

Holdrege Area Public Library Annual Report 2006-2007

Why Does the Library Matter?

Literacy

An Associated Press article dated March 19, 2007 reports that one-fifth of American adults are functionally illiterate. Adults are considered functionally illiterate if they have trouble doing such things as comprehending bus schedules, reading maps and filling out job applications. Studies show that children who are read to and who grow up in a book-rich environment do better in school than those who do not have this advantage. The library offers storytimes, summer reading programs for children and teens, and a strong collection of children's books which are in high demand. Additionally, the public library is open after school hours, providing resources for school-related homework and projects. The library also offers free public access to the Internet, and teaches people to use this tool to broaden their opportunities. Support for local public libraries is support for literacy.

Lifelong learning

The accelerating pace of technological change and its impact on the workplace means that successful adults will be those who are able to accept the challenge of learning complex new information throughout life. Assuming it is a national priority to remain competitive in a global market, it is no longer enough to plan to graduate from high school or even college and be gainfully employed. Many, if not most people can expect to have several different careers during their working life, including part-time employment or volunteerism during retirement. The public library is a critical resource to help people weather transitions in their lives, and is key to the goal of lifelong learning.

Quality of life

As a community, we are judged by people deciding to make their homes here on the basis of our schools, health care facilities, housing, job opportunities and perceptions of quality of life, including expectations for safe neighborhoods, shopping, and churches. The figures below indicate that 85% of the people in this community hold library cards, and our circulation figures continue to increase year over year. This suggests that the library is a vital part of the lives of our residents, and deserves the financial support of local government.

The Year in Review

Collection

- Converted DVD display and storage system to accommodate more capacity. Cost was about \$2500. The HAPL Friends group contributed \$1500 towards this project.
- Weeded 7978 titles, earning a \$2,787 credit towards purchase of cataloging records. Average age of collection is now 1995 versus 1986 a year ago.
- Spent 15% of operating budget on new materials
- Added 3 databases, ReferenceUSA, Encyclopedia Britannica and Chilton's Automotive database

Technology

- Acquired and installed replacement application server and changed our Internet service provider, resulting in 50% reduction in monthly costs. Additionally, the new ISP offers E-Rate credits, which will further reduce our costs by another 60% to only about \$41 per month in future years compared to our old rate of \$219 per month.
- Acquired 7 replacement public access workstations and replaced application server, including hardware, software, ISP, domain host, antivirus software and filtering software. The remaining 5 workstations will be purchased out of FEMA/NEMA/NLC reimbursements
- Installed and implemented a time management system for public access computers. This product saves many hours a week in staff time. It also allowed us to reassign primary responsibility for answering the phone to a back office staff person, allowing front desk staff to focus on patron service.

Facility

- Incurred \$3176 in ice-storm related costs. The Nebraska Library Commission has offered to reimburse those costs which are not reimbursed through FEMA/NEMA.
- Incurred \$1100 to \$1500 in unexpected elevator repairs.

Grants

- Applied for and received \$600 in continuing education grants to attend Nebraska Library Association conference Fall 2006.

Public Relations and Outreach

- Completed design and implementation of new logo.
- Solicited support from community organizations to help offset subscription cost of Reference USA.
- Began monthly movie afternoons for youth, using the digital projector in the community room. Attendance ranges from 25-45 kids at each event. Popcorn is provided by First National Bank and TierOne Bank.
- Continued to offer storytimes both in the library, and on-site at area preschools.

Friends of the Holdrege Area Public Library

- Started Friends newsletter, with distribution to community leaders as well as Friends members.
- HAPL Friends group contributed a microwave for the staff break room and a wall-mounted television with built-in DVD capability to show Reading Rainbow segments near Sam the Dragon.
- Elected Linda Birtell President of Friends group

Facts and Figures

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
City Population	5521	5521	5521
County Population	9630	9630	9630
Registered Borrowers	unknown	8220	8330
Items Held	59468	60894	56037
Items Added	3493	4033	3121
Items Withdrawn	2067	4337	7978
Circulation			
Adult Print	37140	41128	41201
Young Adult Print	1822	3465	4364
Children's Print	30636	29537	25974
Adult Audiobooks	4632	4964	5172
Adult Video/DVD	25548	29820	34776
Children's Audiocassettes	1176	1347	1013
Children's Video/DVD	10834	7349	9585
Other	6560	4124	8847
Total Circulation	118348	128294	130932
Internet Sessions	8075	8545	8919
Library Visits	57677	60283	55806
Programs	203	214	201
Reference Transactions	1664	2028	2184

New for 2007-2008

Financial

- Request 3% increases from County and City
- Proposed budget assumes 5% increase in health insurance
- Remaining 5 workstations will be purchased with FEMA/NEMA/NLC reimbursements for ice storm costs

Projects

- The Board of Trustees is undertaking a Feasibility Study through Clark Enerson Architects to determine the long term viability of the library facility, and get recommendations on how to best use the space in the existing footprint. Community and funder input will be sought.