

## Director's Report for May 2023

**Strong libraries reflect a City that values the power of literacy.** Signups for the annual Summer Reading Challenge should exceed last year's total and reflect the hard work of so many staff who work together in providing a program across the system that creates a foundationally positive introduction to libraries for thousands of young ones—and adults. The Summer Reading Challenge is not only a rite of the season, but also a crucial activity that places reading and literacy at center stage in a super positive way—for people's lives now, and for the overall quality of life for a community. *Our challenge should always be to discover new ways and new partnerships with others in introducing the library to those who have yet to find it, or when barriers are in the way.*

I have assigned NESU Manager Kim Shelley, Public Services Coordinator LeeAnn Sergeant, and Assistant Director Traci Glass to assist me as a steering team in identifying and coordinating the best process for **strategic planning for LCL**, with an anticipated timeline of October – January for execution. Key components of the work will include engagement (survey, focus groups) of staff and board members, and library stakeholders and community leaders.

With assistance from LPS library administrators we have identified "**Library OneCard**" as the new name for the ConnectEd program, and work is in motion to have it ready for school startup in August. That work includes LPS' lead in creating a logo, combined creation of descriptive content for online needs and school communications, and a new MOU with the name revision. The new name should make the program and its benefits more easily known and recognized with students and families and allow for a fun promotional push.

The **number of library employees** balloons in summertime due to a need to fill temporary positions and satisfying our funding partnership with the Nebraska Library Commission for summer interns. That, and in addition to the natural occurrence of open positions has created a busy season for those involved in the hiring process. I'm grateful for our LCL team who make it all happen.

Mayor Gaylor Baird during the month of June is visiting libraries as part of her "**Mayor on the Move**" series each week. She has met with staff and patrons at Gere and Bethany and plans are also to meet at Walt and Eiseley (or Williams) branches. Her visit to Bethany on June 16 included the opportunity to meet with Marlene Cupp and her family and sit on the bench that was recently provided in her honor in front of the library.

People love the uniqueness found in LCL's 8 locations. LCL is **woven into neighborhoods and lives**— our year-to-date patron traffic count is +15% over 2021-2022, and both visits and circ of materials will approach numbers from 2018-2019, the last full year of non-interrupted service.

Cheers and thankfulness for the many hands involved with the **One Book One Lincoln** process which made a big splash on May 29 at Mill Coffee & Tea with the revealing of the Top 3 finalists for 2023. This popular annual event is a fun way to build excitement for OBOL and generate community togetherness and support of Lincoln City Libraries. Thanks to the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries and the Mill.

The library's stock photography project gets underway this summer, where a professional photographer will capture the vibrancy and essence of buildings, spaces, and activities for use in the website, print, and social media purposes. All imagery will be licensed to LCL/City for our needs.

Support Services staff report that the library receives on average between 300-400 monthly patron requests or suggestions for items for purchase, and while not all requests can be fulfilled for a variety of reasons (pub date and availability, star reviewed/not reviewed, academic vs public), we do fill a majority of requests. Patron submissions (mostly online) are a natural part of the collection development process.

## **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**

- From Walt Branch: Jessica S. was walking a woman to the crochet books when the patron mentioned she hadn't been in a library since high school. As they walked by the YA video games, she stopped to look at the Switch video games. She became very excited and said she was so glad to see we had Nintendo Switch games to loan. She was a huge gamer. Her friends were constantly telling her about new games to buy, but she could not afford to purchase all the recommendations. She was excited to be able to check them out and try them at home, and couldn't believe the library had newly released, popular video games.
- Caitlin L. [Bennett Martin] relayed that a customer visiting one Sunday couldn't find parking outside. She let him know that we had two programs happening that afternoon. He replied, "I've used this library for a while and never see it this busy. I love it!"
- Charlotte M. described this interaction with a customer, "A library patron had just come from Barnes & Noble wanting to view the Criterion Collection of "important films" but was frustrated at having to stand at B&N writing the (incomplete) list of films. So first I showed her how to search online for a list of the Criterion films to date in order, then I showed her how to search our library using SERIES as the index of her search and then type in Criterion Collection. We have only 100 or so films from that collection but she was very pleased at now knowing how to search online for films on the Criterion list, and that we had over 100 of those films that she could view."



### Programming

- Did you know? The Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors "Ames Reading Series" and the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association's "Lunch at the Library" author visits are recorded by LNKTV and then placed on the library's YouTube channel and library website for convenient and permanent access. The Ames series has recordings going all the way back to 1985. The most recent Ames event was held May 21<sup>st</sup>, with 59 people attending the program featuring the Prairie Trout Writing Group.
- As an example, From Northeast Service Unit (NESU) on the popularity of the Summer Reading Challenge: "The 2023 Summer Reading Challenge **All Together Now** began on Friday, May 26. As usual, the first day of the challenge was a whirlwind of activity and Summer reading registrations at NESU support this assertion. At 11 AM on May 26, NESU Librarian Karrie S. noted that 151 people had registered for the program at Anderson Branch and 88 at Bethany Branch. By the end of the day registrations had jumped to 323 at Anderson Branch Library and 179 at Bethany Branch Library. At the end of May, total summer reading challenge registrations at NESU totaled 1,347 (856 at Anderson and 491 at Bethany).
- This month, there were four weekends for Polley Music Library radio programs, which featured a book about the history, cultural significance, and technique of overtone singing or "throat singing," an updated book about folklorist Alan Lomax's "canometrics" system for measuring and comparing songs, a book from the new 33 1/3 Genre Series about dance-punk music, and an overview of several drum kit-related books in Polley for International Drum Month.

### Outreach

- From Anderson/Bethany: Riley Elementary invited Librarian Karrie S. to the End-of-School party on the playground May 17. "I took along strips of paper, and all the kids wrote down the best book they read this year. We made a paperchain out of the strips. The kids kept returning to my booth to write down another book and see how long the chain was getting. I talked to 68 people that night and handed out information about the Summer Reading Challenge."

### Collections

- A patron came in looking for a hold which she could not locate on our shelf. With some investigating Megan M. found that she had accidentally placed a hold on a digital item instead of a physical copy. The patron mentioned that she had loved using audiobooks in the cd player of her previous vehicle and how much she missed being able to do so now that she has Bluetooth instead. Staff explained how our apps work and how Libby and Hoopla can be used in compatible vehicles. She was very excited to give it a try and to once again have the option of listening to books in her car.

### Collaboration

- The Community Garden started taking shape this month at Gere that was the initial space for a Prairie Plot. A staff person shared: "Lots of interest in the community garden. More than one person, after asking what we were putting in, replied – 'I thought so' – with a big smile on their face. Several have said they thought it was a good use of the space."

- Lane G. [Gere] presented his Read the Rainbow: Serving the LGBTQ Community in Your Library presentation for NCompass Live on the 17<sup>th</sup> with over 100 people registered from all over the country. He covered topics including collection development, inclusive and proactive policy, and book challenges. He also presented at Nebraska Library Association's online summer reading prep online training on the 16<sup>th</sup> where he discussed the teen and adult programming we're doing at Gere and around LCL this summer.
- 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

- Calley O. and Rhonda H. hosted Family Storytimes at Gere this month with the themes of Monsters; Bugs; Animal Sounds; Shapes; and Summer Fun. Staff shared that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> as they were closing the door to start storytime when they noticed a mother with five kids in the lobby and invited them in. Afterward the mother shared that she had not taken the kids to the library in the last 2 years but now wants to come on a regular basis. She was provided with a storytime brochure and a personal invite. There were 9 storytimes with 183 attending.

### Technology

- Laurie J. at Walt Branch led a 3D printer training program. She walked three people through how to set-up the 3D printer. Then, using Thingiverse and programs like Fusion 360 and Tinkercad, how to find and create files, how to use Cura, and finally the print itself. During the program, Laurie printed an example piece. The attendees asked great questions and one gentleman had begun drawing sketches on the back of his instruction handout of a bracket he wants to design and print. All three people showed interest when Laurie talked about our upcoming *Fusion 360 AutoCAD Introduction* programs this Summer.
- Melanie N. [Gere] shared: "There was a Spectrum Outage on May 24th in Lincoln. I individually had four different people contact us for use of study rooms, internet and quiet spaces who were remote workers needing a space for their workday. The libraries were able to fulfill this need when an outage occurred in other parts of the community."
- Virtual Services staff reports "Shortly after the eCard option went live, I was assisting a patron who contacted us because his card had been purged from our system. He had hoped to be able to check out some OverDrive materials for an upcoming trip but would not have time to come in to register for a new card. I recommended that he try signing up for an eCard as a temporary solution, and he replied to let me know that this worked out well for him."

### Facilities

- Gere, Walt, Anderson, and Eiseley Branches all serve as sites for regular elections. As "community centers" our library facilities often go beyond circulating books and offering storytimes. Another

example is the unique partnership with Community Crops and the shared use of library property at Gere for a new community garden.

- Carpets at all locations are cleaned twice a year -spring and fall.

### **Areas of Excellence and Focus**

#### **Early Childhood**

- Cindy K. had a delightful interaction with a family and one child in particular, "I welcomed a family with an upper-elementary aged reader and a young reader (probably in kindergarten) as they put books in the book return. I was talking to the younger child about which books he read and enjoyed and offered the children stickers. The youngest boy was very pleased to talk about his books when he got over his shyness, he proudly announced that he had received an award for reading at school."

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

#### **Employment**

- Caralyn K. [Bennett Martin] relayed this interaction: A woman came to the lab desk and said she just doesn't know anything about computers, but she needs to do a food handlers permit. I helped her get started on number 4, where it would be easy for staff to help her. Eventually we got her through initial hurdles and she was able to proceed through the training module. At the end of the module, after she passed all the units, she was excited to print out her certificate. When I explained she could print it in B&W for ten cents, or twenty-five for color, she said "I'm printing in color! I'm proud of myself-- I did this! I might even get a frame!"

#### **Services to Our Aging Population**

- Caralyn K. and LeeAnn S. visited Gateway Vista Manor this month to talk about HOM services with residents there. Three attendees filled out applications for the service while we were on site. Caralyn was able to get their first blue bags ready and mailed the same day upon our return to the library! One new patron has already called Caralyn to discuss the next books she'd like to read and told Caralyn how much she loved the first bag received and was excited for more.

### **Building up the Culture of Lincoln**

#### **Local History & Genealogy**

- A customer visiting Walt Branch for the first time in years on election day asked Laurie J. about genealogy resources the library offers. She introduced him to the free online resources/databases and did a walkthrough on how to use Ancestry on one of the catalog computers. She also pointed him in the direction of the print collection, the extensive collection throughout the system, and other resources he may find useful like findagrave.com.

Ryan Wieber, Library Director

June 16, 2023



**May 2023 Use Compared to May 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	21,645	11,346	90.77%	3,803	3,319	14.58%	25,448	14,665	73.53%
Anderson	9,405	9,881	-4.82%	2,220	2,304	-3.65%	11,625	12,185	-4.60%
Bethany	7,047	7,461	-5.55%	1,088	1,109	-1.89%	8,135	8,570	-5.08%
Eiseley	19,924	21,619	-7.84%	2,827	3,170	-10.82%	22,751	24,789	-8.22%
Gere	53,302	55,318	-3.64%	7,421	7,937	-6.50%	60,723	63,255	-4.00%
South	8,105	8,688	-6.71%	1,272	1,427	-10.86%	9,377	10,115	-7.30%
Walt	35,927	37,119	-3.21%	4,595	5,197	-11.58%	40,522	42,316	-4.24%
Williams	362	557	-35.01%	193	205	-5.85%	555	762	-27.17%
Lied Bookmobile	1,382	1,883	-26.61%	158	178	-11.24%	1,540	2,061	-25.28%
InterLibrary Loan	165	227	-27.31%	0	0	0.00%	165	227	-27.31%
<b>Subtotal Checkouts</b>	<b>157,264</b>	<b>154,099</b>	<b>2.05%</b>	<b>23,577</b>	<b>24,846</b>	<b>-5.11%</b>	<b>180,841</b>	<b>178,945</b>	<b>1.06%</b>
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	39,277	32,998	19.03%	39,277	32,998	19.03%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	30,272	26,584	13.87%	30,272	26,584	13.87%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	988	1,008	-1.98%	988	1,008	-1.98%
<b>TOTAL CHECKOUTS</b>	<b>157,264</b>	<b>154,099</b>	<b>2.05%</b>	<b>94,114</b>	<b>85,436</b>	<b>10.16%</b>	<b>251,378</b>	<b>239,535</b>	<b>4.94%</b>

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change
BMPL	12,887	5,443	136.76%	12,561	9,222	36.21%	10,224	8,279	23.49%
Anderson	6,001	6,574	-8.72%	5,624	5,611	0.23%	5,855	5,391	8.61%
Bethany	5,009	5,184	-3.38%	3,126	3,386	-7.68%	3,420	3,228	5.95%
Eiseley	15,086	16,785	-10.12%	7,665	8,004	-4.24%	9,845	9,368	5.09%
Gere	36,525	37,007	-1.30%	24,198	26,248	-7.81%	20,083	18,336	9.53%
South	5,494	5,842	-5.96%	3,883	4,273	-9.13%	3,603	3,615	-0.33%
Walt	29,041	29,503	-1.57%	11,481	12,813	-10.40%	13,614	12,421	9.60%
Williams	357	487	-26.69%	198	275	-28.00%	607	583	4.12%
Lied Bookmobile	1,074	1,366	-21.38%	466	695	-32.95%	488	213	129.11%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	165	227	-27.31%	0	0	0.00%
<b>Subtotal Checkouts</b>	<b>111,474</b>	<b>108,191</b>	<b>3.03%</b>	<b>69,367</b>	<b>70,754</b>	<b>-1.96%</b>	<b>67,739</b>	<b>61,434</b>	<b>10.26%</b>
Download/Stream Audio	5,589	4,591	21.74%	33,688	28,407	18.59%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	4,536	4,032	12.50%	25,736	22,552	14.12%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	988	1,008	-1.98%	0	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL CHECKOUTS</b>	<b>121,599</b>	<b>116,814</b>	<b>4.10%</b>	<b>129,779</b>	<b>122,721</b>	<b>5.75%</b>	<b>67,739</b>	<b>61,434</b>	<b>10.26%</b>

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	377	503	-25.05%	248	483	-48.65%	2,122	2,122	0.00%
Anderson	241	657	-63.32%	0	0	0.00%	680	684	-0.58%
Bethany	273	232	17.67%	41	55	-25.45%	332	296	12.16%
Eiseley	1,470	613	139.80%	7	0	0.00%	1,244	1,086	14.55%
Gere	1,672	677	146.97%	156	21	642.86%	1,297	1,262	2.77%
South	443	347	27.67%	8	17	-52.94%	478	422	13.27%
Walt	1,042	752	38.56%	84	147	-42.86%	1,026	987	3.95%
Williams	28	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	84	41	104.88%
Lied Bookmobile	0	570	-100.00%	39	362	-89.23%	0	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,546</b>	<b>4,351</b>	<b>27.46%</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>-46.27%</b>	<b>7,263</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>5.26%</b>

**Lincoln City Libraries  
May 2023 Use Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	May 2023	May 2022	Total	CHANGE
					Total Use	Total Use	Use	
Bennett Martin Public Library	25,448	10,224	2,122	625	38,419	26,052		47.47%
Anderson Branch	11,625	5,855	680	241	18,401	18,917		-2.73%
Bethany Branch	8,135	3,420	332	314	12,201	12,381		-1.45%
Eiseley Branch	22,751	9,845	1,244	1,477	35,317	35,856		-1.50%
Gere Branch	60,723	20,083	1,297	1,828	83,931	83,551		0.45%
South Branch	9,377	3,603	478	451	13,909	14,516		-4.18%
Walt Branch	40,522	13,614	1,026	1,126	56,288	56,623		-0.59%
Williams Branch	555	607	84	28	1,274	1,386		-8.08%
Lied Bookmobile	1,540	488	0	39	2,067	3,206		-35.53%
InterLibrary Loan	165	0	0	0	165	227		-27.31%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>180,841</b>	<b>67,739</b>	<b>7,263</b>	<b>6,129</b>	<b>261,972</b>	<b>252,715</b>		<b>3.66%</b>
DownloadStream Audio	39,277	0	0	0	39,277	32,998		19.03%
Download/Stream eBooks	30,272	0	0	0	30,272	26,584		13.87%
Stream Video	988	0	0	0	988	1,008		-1.98%
<b>Download SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>70,537</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70,537</b>	<b>60,590</b>		<b>16.42%</b>
<b>TOTAL CIRCULATION</b>	<b>251,378</b>	<b>67,739</b>	<b>7,263</b>	<b>6,129</b>	<b>332,509</b>	<b>313,305</b>		<b>6.13%</b>

<b>WiFi Sessions</b>	116,322	34,992	232.42%
<b>WiFi Users</b>	10,838	5,822	86.16%
<b>Website Users</b>	62,462	63,807	-2.11%
<b>Website Sessions</b>	121,714	124,248	-2.04%
<b>Database Use</b>	8,599	6,741	27.56%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2023	2022	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
<b>Owned</b>	362,219	301,275	76,560	32,509	772,563	Purged	868	93	833.33%
<b>Added</b>	1,945	3,592	142	85	5,764	Active			
<b>Withdrawn</b>	-3,613	-2,783	-141	-43	-6,580	Resident	146,711	145,830	0.60%
<b>Current</b>	360,551	302,084	76,561	32,551	771,747	ConnectED	42,743	44,298	-3.51%
						County	9,137	9,165	-0.31%
						NonResident	938	924	1.52%
						Reciprocal	482	475	1.47%
						Limited Use	8,445	8,629	-2.13%
						<b>Total Active</b>	<b>208,456</b>	<b>209,321</b>	<b>-0.41%</b>

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

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	128,934	125,098	3.07%	94,972	76,671	23.87%	21,165	19,122	10.68%	6,895	4,938	39.63%	251,966	225,829	11.57%
Anderson Branch	103,193	96,957	6.43%	45,696	39,232	16.48%	6,205	7,020	-11.61%	5,716	2,071	176.00%	160,810	145,280	10.69%
Bethany Branch	74,116	72,227	2.62%	26,616	23,899	11.37%	2,189	2,097	4.39%	2,496	992	151.61%	105,417	99,215	6.25%
Eiseley Branch	210,720	194,724	8.21%	78,072	66,212	17.91%	10,413	9,243	12.66%	13,726	8,116	69.12%	312,931	278,295	12.45%
Gere Branch	555,406	542,809	2.32%	159,702	141,702	12.70%	11,212	11,173	0.35%	11,903	2,933	305.83%	738,223	698,617	5.67%
South Branch	83,970	83,529	0.53%	30,291	28,244	7.25%	4,057	4,275	-5.10%	2,507	1,652	51.76%	120,825	117,700	2.66%
Walt Branch	359,147	352,114	2.00%	106,748	90,095	18.48%	9,026	8,408	7.35%	9,266	3,355	176.18%	484,187	453,972	6.66%
Williams Branch	6,756	6,591	2.50%	5,876	4,710	24.76%	561	450	24.67%	851	197	331.98%	14,044	11,948	17.54%
Lied Bookmobile	14,858	19,917	-25.40%	3,991	1,393	186.50%	0	0	0.00%	2,619	10,814	-75.78%	21,468	32,124	-33.17%
InterLibrary Loan	1,783	2,238	-20.33%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,783	2,238	-20.33%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1,538,883</b>	<b>1,496,204</b>	<b>2.85%</b>	<b>551,964</b>	<b>472,158</b>	<b>16.90%</b>	<b>64,828</b>	<b>61,788</b>	<b>4.92%</b>	<b>55,979</b>	<b>35,068</b>	<b>59.63%</b>	<b>2,211,654</b>	<b>2,065,218</b>	<b>7.09%</b>
DownloadStream Audio	324,399	274,430	18.21%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	324,399	274,430	18.21%
Download/Stream eBooks	255,739	225,002	13.66%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	255,739	225,002	13.66%
Stream Video	7,792	7,213	8.03%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	7,792	7,213	8.03%
<b>Download SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>587,930</b>	<b>506,645</b>	<b>16.04%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>587,930</b>	<b>506,645</b>	<b>16.04%</b>
<b>TOTAL LOANS</b>	<b>2,126,813</b>	<b>2,002,849</b>	<b>6.19%</b>	<b>551,964</b>	<b>472,158</b>	<b>16.90%</b>	<b>64,828</b>	<b>61,788</b>	<b>4.92%</b>	<b>55,979</b>	<b>35,068</b>	<b>59.63%</b>	<b>2,799,584</b>	<b>2,571,863</b>	<b>8.85%</b>

WiFi Sessions	1,031,540	960,365	7.41%
WiFi Users	94,274	93,722	0.59%
Website Users	548,612	550,851	-0.41%
Website Sessions	1,064,257	1,078,467	-1.32%
Database Use	103,587	106,535	-2.77%