237,787	230,180	3.30%	13,695	15,755	-13.08%	19,866	18,112	9.68%	989,690	1,043,039	-5.11%
South Branch	112,626	118,446	-4.91%	45,639	42,929	6.31%	5,963	5,465	9.11%	3,203	3,797	-15.64%	167,431	170,637	-1.88%
Walt Branch	498,870	521,609	-4.36%	163,098	153,563	6.21%	12,952	12,662	2.29%	21,634	14,846	45.72%	696,554	702,680	-0.87%
Williams Branch	11,869	8,935	32.84%	17,533	8,030	118.34%	1,637	899	82.09%	2,033	1,079	88.42%	33,072	18,943	74.59%
Lied Bookmobile	17,746	19,048	-6.84%	3,747	5,132	-26.99%	0	0	0.00%	1,114	2,742	-59.37%	22,607	26,922	-16.03%
InterLibrary Loan	1,960	2,362	-17.02%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,960	2,362	-17.02%
SUBTOTAL	2,052,358	2,169,003	-5.38%	822,109	785,119	4.71%	88,844	89,607	-0.85%	88,978	85,796	3.71%	3,052,289	3,129,525	-2.47%
DownloadStream Audio	516,418	446,483	15.66%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	516,418	446,483	15.66%
Download/Stream eBooks	378,418	351,451	7.67%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	378,418	351,451	7.67%
Stream Video	11,750	10,355	13.47%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	11,750	10,355	13.47%
Download SUBTOTAL	906,586	808,289	12.16%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	906,586	808,289	12.16%
TOTAL LOANS	2,958,944	2,977,292	-0.62%	822,109	785,119	4.71%	88,844	89,607	-0.85%	88,978	85,796	3.71%	3,958,875	3,937,814	0.53%

	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	1216	596*	0.00%
Overall Registrations	17121	15167	12.88%

WiFi Sessions	1,512,882	1,158,566	30.58%
WiFi Users	114,200	117,305	-2.65%
Website Users	1,061,969	747,375	42.09%
Website Sessions	1,459,991	1,469,267	-0.63%
Database Use	92,779	135,724	-31.64%

*Online registrations began mid-FY 22-23 so this reflects the total of online registrations created May, 2023 - August, 2023