

Library Director's Report for January 2024

Bennett Martin's first floor carpet is being installed as this is written, and the resulting change is stunningly beautiful as the new blue design adds a warm touch and complements the wood end panels. This is the first new carpet at BMPL in a few decades.

The 2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was submitted in mid-January and identifies \$2.0 mil in deferred maintenance projects at Bennett Martin including a new roof, a replacement heating/cooling system, a new north-end elevator, carpet for upper floors and an updated building security system. Dependent upon upcoming directions for the major branch and downtown facility planning, there may be additional late-adds to the CIP.

We've submitted the Library's initial 2024-2026 budget with practice preparations of reductions as required by City Finance in the event this next biennial budget is affected by the current state government instability surrounding talk of property tax reductions, which could affect funding to local governments. It is early in the process, however.

The Library's 2022-2023 [annual report](#) is completed and available on the library's website. This new iteration of the annual report is substantially larger than past versions and colorfully highlights last year's great stories, activities, people, and library statistics.

Thanks to Manager Lisa Olivigni's work and coordination of the Nebraska Library Commission's internship grant program, LCL has been awarded \$6,000 in internship grants for summer 2024!

A family has recently donated a smaller scale replica statue of the newly designed Willa Cather Statue. We are grateful for this new addition of literary-based art, and plan to coordinate with the family for an upcoming reception celebrating the gift, which will initially be housed at Gere Branch Library.

Many thanks to Board members Morgan Gerteisen and Joe Shaw who participated in the all-day strategic plan workshop recently with 3 community members and 11 staff. We expect to have the results of the day crafted into the form of our next strategic priorities and first-year goals.

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

- Araya W. shared: "At Gere, I was able to help a brand-new customer get same-day access to a popular item by setting her up with Hoopla immediately after she got her library card. She was very delighted to learn about Hoopla and Libby being free with a library account and said that her day was made because she was worried she wouldn't be able to get the book before she needed it for a book club, and it was a popular item (all checked out in regular print, large print, and audiobook on CD). She commended me for my patience and taking the time to walk her through setup with the app and troubleshoot."
- Nora M. at Gere shared: "A mother and her three kids (one young adult, two school-aged) came in to South to return some books that had been reported lost. I was able to check the books in, assure her that there were no more books checked out on any of the kid accounts, and inform her of the remaining \$10 collection fee, which she was unbothered by since it was so much less than she was worried she would have to pay. The family stayed for about an hour afterwards exploring the collection."
- Caralyn K. [BMPL] had a nice conversation with a patron who utilizes the Home Outreach Services during the winter due to her disability making travel difficult. The patron had called to place holds and to check on items she'd requested. She let Caralyn know how much she appreciates the HOM service!

Community Engagement

- Scott C. [BMPL] reported that he represented the Lincoln City Libraries at a film event (The Frighteners) in Omaha on January 31st, serving as a discussion panelist because of his expertise in the Charles Starkweather resources available at LCL. Approximately 75 attendees stayed after the film for the discussion, which touched on folklore, legends, mythologies and the influence the Starkweather case had on the plot and tone of the film. He was also able to plug the "Nebraska Authors" online database.
- Pam C. at Williams Branch shared: "Two women who live in the Air Park area came into the Williams library Saturday afternoon and asked if it was part of the Lincoln City Libraries. I assured them that it was and they were very excited to look around. They asked if books from other libraries could be sent to this branch and I confirmed that they could. They said they were very happy to know about Williams and it would be very convenient for them to pick up their books. It was fun to see how excited they were!"

Programming

- Circle of Friends is becoming a pillar program at Walt. Some notes from Liz Claymon and Vicki Clarke: There were 45 in attendance on January 23, and 34 for Bingo on January 30.
- The Teacher Toolkit Workshop is a program that was created as an educational program to highlight library resources and digital databases that are beneficial to all educators, but especially homeschool families. This year, Karrie Simpson invited Vicki Clarke to also share this presentation at Anderson Branch, as she is in contact with many Homeschool families on the north side of town. Her excellent personal promotion helped this reach a wide audience. Nine people attended each session - Monday, January 22, at Anderson Branch and Saturday, January 27, at Walt Branch. Offering it twice in the same week provided necessary options, as people did travel across town each time to attend. The Walt session had people whose home branch locations were Anderson, Bethany, Eiseley, Gere and Walt. In this hour-long presentation, topics discussed were the "basics" - who is eligible for a free card, and the value of purchasing a non-resident card, and how holds are placed and how the delivery service functions.

Outreach

- Rebecca H reports: "The biggest news for the bookmobile is that the specs for the new vehicle have been finalized after going back to the drawing board and selecting two identical standard-fuel vehicles. Our vehicle consultant was very responsive to our questions and clarified what functions might be considered standard and what would have to be added on as options. Once the proposals are submitted and a vendor is chosen, any alterations to the design will have to come in the form of change orders, which can affect price and delivery time, so having accurate specs that cover all of our needs is vital.
- Pershing Elementary's Community Learning Center Coordinator reached out to Karrie S. and invited NESU to their Community Nature Night. She reports "I promoted the public library while also tying it with a hands-on nature theme. With suggestions from various employees at NESU, I came up with the idea to use a Very Hungry Caterpillar guessing game with things he ate in the book. I also brought along a take-home coloring sheet and on the back was a list of upcoming library events. I talked to 151 people that evening!

Collaboration

- Traci Glass facilitated the Q&A session with cast members of "Les Misérables" at Bennett Martin on January 11 as part of our Page to Stage partnership with the Lied Center. We had around 30 folks drop in on a snowy, Thursday afternoon!

Early Childhood

- Ali B. provided storytimes at UNL Childcare and Malone Center. She also spoke with Cedars to set up doing outreach storytimes at their early childhood site.
- Diane Vanek led Sensory Storytimes with the themes of: Winter; Pajama Party; and Fruits and Veggies. Diane said: "The value of playtime at the end was reiterated with a new family to storytime. The child struggled at times with the storytime portion of the morning but once we started playtime his attention was completely captivated by the sensation of running his fingers through the beans of the bean sensory bin. He and mom both got to leave feeling successful."

Technology

- Charlotte M. continues to spread library knowledge wherever she goes. "While in Barnes & Noble recently, a woman had been getting help with her iPad for purchasing and downloading ebooks and she recognized me as being from the library. So in the cafe I showed her how to search and download library materials using Libby and Hoopla."
- Meagan M. at Gere/South aided an elderly patron with scanning and sending his automated withdrawal forms to his financial advisor. He was very pleased with the help, stating that coming "to the library makes it so easy" and was happy to know that his money could now move between his accounts as needed.
- Nancy P. at BMPL said said, "Patrons love the resources we provide! One day, I was approached by a man who wanted assistance replacing a non-working 30-plus year old card. He still had the card!! Since he had simply stopped using it and had no fines it had been de-activated. So what made this patron come in for a new card? He had been told by a friend he could read newspapers online with a LCL card, and he wanted to make use of that resource!"

Building up the Culture of Lincoln

All Students

- Melanie N. at Gere hosted the TAB (Teen Advisory Board) meeting on the 29th with 8 attending. Teens filled out a survey and had discussion about Teen programming with some fantastic program ideas and also thoughts on how to advertise to teens more successfully. Teens also created a "Love Stinks" display for the Teen area.

Celebrating Diversity

- Yoel S. shared this: At Williams, a Spanish-speaking family came to visit and see the new location. They were very happy that we had Spanish-language children's books (most notably *Llama Llama*), and the children selected a number of English and Spanish-language books for checkout.

Low-Income Families

- Lincoln City Libraries has once again partnered with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance [VITA] program. Staff at NESU fielded numerous questions about this free tax service. Once the VITA website went live on 01/19/2024, employees helped many, many customers make appointments for tax help. At the end of January, all appointments at Anderson Branch Library were full through March 6.

Refugees and Immigrants Services

- Jackie S. relayed, "A patron who spoke very little English came into Bennett Martin to acquire a library card. I was able to go through some of the first steps to getting the card but was not able to easily communicate some of the other important information about having a card. We started to use Google Translate, and were able to get through the rest of the process, and I was able to tell the patron information about the library and what she could do with her library card. She was excited to get a card, and appreciative of the extra steps we took to get her using the library."

Services to our Aging Population

- Caralyn K. at Gere shared "A Homebound delivery patron told us over the phone that she is so grateful to have the service, especially in the winter when things are dreary and it's so nice to get a bag of reading material. Another HOM patron is very happy that she can get unusual items through ILL mailed out to her; she often requests items that aren't available through LCL and ILL makes it possible for her to pursue her interests even though she's homebound."

Ryan Wieber, Library Director

February 15, 2024

**Lincoln City Libraries
January 2024 Use Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	January 2024	January 2023	CHANGE
					Total Use	Total Use	
Bennett Martin Public Library	13,540	10,044	1,784	424	25,792	27,135	-4.95%
Anderson Branch	11,122	4,423	595	344	16,484	17,829	-7.54%
Bethany Branch	7,404	2,727	180	154	10,465	12,322	-15.07%
Eiseley Branch	21,964	7,866	1,177	759	31,766	35,975	-11.70%
Gere Branch	55,216	16,888	1,022	1,344	74,470	84,959	-12.35%
South Branch	8,870	2,892	393	80	12,235	13,206	-7.35%
Walt Branch	39,158	11,190	830	1,109	52,287	56,837	-8.01%
Williams Branch	781	6,041	151	25	6,998	1,809	286.84%
Lied Bookmobile	1,261	119	0	72	1,452	2,049	-29.14%
InterLibrary Loan	211	0	0	0	211	250	-15.60%
SUBTOTAL	159,527	62,190	6,132	4,311	232,160	252,371	-8.01%
DownloadStream Audio	44,950	0	0	0	44,950	38,514	16.71%
Download/Stream eBooks	34,621	0	0	0	34,621	31,405	10.24%
Stream Video	987	0	0	0	987	801	23.22%
Download SUBTOTAL	80,558	0	0	0	80,558	70,720	13.91%
TOTAL CIRCULATION	240,085	62,190	6,132	4,311	312,718	323,091	-3.21%

WiFi Sessions	105,023	97,797	7.39%
WiFi Users	7,944	8,440	-5.88%
Website Users	110,917	67,118	65.26%
Website Sessions	149,883	133,449	12.31%
Database Use	7,850	10,261	-23.50%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2024	2023	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
Owned	355,533	311,983	78,721	32,740	778,977	Active			
Added	1,672	874	290	279	3,115	Resident	147,423	146,490	0.64%
Withdrawn	-43	17	42	-1	15	ConnectED	47,689	42,312	12.71%
Current	357,162	312,874	79,053	33,018	782,107	County	9,051	9,149	-1.07%
						NonResident	935	945	-1.06%
						Reciprocal	481	481	0.00%
						Limited Use	9,472	8,558	10.68%
						Total Active	215,051	207,935	3.42%

**January 2024 Use Compared to January 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	10,932	10,860	0.66%	2,608	2,556	2.03%	13,540	13,416	0.92%
Anderson	9,117	9,494	-3.97%	2,005	2,392	-16.18%	11,122	11,886	-6.43%
Bethany	6,560	7,655	-14.30%	844	1,202	-29.78%	7,404	8,857	-16.41%
Eiseley	19,081	21,980	-13.19%	2,883	3,161	-8.79%	21,964	25,141	-12.64%
Gere	48,577	56,569	-14.13%	6,639	7,594	-12.58%	55,216	64,163	-13.94%
South	7,765	8,180	-5.07%	1,105	1,404	-21.30%	8,870	9,584	-7.45%
Walt	34,548	37,346	-7.49%	4,610	4,995	-7.71%	39,158	42,341	-7.52%
Williams	639	634	0.79%	142	193	-26.42%	781	827	-5.56%
Lied Bookmobile	1,129	1,453	-22.30%	132	220	-40.00%	1,261	1,673	-24.63%
InterLibrary Loan	211	250	-15.60%	0	0	0.00%	211	250	-15.60%
Subtotal Checkouts	138,559	154,421	-10.27%	20,968	23,717	-11.59%	159,527	178,138	-10.45%
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	44,950	38,514	16.71%	44,950	38,514	16.71%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	34,621	31,405	10.24%	34,621	31,405	10.24%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	987	801	23.22%	987	801	23.22%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	138,559	154,421	-10.27%	101,526	94,437	7.51%	240,085	248,858	-3.53%

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	4,704	5,099	-7.75%	8,836	8,317	6.24%	10,044	11,002	-8.71%
Anderson	5,348	6,015	-11.09%	5,774	5,871	-1.65%	4,423	5,085	-13.02%
Bethany	4,251	5,065	-16.07%	3,153	3,792	-16.85%	2,727	2,992	-8.86%
Eiseley	13,934	16,963	-17.86%	8,030	8,178	-1.81%	7,866	8,598	-8.51%
Gere	30,507	36,312	-15.99%	24,709	27,851	-11.28%	16,888	18,081	-6.60%
South	4,994	5,319	-6.11%	3,876	4,265	-9.12%	2,892	3,138	-7.84%
Walt	26,210	28,802	-9.00%	12,948	13,539	-4.37%	11,190	12,001	-6.76%
Williams	601	635	-5.35%	180	192	-6.25%	6,041	738	718.56%
Lied Bookmobile	727	1,016	-28.44%	534	657	-18.72%	119	163	-26.99%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	211	250	-15.60%	0	0	0.00%
Subtotal Checkouts	91,276	105,226	-13.26%	68,251	72,912	-6.39%	62,190	61,798	0.63%
Download/Stream Audio	6,470	5,405	19.70%	38,480	33,109	16.22%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	6,007	4,893	22.77%	28,614	26,512	7.93%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	987	801	23.22%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL CHECKOUTS	103,753	115,524	-10.19%	136,332	133,334	2.25%	62,190	61,798	0.63%

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	209	203	2.96%	215	154	39.61%	1,784	2,360	-24.41%
Anderson	335	163	105.52%	9	10	-10.00%	595	685	-13.14%
Bethany	150	209	-28.23%	4	24	-83.33%	180	240	-25.00%
Eiseley	725	1,007	-28.00%	34	39	-12.82%	1,177	1,190	-1.09%
Gere	1,344	1,465	-8.26%	0	34	-100.00%	1,022	1,216	-15.95%
South	74	51	45.10%	6	7	-14.29%	393	426	-7.75%
Walt	965	1,477	-34.66%	144	73	97.26%	830	945	-12.17%
Williams	25	188	-86.70%	0	0	0.00%	151	56	169.64%
Lied Bookmobile	25	146	-82.88%	47	67	-29.85%	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	3,852	4,909	-21.53%	459	408	12.50%	6,132	7,118	-13.85%

Visits - All locations closed for weather 1/8, 1/13, 1/14. Closed 10 am - 12 pm on 1/9 for weather. All locations closed on 1/12 for weather except for BMPL - open 12 - 6 pm.

Visits - Traffic counter off for Williams 1/10 - 1/16. Count higher than normal.

Lincoln City Libraries
January 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	68,301	65,080	4.95%	51,815	52,066	-0.48%	11,176	12,113	-7.74%	3,526	3,389	4.04%	134,818	132,648	1.64%
Anderson Branch	56,709	56,012	1.24%	25,558	24,327	5.06%	3,566	3,505	1.74%	3,759	3,895	-3.49%	89,592	87,739	2.11%
Bethany Branch	36,414	40,910	-10.99%	13,903	14,404	-3.48%	1,134	1,165	-2.66%	1,226	1,384	-11.42%	52,677	57,863	-8.96%
Eiseley Branch	111,177	115,934	-4.10%	42,569	40,487	5.14%	5,802	5,332	8.81%	7,548	8,258	-8.60%	167,096	170,011	-1.71%
Gere Branch	283,891	305,034	-6.93%	87,184	84,166	3.59%	4,774	6,177	-22.71%	5,408	6,160	-12.21%	381,257	401,537	-5.05%
South Branch	45,852	45,676	0.39%	16,889	16,258	3.88%	2,121	2,192	-3.24%	918	1,048	-12.40%	65,780	65,174	0.93%
Walt Branch	192,060	194,156	-1.08%	58,080	55,915	3.87%	4,613	4,667	-1.16%	4,527	4,247	6.59%	259,280	258,985	0.11%
Williams Branch	4,840	3,796	27.50%	10,329	3,199	222.88%	506	238	112.61%	255	379	-32.72%	15,930	7,612	109.27%
Lied Bookmobile	6,970	8,912	-21.79%	1,301	1,965	-33.79%	0	0	0.00%	792	1,692	-53.19%	9,063	12,569	-27.89%
InterLibrary Loan	827	958	-13.67%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	827	958	-13.67%
SUBTOTAL	807,041	836,468	-3.52%	307,628	292,787	5.07%	33,692	35,389	-4.80%	27,959	30,452	-8.19%	1,176,320	1,195,096	-1.57%
DownloadStream Audio	206,174	174,758	17.98%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	206,174	174,758	17.98%
Download/Stream eBooks	157,786	138,386	14.02%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	157,786	138,386	14.02%
Stream Video	4,362	4,244	2.78%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	4,362	4,244	2.78%
Download SUBTOTAL	368,322	317,388	16.05%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	368,322	317,388	16.05%
TOTAL LOANS	1,175,363	1,153,856	1.86%	307,628	292,787	5.07%	33,692	35,389	-4.80%	27,959	30,452	-8.19%	1,544,642	1,512,484	2.13%

	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	432	0	0.00%
Overall Registrations	4829	4488	7.60%

WiFi Sessions	589,836	513,317	14.91%
WiFi Users	46,958	47,876	-1.92%
Website Users	376,984	297,813	26.58%
Website Sessions	501,412	589,439	-14.93%
Database Use	40,129	61,787	-35.05%