



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Springfield's Public Library







# A letter from the Director

November 26, 2024

I began my library career many years ago at Lincoln Library, Springfield's Public Library, and was thrilled to return as its Director in October of 2023. I have continually reaped the benefits of well-laid planning and community positioning since I took the helm. This library is a remarkable public anchor, and because of the thoughtful planning and the library professional team, we continue to provide amazing services and programs.

Expect more as we move into the next year. We are gearing up for the bookmobile, the mobile branch of Lincoln Library. A new Teen Services librarian has been hired to connect with and ignite our teen's passions and dreams. "The CoLab", the library's makerspace is the place to be for your creative genius to soar. The library team continues to diligently plan programs and services that respond to community needs and aspirations.

Lincoln Library will hone valuable partnerships with educational and business connections, which serve to enrich the day-to-day lives of our community members. The library is serious about its mission to empower, connect and inspire.

Here's to another fantastic year!

Warmly yours,

*Gwen*

Ms. Gwen Harrison  
Director,  
Lincoln Library



## 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

# Circulation

We welcomed 6,826 new and returning cardholders.

348,713 physical items were checked out.

Patrons searched our databases 433,743 times.

141,614 streaming/digital items were checked out.

## Since 2022...

Circulation of  
physical items  
has increased  
0.03%

Database  
searches  
increased by 2%

Digital and  
streaming  
checkouts  
increased by 12%

Circulation of  
Library of Things  
collection items  
increased by  
153%

New and returning cardholders increased by 4%

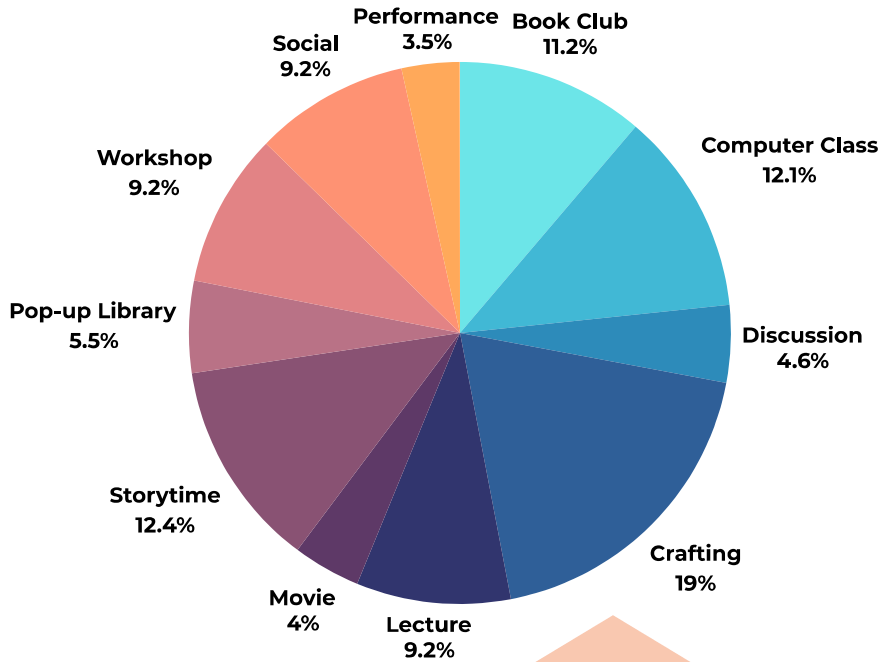


# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

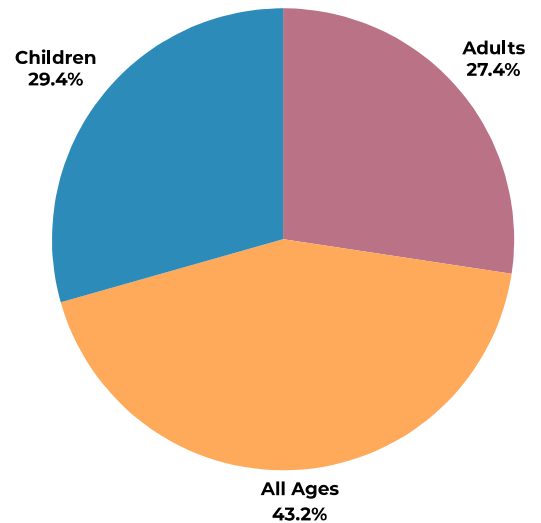
## Programming

We hosted 361 programs and welcomed 8,691 program attendees.

### Programs by Topic



### Programs by Age Group



**There was a 72% increase in the number of programs hosted**

**The library welcomed a 109% increase in program attendees**





## 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

# Community

Lincoln Library welcomed 174,099 patrons into our building.

Patrons logged 22,873 sessions on our public computers.

Community groups held 572 meetings in the library's public meeting rooms.

We gave more than 19,000 District 186 students and teachers access to eCards.

**Patron visits to the library increased by 7%**

**Public computer use increased by 28%**

**Community use of library meeting room space increased by 64%**

**District 186 teacher and student access to eCards increased by 27%**



# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

## Outreach

In 2023, Lincoln Library introduced our new Outreach Department. This department will staff Lincoln Library's new bookmobile when it arrives in 2025.

Held 3 library card drives

Participated in 32 community events

Hosted 58 pop-up libraries



The Lincoln Library Outreach Department reached a total of 3,250 individuals at off-site events.





# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

## Youth Services



**1,839 children and their caregivers attended the 46 Summer Reading Program events**



**550 Summer Reading Program participants read 2,300 books**

**994 children participated in Lincoln Library Storytimes**

**Staff visits to nearly every local elementary school reached 1,800 students**



# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

## SVC

2023 was an exciting and productive year for Lincoln Library's Sangamon Valley Collection.



### Acquisitions and Resources

- Became a FamilySearch affiliate library.
- Digitized the Illinois Times newspaper from 1975 - 2014.
- Acquired Lanphier High School's student newspapers from the 1940s - 2020s.

### Student Visits

The Sangamon Valley Collection offered research opportunities, programming, and more to students from multiple area schools.

## 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

### CoLab

Work on the CoLab began in spring of 2023 with acquisition of a 3D printer, sewing and embroidery machines, Cricuts and other creation materials. Classes began in the summer of 2023.



### Library of Things

There were 296 checkouts from the Library of Things collection in 2023, a 153% increase from 2022.

The most popular items were power washers, karaoke machines, and yard games.



### Graphic Novels

Due to the growing popularity of Graphic Novels, this collection was relocated to a larger and more visible space in the library. This resulted in a 30% increase in checkouts in 2023.







## **2023 Top Checkouts**

### **Fiction**

*Lessons in Chemistry*  
Bonnie Garmus

### **Nonfiction**

*I'm Glad My Mom Died*  
Jennette McCurdy

### **Young Adult Fiction**

*The Summer I Turned Pretty*  
Jenny Han

### **Juvenile Fiction**

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown*  
Jeff Kinney

### **Picture Book**

*Creepy Carrots*  
Aaron Reynolds

### **Movie**

*The Super Mario Bros. Movie*

### **Music**

*Curtain Call 2*  
Eminem

### **Libby**

*Fourth Wing*  
Rebecca Yarros

## **2023 Notable Programs**

Arts in the Park!

Black Authors Book Club

Civil Civics: Lecture Series

Craft Supply Exchange

Exploring Your Family Tree

International Fest

Juneteenth Showcase

Perspectives: Behind the Scenes at  
the Lincoln Tomb

Once Upon A Murder

Passport Application Program

Podcasting 101

The Job Macabre: Lecture Series

Thinking Differently About Death:  
Lecture Series

True Crime & Brew Time



“  
Thank you all so much for the Wednesday Night Yoga classes. I have attended them all so far and they are the highlight of my week.  
It's so nice to be able to take some time and do something for myself in a public space where I'm not being pressured to hurry or buy something.  
”

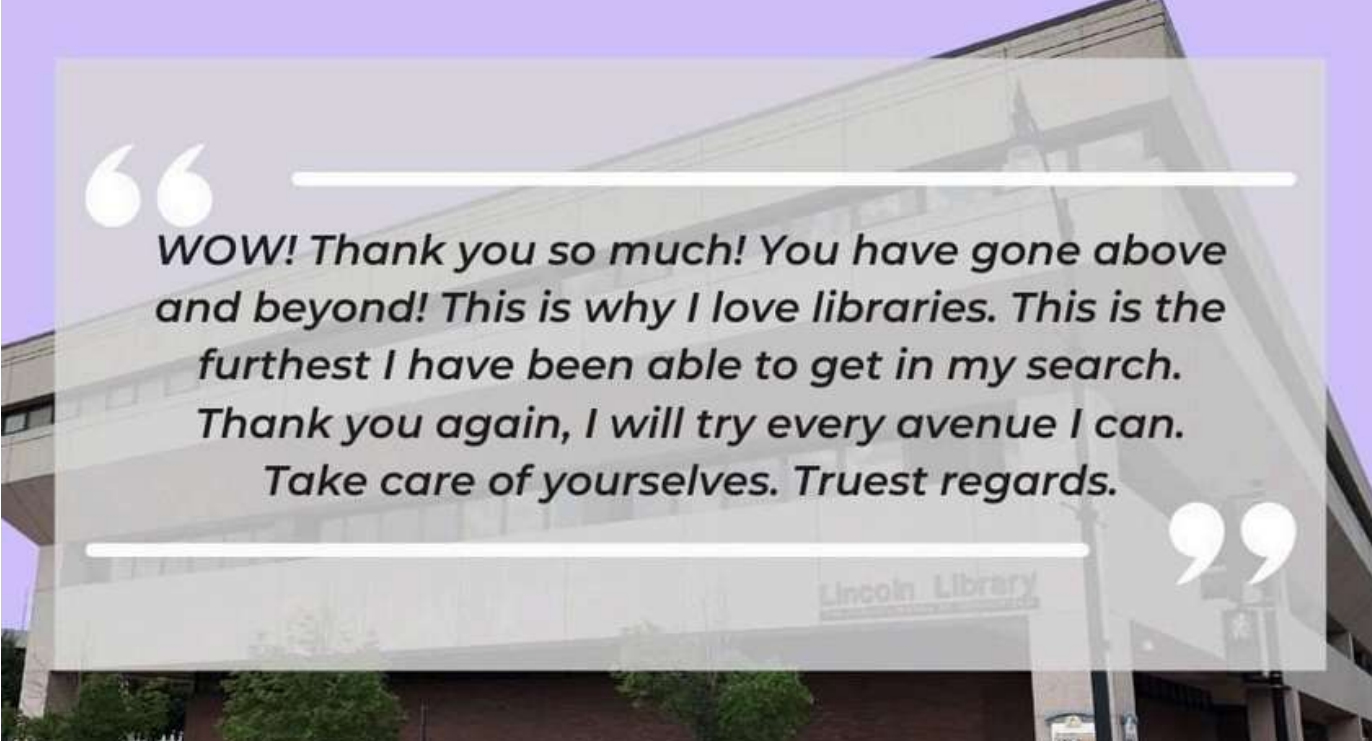


“  
Thank you so much for having D&D this afternoon.  
My daughter has been trying to learn it and she got to play and she had a great time.  
”

“  
Dreamfyre's D&D program is great! Very inclusive to players of all ages and backgrounds.  
”



DREAMFYRE  
Lincoln Library  
Springfield's Public Library



“  
WOW! Thank you so much! You have gone above and beyond! This is why I love libraries. This is the furthest I have been able to get in my search. Thank you again, I will try every avenue I can. Take care of yourselves. Truest regards.  
”

