

**Lexington Public Library
Report to Lexington City Council
January 23, 2024**

LIBRARY FINANCE

The Library’s operating budget for FY 2023 was \$554,893. We received \$1,555 in State Aid and a \$500 Continuing Education grant from the Nebraska Library Commission. Other grants included: a NLC Youth Grant for \$832, a Dollar General Literacy grant for \$2000, a NE State Historical Society Foundation grant for \$2000, and an American Library Association grant for \$2000. The Lexington Community Foundation granted \$2,444 through the Library Initiative Grant and we received \$958 in Lender Compensation through the NE Library Commission. Total operating expenditures equaled \$519,262; capital expenditures amounted to \$49,079.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Library is always trying to be more to more people. Expanding services and programs is important if we are to reach more of our community. The purchase of indoor/outdoor games with the youth grant funds bolstered the existing Family Night programs, while allowing the Library to appeal to tweens and teens with engaging activities. Offering a book club just for middle schoolers and providing the current Golden Sower nominated titles to them keeps that hard-to reach age group engaged. The Dollar General grant allowed for those purchases. By digitizing the existing microfilm of the Lexington newspapers from 1864 through 1999 with funds from the NE Historical Society Foundation, more people have access to the important historical record on the internet. And we are reaching the early educator community by offering a place for providers to meet, gain education and licensing credentials, and have access to resources for free or at a reduced cost thanks to the community engagement grant from the ALA. And the Library Initiative Grant allowed the library to offer programs for all ages ranging from a street dance to a performance of SpongeBob SquarePants by Crane River Theater and magician Keith West, as well as Humanities Nebraska speakers who brought music from the Andes and from around the world right to our community.

Patronage in FY 2023 increased by nearly 2300 visits to 28,661 in 2023 from 26,407 in 2022. Circulation of materials also increased to 35,489, and usage of electronic materials increased significantly from 5,832 in 2022 to 8,003 in 2023. The number of programs offer in 2023 also increased by 31 up to 365 with program attendance of 6800 people.

Library Collections

YEAR	BOOKS	AUDIO	VIDEO	PERIODICALS	DOWNLOADABLE	OTHER	TOTAL
2022	40,007	3,533	2,100	48	59,331	650	105,669
2023	41,694	3,522	2,147	34	69,790	652	117,839
DIFFERENCE	+1687	-11	+47	-14	+10,459*	+2	+12,170

- The purchase of Blackstone Unlimited increased the digital audiobooks by 6,783 alone.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

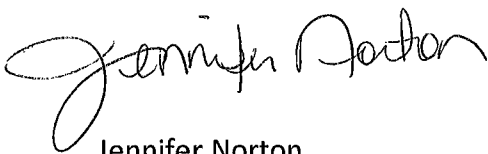
Since my time in Lexington began, I have heard people comment, "You do THAT at the Library?" Yes, we do. Indoor snowball fights, street dances, bouncy houses, music, LEGOS, a telescope, and a small but growing makerspace with a heat press, button maker, die cut machines and a CricutJoy. The Library strives to be a place for everyone—a place to belong, connect, explore, learn, and grow. It's YOUR Lexington Public Library.

"A LIBRARY IN THE MIDDLE OF A
COMMUNITY IS A CROSS BETWEEN
AN EMERGENCY EXIT, A LIFE RAFT,
AND A FESTIVAL. THEY ARE
CATHEDRALS OF THE MIND;
HOSPITALS OF THE SOUL; THEME
PARKS OF THE IMAGINATION."

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Thank you for your continued support; it is truly appreciated by the Library staff and the community. The Library strives to be a place for everyone—a place to belong, connect, explore, learn, and grow. It's YOUR Lexington Public Library. Come visit.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Norton
Library Director