

**Lexington Public Library
Report to the Lexington City Council
January 16, 2025**

LIBRARY FINANCE

The library’s operating budget for FY 2024 was \$546,221. The library received \$1,555 in State Aid and a \$3,937 LSTA grant to complete the digitization of the local newspapers. We also received \$527 in lender compensation. The Lexington Community Foundation granted the library \$8,286 through the Library Initiative Grant and we received \$1495 from the Nebraska Arts Council through the Creative Aging Arts Program grant. Total operating expenditures amounted to \$542,660; capital expenditures equaled \$48,338.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Lexington Public Library continues to strive to offer programs and services for the entire community. From monthly Family Fun Nights during the school year, to art classes for older adults, 2024 was no exception to that mission. Events like the annual Summer Safety Workshop & Bike Rodeo in May, the End-of-Summer Celebration in August to the Family Fall Fun Festival in October, the library is a place for family engagement and a lot of fun and learning. Digitizing the remaining microfilm held at the library was another accomplishment of 2024. Now the entirety of the microfilm can be found online in a searchable database all for free. The Creative Aging Arts Program brought a professional artist to the library to offer classes for older adults in May and June. Participants learned and created the ‘Art of the Mandala’ . The program culminated with an open house and art show featuring their work. Other programs offered by the library were made possible through the Library Initiative Grant and the Lexington Community Foundation. Summer programs like magician Adam White and Crane River Theater Page to Stage production held at the Lexington Middle School auditorium were made possible with the grant from LCF. Additionally, author visits by Lisa Fipps, Carlos R. Servan, Tammy Marshall, and JoAnn Bjorkman, storyteller Joe Hayes with the Kearney Area Storytelling Festival and a speaker series of Humanities Nebraska speakers, as well as funds for craft supplies for children’s and tween programming were all made possible with the Library Initiative Grant.

Patronage in FY 2024 increased by 3,73 visits to 32,391 visits. Circulation of all formats of materials decreased slightly to 30,072 items while electronic circulation increased again by 3,156 items to 11,159 electronic circulations. Despite holding fewer actual programs in FY 2024 (349 from 365) attendance increased to 7,399 people from the previous year’s 6,800 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
2024	43,171	3,520	2,192	32	71,173 (OD) + 6,986 (BSU)	655	127,729
2024-2023	+1477	-2	+45	-2	+8,369	+3	+9,890

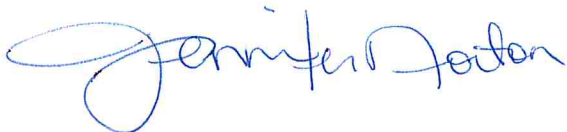
LOOKING FORWARD

2025 will mark the second year of the One Book, One Lexington program. A committee of readers read a shortlist of titles and decided on *My Antonia* by Willa Cather as the 2025 One Book. The National Willa Cather Center in Red Cloud has multiple travelling exhibits that are slated to come to Lexington in the coming year. Also, speakers from the Center will be giving presentations about Cather and her seminal work in the coming months. The library was notified before Christmas of the award of an internship grant from the Nebraska Library Commission. The grant will allow us to hire two high school or college students for the summer. I will be submitting a grant proposal to the National Endowment of the Arts Big Read program by the end of January. If awarded, \$10,000 will be used to purchase books, host discussions, speakers, and writing workshops along with the implementation of a community art project which will focus on Lexington...A Better Life. I am also working on another CAAP grant with the Nebraska Arts Council.

Part of what makes Lexington...A Better Life is its library. A community hub, the library continues to find new and innovative ways to engage the community. It is truly a place for everyone. If you haven't been to the library in a while, come visit. Join in an indoor snowball fight at our next Family Fun Night on January 16, stop by to peruse new books or come enjoy a comfortable chair and a newspaper. Whatever you're looking for, you just might find it at YOUR Lexington Public Library- A place to connect, explore, learn, and grow.

Finally, a big THANK YOU for the support of the past year. The library is a valued asset in Lexington and your continued financial and moral support are evidence of that. Come be a part of all the library is and does as we forge ahead into 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Norton
Library Director