



### Director's Report for February 2024

- The library had two retirements recently with a combined 78 years of experience at LCL. Rebecca Clark retired from her role as Library Services Supervisor at Walt Branch, where she had served since that building opened in 2002. Her last day was recognized by her longtime friends and colleagues with a warm and joyful reception. Rebecca wrote as part of her farewell statement that *"Knowledge is power, information is valuable, recreation is uplifting, community is important – Libraries are indispensable to a well-rounded life."* Also, Mayor Gaylor Baird presented a proclamation recently in honor of Paul Jones' 32 years of service to Library as an accountant. Paul provided professional and indispensable work and helped keep things running smoothly for the system. We're happy for Paul and Rebecca and thankful for their service and valuable contributions to Lincoln patrons and to the library team. We will miss them!
- LB441 (addressing Neb Rev. State Statute 28-813) is expected to come to the floor for debate over the next few days. This is the once-again proposed legislation that removes defense to prosecution for school and public library employees for checking out "obscene" materials to minors. Contact your legislators to express your concern over this bill as it violates the intellectual freedom rights of Nebraskans and disregards the experience and expertise of library professionals in selecting and providing access to books. It could create fear, stifle 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment rights, and add to the waste of taxpayer dollars for municipalities and school districts to defend against the unwarranted prosecution of library professionals and educators.
- Gere Branch had **319** study room users during the month of February. Also- see notes below regarding the approximately **500** who attended the Wachiska Bird Count program at Gere in February..
- Norris School District has expressed interest in a program similar to Library OneCard where all students in the district who live in Lancaster County could automatically receive an LCL card (a small percentage of Norris students are outside the County and would not be eligible.). This

service would offer additional value to county families in addition to bookmobiles and their full access card. An agreement may be forthcoming.

- The new (and final!) go-live date for the new website has been set for Tuesday, April 10. We are making some last-minute design changes to meet city guidelines.
- We have a draft of the new strategic Plan in hand. Our staff team will review it this week and refine/edit where necessary. I think it'll be ready by the April Board meeting.
- I mentioned in last month's report that BMPL's first floor carpet was being installed, and I'm happy to report it was completed shortly after and looks beautiful. We are all grateful for this new addition and know it adds to the charm of Bennett Martin, creating an even more welcoming experience. Refreshes to our facilities are pleasing to patrons and indicates a pride in our libraries. Many thanks to the crew who helped plan the work involved and kudos to facilities superintendent Dan Miller and the Virtual Services staff for coordinating the physical move aspect involved.

## **Monthly Examples of the Strategic Plan in Action in February 2024**

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

#### **Interactions**

- A senior patron came in to Walt Branch to pick up a hold that had arrived. She was frustrated because she did not have time to read it yet, so Vicki C. explained how in the future she could suspend a hold and release it when she was closer to being ready. She did not know about this service and was so happy when Vicki completed the process that she gave her a thumbs up and said "You Rock!"
- Nancy P. at BMPL assisted with finding a specific Chilton Auto Manual for a patron to put on hold. He arrived about 30 minutes later to pick up the manual. "He said he needed the manual as he had purchased an old pickup for his sister in Mississippi and wanted to make sure it was in good running shape before he drove it out to her. I happened to notice he checked out the book with a brand new Library card - People have all kinds of reasons to use our services."
- Anthony V. [Bennett Martin] said, "I had a memorable experience with a patron. It was one of those situations where you can see the fruits of people's labor. A patron who recently got a steady job and was able to secure an apartment asked me to help her scan documents. We needed to send financial docs and work records to the right people to make sure she moves in on time. We were working on a tight deadline. We had about 30 min to email requested documents. So, I hopped on the computer and started scanning about 10-12 documents. We then uploaded it to a secure link and sent it off. She was so appreciative because it secured her spot for the apartment. She expressed her gratitude towards the library staff, and I told her it was our pleasure. We are always here to help especially if it's helping people get back on their feet."

### **Collaboration**

- LCL collaborated with the Lancaster County Election Commission. Several libraries hosted voter registration drives during the month of February. At NESU, a drive took place at Anderson Branch Library, February 28, 4-7 PM.
- Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) partnered with Wachiska for their Bird Encounter at Gere on the 17<sup>th</sup>. There were over 500 attending with stations that included binoculars for bird watching; sounds station with bird calls; making bird feeders; banding birds; and lots of other activities. Staff made at least 20-30 new library cards that day!

### **Programming**

- Mindful Movements Storytime at Walt this month focused on what it means to be a friend for International Friendship Month. Meagan M. also led a discussion of what it means to be kind and different acts of kindness the children could do for Random Acts of Kindness Day.
- Selena S. at Eiseley held a wine glass painting program at Williams Branch. This program is one of our ongoing efforts to provide adult programming for the Air Park neighborhood.
- This month, Polley Music Library had an event with Andrew Borakove from Lincoln's unique company Gongs Unlimited. He and some of his staff brought in a wide variety of gongs from around the world to demonstrate the differences in sounds that they can produce, as well as some singing bowls. They had the audience gather in the middle area between the instruments to experience a short "sound healing," one of the common uses for collections of gongs and bowls today, and Borakove discussed additional uses for them, including musical, meditative, and ritualistic applications, from ancient traditions to modern-day innovations.

### **Outreach**

- At Eiseley Branch Kate K. and Catherine S. staffed a booth at Arnold Elementary's Math and Science Family Night. It was a little different this year, as in the past Williams Branch was located in Arnold and allowed for a great staging area. Even with that change, library staff had 95 visitors to their booth. It was a great opportunity to promote Williams' new location. Also, Susan S. hosted a family school night for Clinton Elementary. Numerous staff were involved in making the program a success. One hundred patrons participated this year.

### **Early Childhood**

- At Gere, Cally O. shared: "We had a very impressive number of attendees at storytimes this month. Over 39 sessions we had 1545 patrons attend a Baby Time, Toddler Time, Music and Movement, Preschool or Sensory Storytime. As best she could tell, this an all-time high attendance record for storytimes in one month."

### **Technology**

- Diane V. at Gere shared this interaction: "A customer came into South branch asking if we had faxing services. After hearing it was a dollar a page she looked a little concerned and said she had twenty pages. I asked if scanning and emailing the information was acceptable, she made a quick phone call and was told she could. She got set up on the computer and after a quick tutorial in scanning was able to send off her document. She was very grateful to have saved \$20."
- Amanda T. at Gere shared: "I had a homeschool mom and her son schedule an appointment to get Transparent Language working on a Chrome Book. The app was not very easy to use on the Chrome Book, so I just had them go through the web version. This worked really well and she

said our session was really helpful! They want to learn Spanish for an upcoming trip to Puerto Rico.”

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

### **All Students**

- Upon leaving Bethany Branch, a patron who had been working quietly on her laptop or at least half the day, told staff she really appreciated the library and was happy to give us her tax dollars, because we are the only place she can actually get any work done. At home, she said, she gets too distracted, "I start to do my work and then I think to myself, 'oh, there's some more laundry to do, etc. The library is the only place I can actually focus, and I'm so grateful for you, or else I would never get anything done!'"
- Karrie S. at Anderson Branch reported, “We held an after-hours event on Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> for Huntington Elementary School. One-hundred and twenty-eight people attended and enjoyed all of our normal School Night activities: pizza, scavenger hunt, crafts, free books to take home and a door prize drawing.”

### **Local History**

- Virtual Services added the videos from last summer's “Lincoln Cinema History” and “Starkweather After 65 Years” programs to LCL's YouTube channel. In addition to local history programs, the channel has a big collection of Ames Reading Series lectures and NLHA Lunch at the Library author talks.
- At BMPL, Kim J. relayed this regarding Reference by Mail requests for February: “The most interesting one came from a Librarian from California who was researching his grandfather, J. Harris “Jake” Gable, former Director of the Nebraska Writers Project in the 1930s. He had worked closely with Rudolph Umland and Weldon Kees (among others) so his name was mentioned on Heritage Room pages through our Library Website. Both Amber S. in the Heritage Room and I answered his questions, but also made it clear that he might want to make a road trip to Nebraska to do more research in the Rudolph Umland collection here at Bennett Martin.”

### **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.

### **Maker**

- Anthony V. said, “This past month we have had a good amount of requests for 3D printing. I really like how practical some of these projects are. We have requests to make toy car mounts, tool holders, ornaments, brackets. We had projects to make dice, barrels, game board pieces, soda can holders and much more.”

### **Services to our Aging Population**

- Jackie S. [BMPL] said, “One of our Home patrons is loving using Hoopla and Libby for audiobooks. Her and her husband called about having trouble getting Hoopla to play on her Roku TV. They had already restarted all their devices, so I suggested deleting the app and then putting it back on the TV. While they were doing this, I stayed on the phone with them and they talked about how much they love being able to access ebooks and audio books, especially since they have a hard time getting places. The deleting/reinstalling the app on the TV worked, and they were able to get to using Hoopla again.”

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- The library is getting lots of questions from customers about taxes this month – no surprise, whether it's finding a particular form or wanting to make appointments for tax assistance. Chad S. at Gere shared: "This is my first year here during tax season and I am really proud of how smoothly the process between the library and the AARP works. This is clearly a very important program for a lot of people. And the fact that we can help facilitate it beyond simply offering our meeting rooms is pretty cool."

Ryan Wieber, Library Director  
March 14, 2024

**Lincoln City Libraries  
February 2024 Use Report**

Location	Loans	Visits	Computer Reservations	Program & Outreach Attendance	February 2024	February 2023	CHANGE
					Total Use	Total Use	
Bennett Martin Public Library	13,754	10,524	1,900	1,120	<b>27,298</b>	<b>25,880</b>	5.48%
Anderson Branch	10,404	5,373	766	526	<b>17,069</b>	<b>15,417</b>	10.72%
Bethany Branch	7,089	3,084	307	244	<b>10,724</b>	<b>11,067</b>	-3.10%
Eiseley Branch	21,999	10,275	1,479	1,030	<b>34,783</b>	<b>33,621</b>	3.46%
Gere Branch	55,920	19,987	1,271	2,428	<b>79,606</b>	<b>78,646</b>	1.22%
South Branch	8,539	3,475	494	182	<b>12,690</b>	<b>12,761</b>	-0.56%
Walt Branch	39,678	13,328	1,217	1,442	<b>55,665</b>	<b>52,743</b>	5.54%
Williams Branch	954	1,013	166	305	<b>2,438</b>	<b>1,486</b>	64.06%
Lied Bookmobile	1,462	357	0	44	<b>1,863</b>	<b>1,966</b>	-5.24%
InterLibrary Loan	202	0	0	0	<b>202</b>	<b>218</b>	-7.34%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>160,001</b>	<b>67,416</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>7,321</b>	<b>242,338</b>	<b>233,805</b>	3.65%
DownloadStream Audio	41,894	0	0	0	<b>41,894</b>	<b>34,978</b>	19.77%
Download/Stream eBooks	30,486	0	0	0	<b>30,486</b>	<b>28,288</b>	7.77%
Stream Video	889	0	0	0	<b>889</b>	<b>925</b>	-3.89%
<b>Download SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>73,269</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73,269</b>	<b>64,191</b>	14.14%
<b>TOTAL CIRCULATION</b>	<b>233,270</b>	<b>67,416</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>7,321</b>	<b>315,607</b>	<b>297,996</b>	5.91%

Visits at Anderson Branch low due to counter not working from 6 pm 2/22/23 thru 3 pm 2/27/23

**BMPL Closed 2/14 - 2/16/24 for carpet installation**

<b>WiFi Sessions</b>	121,838	94,945	28.32%
<b>WiFi Users</b>	9,401	8,800	6.83%
<b>Website Users</b>	104,545	59,234	76.49%
<b>Website Sessions</b>	143,041	113,509	26.02%
<b>Database Use</b>	8,858	11,367	-22.07%

Holdings Report	PRINT		NON PRINT		Total	REGISTRATIONS	2024	2023	Change
	Adult	Youth	Adult	Youth		Purged			
<b>Owned</b>	357,162	312,874	79,053	33,018	782,107	Purged	688	720	-4.44%
<b>Added</b>	1,777	1,872	231	28	3,908	Active			
<b>Withdrawn</b>	98	1	1	-1	99	Resident	147,558	146,587	0.66%
<b>Current</b>	359,037	314,747	79,285	33,045	786,114	ConnectED	47,862	42,447	12.76%
						County	9,044	9,143	-1.08%
						NonResident	934	942	-0.85%
						Reciprocal	483	482	0.21%
						Limited Use	9,551	8,515	12.17%
						<b>Total Active</b>	<b>215,432</b>	<b>208,116</b>	<b>3.52%</b>

Prepared by: Tina Queen

**February 2024 Use Compared to February 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	11,092	9,794	13.25%	2,662	2,524	5.47%	13,754	12,318	11.66%
Anderson	8,484	8,806	-3.66%	1,920	1,976	-2.83%	10,404	10,782	-3.51%
Bethany	6,312	6,683	-5.55%	777	1,126	-30.99%	7,089	7,809	-9.22%
Eiseley	19,185	20,107	-4.59%	2,814	2,961	-4.96%	21,999	23,068	-4.63%
Gere	48,864	51,854	-5.77%	7,056	6,904	2.20%	55,920	58,758	-4.83%
South	7,499	7,548	-0.65%	1,040	1,449	-28.23%	8,539	8,997	-5.09%
Walt	34,760	34,333	1.24%	4,918	4,642	5.95%	39,678	38,975	1.80%
Williams	781	545	43.30%	173	141	22.70%	954	686	39.07%
Lied Bookmobile	1,326	1,262	5.07%	136	211	-35.55%	1,462	1,473	-0.75%
InterLibrary Loan	202	218	-7.34%	0	0	0.00%	202	218	-7.34%
<b>Subtotal Checkouts</b>	<b>138,505</b>	<b>141,150</b>	<b>-1.87%</b>	<b>21,496</b>	<b>21,934</b>	<b>-2.00%</b>	<b>160,001</b>	<b>163,084</b>	<b>-1.89%</b>
Download/Stream Audio	0	0	0.00%	41,894	34,978	19.77%	41,894	34,978	19.77%
Download/Stream eBook	0	0	0.00%	30,486	28,288	7.77%	30,486	28,288	7.77%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	889	925	-3.89%	889	925	-3.89%
<b>TOTAL CHECKOUTS</b>	<b>138,505</b>	<b>141,150</b>	<b>-1.87%</b>	<b>94,765</b>	<b>86,125</b>	<b>10.03%</b>	<b>233,270</b>	<b>227,275</b>	<b>2.64%</b>

Location	Youth Checkouts		Youth Loan	Adult Checkouts		Adult Loan	Visits	Visits	Visits
	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change	2024	2023	Change
BMPL	5,105	4,381	16.53%	8,649	7,937	8.97%	10,524	10,331	1.87%
Anderson	5,070	5,604	-9.53%	5,334	5,178	3.01%	5,373	3,830	40.29%
Bethany	4,173	4,577	-8.83%	2,916	3,232	-9.78%	3,084	2,794	10.38%
Eiseley	14,381	15,434	-6.82%	7,618	7,634	-0.21%	10,275	8,486	21.08%
Gere	32,067	33,354	-3.86%	23,853	25,404	-6.11%	19,987	17,602	13.55%
South	4,861	5,070	-4.12%	3,678	3,927	-6.34%	3,475	3,149	10.35%
Walt	27,377	26,930	1.66%	12,301	12,045	2.13%	13,328	11,352	17.41%
Williams	723	509	42.04%	231	177	30.51%	1,013	613	65.25%
Lied Bookmobile	924	897	3.01%	538	576	-6.60%	357	410	-12.93%
InterLibrary Loan	0	0	0.00%	202	218	-7.34%	0	0	0.00%
<b>Subtotal Checkouts</b>	<b>94,681</b>	<b>96,756</b>	<b>-2.14%</b>	<b>65,320</b>	<b>66,328</b>	<b>-1.52%</b>	<b>67,416</b>	<b>58,567</b>	<b>15.11%</b>
Download/Stream Audio	5,809	4,826	20.37%	36,085	30,152	19.68%	0	0	0.00%
Download/Stream eBook	5,098	4,191	21.64%	25,388	24,097	5.36%	0	0	0.00%
Stream Video	0	0	0.00%	889	925	-3.89%	0	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL CHECKOUTS</b>	<b>105,588</b>	<b>105,773</b>	<b>-0.17%</b>	<b>127,682</b>	<b>121,502</b>	<b>5.09%</b>	<b>67,416</b>	<b>58,567</b>	<b>15.11%</b>

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	981	928	5.71%	139	177	-21.47%	1,900	2,126	-10.63%
Anderson	526	235	123.83%	0	0	0.00%	766	570	34.39%
Bethany	201	197	2.03%	43	35	22.86%	307	232	32.33%
Eiseley	1,020	957	6.58%	10	38	-73.68%	1,479	1,072	37.97%
Gere	2,212	1,044	111.88%	216	24	800.00%	1,271	1,218	4.35%
South	181	185	-2.16%	1	4	-75.00%	494	426	15.96%
Walt	1,271	1,282	-0.86%	171	38	350.00%	1,217	1,096	11.04%
Williams	296	145	104.14%	9	0	0.00%	166	42	295.24%
Lied Bookmobile	0	0	0.00%	44	83	-46.99%	0	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,688</b>	<b>4,973</b>	<b>34.49%</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>58.65%</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>6,782</b>	<b>12.06%</b>

**Lincoln City Libraries  
February 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	82,055	77,398	6.02%	62,339	62,397	-0.09%	13,076	14,239	-8.17%	4,646	4,494	3.38%	162,116	158,528	2.26%
Anderson Branch	67,113	66,794	0.48%	30,931	28,157	9.85%	4,332	4,075	6.31%	4,285	4,130	3.75%	106,661	103,156	3.40%
Bethany Branch	43,503	48,719	-10.71%	16,987	17,198	-1.23%	1,441	1,397	3.15%	1,470	1,616	-9.03%	63,401	68,930	-8.02%
Eiseley Branch	133,176	139,002	-4.19%	52,844	48,973	7.90%	7,281	6,404	13.69%	8,578	9,253	-7.29%	201,879	203,632	-0.86%
Gere Branch	339,811	363,792	-6.59%	107,171	101,768	5.31%	6,045	7,395	-18.26%	7,836	7,228	8.41%	460,863	480,183	-4.02%
South Branch	54,391	54,673	-0.52%	20,364	19,407	4.93%	2,615	2,618	-0.11%	1,100	1,237	-11.08%	78,470	77,935	0.69%
Walt Branch	231,738	233,131	-0.60%	71,408	67,267	6.16%	5,830	5,763	1.16%	5,969	5,567	7.22%	314,945	311,728	1.03%
Williams Branch	5,794	4,482	29.27%	11,342	3,812	197.53%	672	280	140.00%	560	524	6.87%	18,368	9,098	101.89%
Lied Bookmobile	8,432	10,385	-18.81%	1,658	2,375	-30.19%	0	0	0.00%	836	1,775	-52.90%	10,926	14,535	-24.83%
InterLibrary Loan	1,029	1,176	-12.50%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1,029	1,176	-12.50%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>967,042</b>	<b>999,552</b>	<b>-3.25%</b>	<b>375,044</b>	<b>351,354</b>	<b>6.74%</b>	<b>41,292</b>	<b>42,171</b>	<b>-2.08%</b>	<b>35,280</b>	<b>35,824</b>	<b>-1.52%</b>	<b>1,418,658</b>	<b>1,428,901</b>	<b>-0.72%</b>
DownloadStream Audio	248,068	209,736	18.28%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	248,068	209,736	18.28%
Download/Stream eBooks	188,272	166,674	12.96%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	188,272	166,674	12.96%
Stream Video	5,251	5,169	1.59%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	5,251	5,169	1.59%
<b>Download SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>441,591</b>	<b>381,579</b>	<b>15.73%</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>441,591</b>	<b>381,579</b>	<b>15.73%</b>
<b>TOTAL LOANS</b>	<b>1,408,633</b>	<b>1,381,131</b>	<b>1.99%</b>	<b>375,044</b>	<b>351,354</b>	<b>6.74%</b>	<b>41,292</b>	<b>42,171</b>	<b>-2.08%</b>	<b>35,280</b>	<b>35,824</b>	<b>-1.52%</b>	<b>1,860,249</b>	<b>1,810,480</b>	<b>2.75%</b>

	FY 23-24 YTD	FY 22-23 YTD	YTD Change
Online Registrations	607	0	0.00%
Overall Registrations	5713	5372	6.35%

WiFi Sessions	711,674	605,197	17.59%
WiFi Users	56,359	56,975	-1.08%
Website Users	481,529	360,293	33.65%
Website Sessions	644,453	707,986	-8.97%
Database Use	48,987	75,991	-35.54%