



Keene Memorial Library

Annual Report

2014- 2015



Keene Memorial Library Governance

2013-2015 Board

Larry Jirsak, Library Board President
Lori Dahl
Connie Schmeichel
Jan Therien
Valeria Marquez

Library Director

Janet Davenport

Mayor

The Honorable Scott Getzschman

City Council

Larry Johnson, President
Kevin Eairleywine
Steven Landholm
Mark Legband
Jennifer Bixby
Michael Kuhns
Scott Schaller
John Anderson



Letter from the Director

Fiscal year 2014-15 saw a number of successes and challenges as we continued to work on initiatives started a few years earlier. Youth Services staff continued to expand their offerings of early literacy-based programming. Family and literacy-oriented programming continued with our partners from Fremont Family Coalition and Humanities Nebraska.

Library usage continued its slow shift from print to electronic formats. Overall use of library materials is showing a growth in electronic formats while traditional print declines slightly. E-books, downloadable audio books, e-magazines and downloadable music continue to be in demand.

Statistics for library visits show a welcome increase over last year's numbers (which were artificially lowered by a construction project). We added over 1,000 more users over last year's figures, and hosted more than 100 additional meetings.

Our "web branch" continues to receive visits as people discover the resources available on our website, online catalog and subscription databases.

With the goal of continued support for lifelong learning, we expanded our adult programming to include author visits and financial literacy classes. Our bimonthly newsletter provides key dates for interested readers and keeps them informed about upcoming events. Response to our Constant Contact emails has been positive, with visitors saying they heard about the event by email.



Circulation

Adult Circulation
76,142

Young Adult Circulation
10,974

Children's Circulation
47,247

Online Circulation

Downloaded Ebooks
7,149

Downloaded Audiobooks
3,419

Downloaded Music
1,680

Downloaded Magazines
359



Library “Honorable” Mentions

- Although the 2014-2015 year saw many changes, additions, and accomplishments in the library, the most significant accomplishment of the year was maintaining library services and function during a period of prolonged staff shortages and changes. Three full time staff members had prolonged medical leaves, all overlapping in December and January. An additional part time staffer was also out for health issues and unable to return. Staff members were flexible and covered extra service desk hours and kept up basic functions.

- Human Resources worked to make our “temporary” library aides “permanent” part time staff and increasing their wages to the reflect the state of Nebraska’s increase in minimum wage. In addition to the salary difference, these employees now earn prorated leave and holiday time.

- Funds from the Friends of the Library, A Trust allowed the library to install large screen television displays in the East Annex and the Library Board Room. The large screens allow customers and staff to provide digital presentations via webinars, training materials, and software directly from their laptop in these smaller meeting areas.

- The large spruce by the front entrance of the Library was decorated in white lights as result of an anonymous donation to The Friends of Keene Memorial Library and dedicated as the “White Light City Tree of Lights” by Mayor Scott Getzschman.

- We were one of two libraries the OverDrive Digital Bookmobile visited in Nebraska. The bookmobile is a semi-trailer filled with exhibits, demonstrations and resources to educate library customers on the world of ebooks and downloadable audio books. Two traveling ambassadors acted as guides and resources to customers visiting the bookmobile.



Adult Services Programs

Adult programming is an area we continued to improve upon. A new “Novel Ideas” book group was started in December with a discussion of “Fifty Shades of Grey” and met monthly to discuss current fiction. The book club was a different take on the current book club, discussing more recent fiction. Novel Ideas has been well received with the bookclub books being checked out.

Keene Memorial Library once again participated in the “One Book, One Nebraska” statewide reading program. The selected title, “Once Upon a Town” looked at the welcome provided by the community to service men on troop trains stopping in North Platte during World War II. A Nebraska Humanities presentation by Charlotte Endorf “Nebraska Spirit: The North Platte Canteen” and a showing of the “Canteen Spirit” DVD highlighted this activity.



Adult Services Programs

We had a variety of other programs here at the library. We looked at the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps through song and story by Bill Jamerson; enjoyed a visit from a local paranormal investigator team, TRIP Paranormal; author Joy Johnson once again brought laughs and entertainment; and guitarist Jerry Barlow never ceases to entertain and amaze us with his talent. We also hosted a showing of the film “Consider the Alternatives” focusing on education in Nebraska.



The Library also participated in the Nebraska Library Commission’s “Smart Investing@Your Library” consumer education project. Hosting a kickoff and a wrap up session, KML encouraged customer participation in an online learning course focused on one of three stages of life. This program was funded by a grant awarded by the American Library Association and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation to the Nebraska Library Commission and the Northeast Library System to provide financial literacy training at 22 libraries across Nebraska .

Planning for additional programming took place over the summer. September saw the start of new programming efforts including the re-introduction of computer classes after a few years without, as well as new ideas and ways to engage the community.



2015 Summer Reading Program

This year saw children of all ages encouraged to explore their musical side with our “READ to the Rhythm!” programs. Working in cooperation with City Parks and Recreation, the annual “Kick Off” party was held in the City Auditorium due to rain – with over 300 people still in attendance!

The Summer Reading Program is an important service offered by the library and helps children maintain their reading skills over summer break. In addition to encouraging reading for entertainment, the program offered classes for various age groups. Tweens explored the “Science of Sound” while their younger siblings learned about different musical instruments with “Reading is Instrumental.” The library’s youngest patrons made a lot of noise with the “Wee Rhythm Makers” class.

Our Monday performers’ series was well-received with participation from six different acts and a visit from some big trucks in the library parking lot, courtesy of the Fremont Police Department and Fremont Fire Department. Perennial favorites Jeff Quinn and Joe Cole were back to entertain and amuse with amazing feats of magic; Mrs. Science reminded the kids that girls can like science too – which goes along with many of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) goals of the Fremont Public Schools. Puppeteer Brian Henning and mime/magician Fax Gilbert delighted the crowds with their interactive shows. The kids were once again challenged to read 2,000 books before Wildlife Encounters came with their menagerie – Youth Librarians Jessica Hill and Laura England-Biggs held Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches as promised.

The Stuffed Animal Sleepover provided a pizza party for the youth volunteers who make our Summer Reading Program possible, in addition to being a fun event for the kids and animals who participated. Each year, the children bring a stuffed animal friend to the library and create a photo album; they leave for the night and the animals get busy with games, books and other entertainment. The next morning, the children return to find out what their friends got up to the previous night.



2015 Summer Reading Program

Program Participants
3,899

Readers
252 including adults

Books, pages, or minutes logged
154,553



Youth Services

Early literacy is at the heart of any public library, as helping children get ready to read is a natural fit with our mission to create lifelong learners. The library created a new program, Ready for Kindergarten Library School, to teach children their letters, numbers, colors and shapes in order to prepare them for the first year of school. It has been a success with at least 15 at each session.

We combined our Baby Play and Toddler Play into one program (Baby & Toddler Time) to simplify attendance for moms with multiple children – which had the effect of lowering some of our statistics (number of sessions went down). The net result is steadier numbers for the program, which balances out the decrease. Traditional storytimes continue to be offered four times per week, with evening and Saturdays being popular with children of all ages. Families appreciate the opportunity for children to participate in this program that caters to those parents working 9-5.

As children start the life transitions they face in middle school and high school, the library finds drawing interest and providing programming to this group to be an ongoing challenge. It is an area we hope to develop as currently engaged fifth- and sixth-graders enter middle school. Existing programs draw a small but dedicated group of individuals to the library.

TEEN GAMES: The library has offered an array of electronic and traditional board games for our weekly Teen Gaming over the years. This group of teens has a distinct preference for the board games because they are more inclusive than the high-tech options.

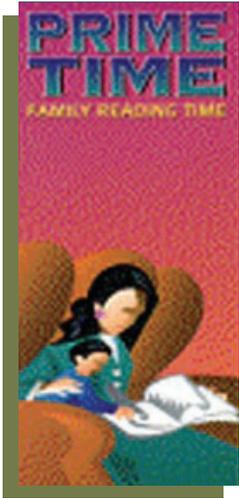
SRP VOLUNTEERS: The summer months provide us with a group of teens whose help with Summer Reading Program is most appreciated by the Youth Services staff. The teens assist with registration and logging in addition to supporting the weekly programs.



Compliance with Children's Internet Protection Act requirements

Keene Memorial Library continues to manage its computers in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act. Computers are designated by use and youth under the age of 17 must have parental permission to use computers with e-mail and social media access. Computers with child friendly software and internet access are available in the children's area of the library.





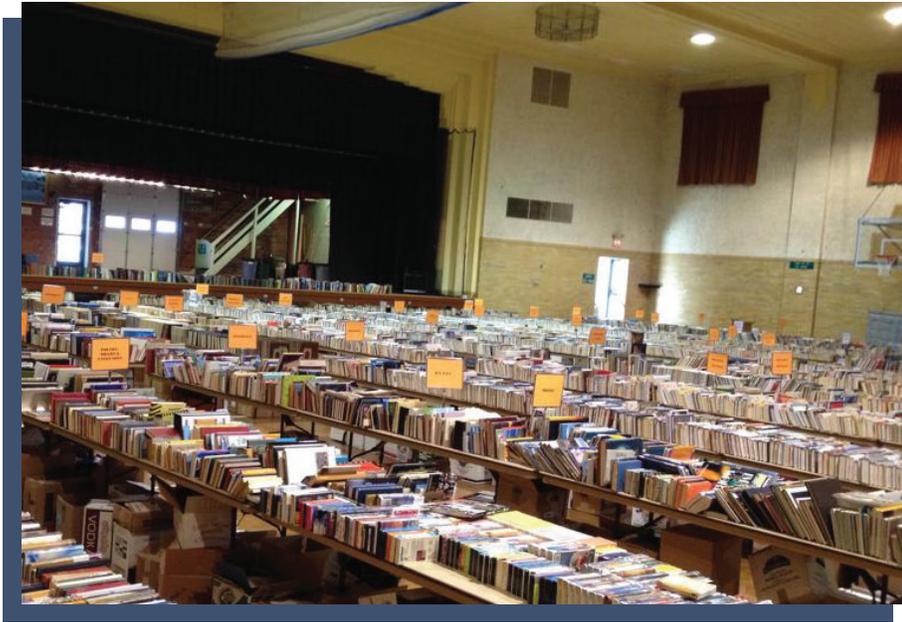
Prime Time Family Reading Time:

Keene Memorial Library was pleased to once again join with Humanities Nebraska to bring PRIME TIME Family Reading Time to the Fremont community. An acclaimed program that originated with the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, PRIME TIME is widely presented across the United States (including 13 communities in Nebraska). Funding from Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the State of Nebraska, the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Sherwood Foundation, as well as philanthropist Carol Gendler contributed to the support for this program.

Led by a storyteller and discussion leader, children ages 6-10 who struggle with reading and their families meet to read and discuss award-winning children's books. Discussion encourages critical and analytical thinking, helps develop connections between storybooks and real-life situations, and (in the bilingual program) encourages Spanish-speaking parents to speak and read English. Preschool activities are offered separately for younger siblings. For six weeks, families met on Thursday nights to share and discuss stories in English and Spanish. Attendance was steady at 20 on average per week.



Friends of Keene Memorial Library



2015 was a great year for the Friends of Keene Memorial Library! The annual meeting was held in March with entertainment provided by Fremont Middle School singers. Curtis King and Laura England-Biggs were elected to the board.

2015-2016 Board of Directors

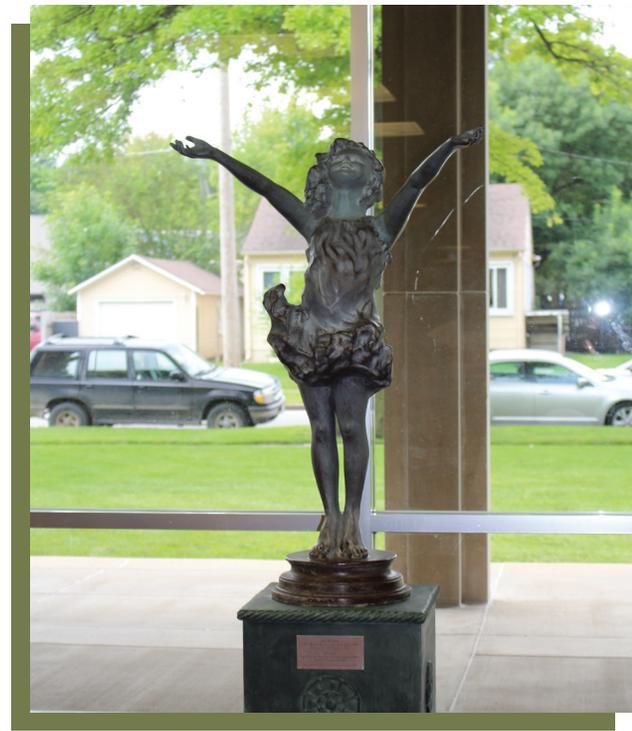
- President: Janet Lowe
- Vice President: Jan Kruse
- Secretary: Pam Primm
- Treasurer: Vicki Hunzeker
- Mary Lou Carlson
- Laura England-Biggs
- Curtis King
- Roger Larsen
- Gary Overfield
- Immediate Past President: Jeff Hoffman
- Library Director: Janet Davenport
- Liaison to the Library Board: Larry Jirsak
- Immediate Past Book Sale Coordinator: Faith Perry
- Book Sale Co-chairpersons: Dave & Karol Theophilus, Nancy Hass, and Judy Brandt
- Membership Records: Duane Humphrey



The highlight of the year was the re-installation of the La Brezza statue in the library during John C. Fremont Days. Paula Tiegler-Baack, the daughter of Wilma Tiegler who was instrumental in bringing La Brezza to the library originally, was a special guest. About 40 people attended the re-installation.

2014's Fall Event was a presentation by Omaha Author Timothy Schaffert and his book *The Swan Gondola*. There was a book club discussion prior to the event also. Both were well attended.

Lemonade on the Lawn was our next big event. It was held on the Saturday of John C. Fremont Days. The theme for this year was "Frozen Lemonade on the Lawn" and included Frozen related games and activities, along with a delicious Frozen beverage. Olaf made an appearance and several attendees dressed in character. The event was very well attended and a good time was had by all.



Statistics at a Glance

Service Statistics

	2014-2015	2013-2014
Patron Visits	91,086	77,017
New Borrowers	1,236	234
Computer Use	24,533	27,184
Number of Borrowers	12,147	11,966
Library Meetings	501	373
Library Programs	492	676
Reference Transactions	3,505	3,705
Program Attendance	7,287	12,579
Community Meetings / Events	335	478
Web Branch Visits (March-Sept)	17,168	28,358

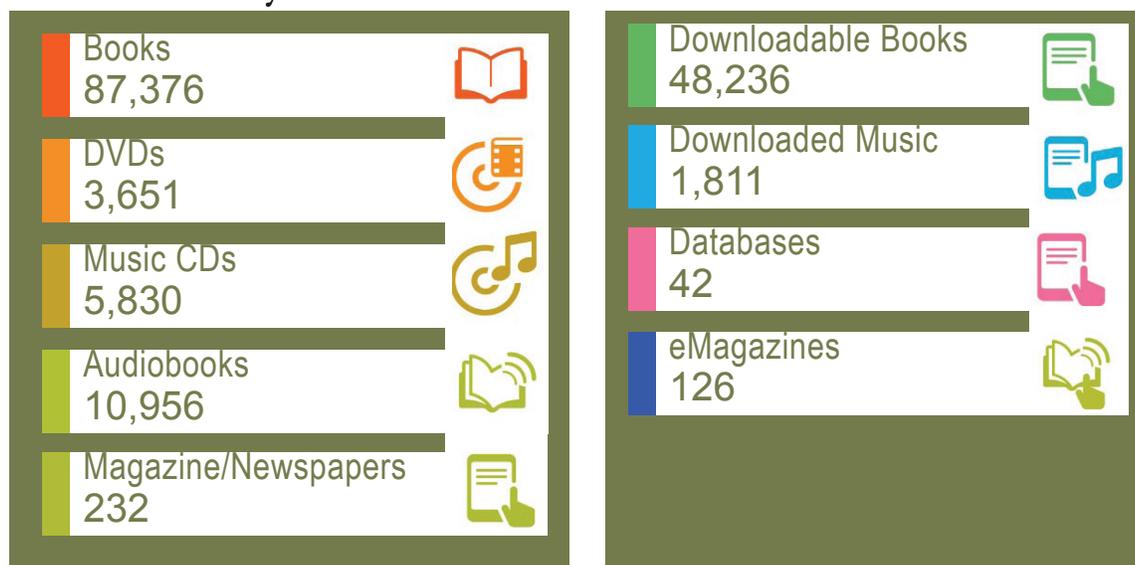


Statistics at a Glance

Library Programs

	2014-2015	2013-2014
Adult Programs	21	17
Total Attendance	152	145
Young Adult Programs	60	73
Total Attendance	823	521
Children's Programs	492	586
Total Attendance	7,881	11,913

Collection by Format



Library Budget

Expenditures	2014-2015	2013-2014
Salaries & Wages (including Benefits)	\$600,398	\$587,319
Books & Materials	\$170,084	\$171,408
Contractual Services	\$137,441	\$142,040
Commodities	\$28,346	\$45,526
Capital	\$4,535	\$32,763
IT Purchases for Library	\$40,853	\$41,918
TOTAL	\$981,657	\$1,020,974

Revenue	2014-2015	2013-2014
General Fund Property Tax Support	\$1,093,141	\$999,523
Keno Funds	0.00	\$214,204
Trust Funds	0.00	\$14,000
Fines / Fees	\$23,014	\$25,001
State Aid / Lender Comp	\$5,571	\$6,820
Donations (Local & Non-Profit)	\$15,800	\$9,955
TOTAL	\$1,137,526	\$1,269,503



Library Budget

Reciepts	2014-2015	2013-2014
Fines	\$7,908.88	8,079.65
Copies	\$5,563.15	5,715.85
Replacement Cards	\$307.50	396.10
Non-Residents	\$6,278.00	6,744.00
ILL/Genealogy Research	\$401.82	560.84
Replacement of Materials	\$2,023.03	1,954.19
Damage to Materials	\$52.90	41.54
Donation	\$17.28	58.89
Debt Collect	\$575.15	416.00
TOTAL	\$23,127.71	23,967.06



Have you ever thought about what a library is worth to its community? This table* begins to show the value of Keene Memorial Library. It is just the tip of the iceberg, as the library offers many more unquantifiable benefits to the community.

<i>KML Usage</i>	<i>Library Service</i>	<i>Value of Service</i>	<i>KML Value of Service</i>	<i>Based On</i>
65,462	Adult Books Borrowed	\$17.00	\$1,112,854.00	Amazon.com average price
6,607	Young Adult Books Borrowed	\$12.00	\$79,284.00	Amazon.com average price
56,160	Children Books Borrowed	\$17.00	\$954,720.00	Amazon.com average price
7,686	Audiobooks Borrowed	\$9.95	\$76,475.70	Audible.com download average
1,018	Interlibrary Loan Requests	\$25.00	\$26,450.00	Amazon.com average price plus shipping
7,149	eBooks Downloaded	\$15.00	\$107,235.00	Estimated B & N/Amazon average
3,893	Magazine Read	\$5.00	\$19,465.00	Estimated purchase price average
17,946	Movies Borrowed	\$4.00	\$71,784.00	Estimated Netflix average
5,386	CDs Borrowed	\$9.95	\$53,590.00	iTunes download album average
1,680	Music Downloaded	\$1.00	\$1,680.00	iTunes download song average
836	Meeting Room Use (per hour)	\$25.00	\$20,900.00	Estimated value
152	Adult Program Attended	\$15.00	\$2,280.00	Entertainment/program admission fee - estimated average per adult
823	Young Adult Programs Attended	\$12.00	\$9,876.00	Entertainment/programs admission fee - estimated average per youth
7,881	Children's Programs Attended	\$7.00	\$55,167	Entertainment/programs admission fee - estimated average per child
24,533	Computer Use (per hour)	\$12.00	\$294,396.00	FedEx/Kinkos price
41,909	Database Searches	\$19.95	\$836,084.55	Average cost for online article search
3,505	Reference Assistance	\$7.00	\$24,535.00	Average library cost

(*Library Value Calculator by Massachusetts Library Association)

Total KML Value of Service = \$3,734,793.95

