



Lincoln Library

Springfield's Public Library

ANNUAL REPORT 2024





A letter from the Director

Greetings:

Small but mighty is how I characterize the Lincoln Library team. They continually go above and beyond serving the library community with professionalism, tenacity and verve. As you will understand as you peruse the 2024 Annual Report, their accomplishments are quite remarkable. This public library is a place of destination, where patrons are empowered, connected (to resources and more) and inspired. This is what community looks like.

Libraries are the great equalizer of today's society. They level the playing field with access to resources, programs, and spaces conducive to learning, playing, connecting, discovering and more. At the core of outstanding library service must be an amazing, dedicated team always striving and reaching for the library's mission. The future looks bright for the citizens of Springfield as we introduce the Mobile Branch, continue with meaningful programs and the provision of outstanding services.

We are a community circle, linked together—both citizens and the library team—and to all, I say thank you with heartfelt gratitude. Together we make the City of Springfield SHINE!

Ms. Gwen Harrison
Director,
Lincoln Library



Access Services

Borrower Services



2024 by the Numbers

- Lincoln Library had **13,202** active borrowers and staff facilitated **345,169** checkouts!
- Staff pulled **25,163** items requested by patrons.
- **455** curbside service requests were fulfilled.
- **6,984** library cards were issued or renewed.
- **197** new or renewed non-resident library cards were issued.
- **267** Library of Things items were checked out.

The Library of Things is a collection of over **70** non-traditional items that can be checked out by library card holders. The collection includes power washers, telescopes, karaoke machines, blood pressure cuffs, and so much more...



Access Services

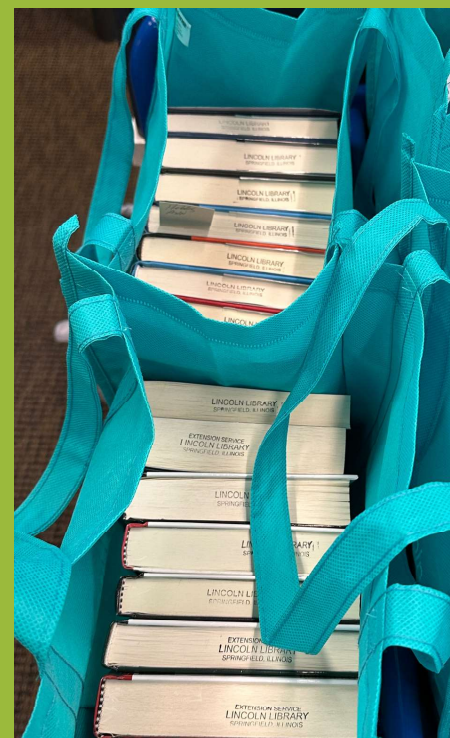
Extension Services

Lincoln Library offers free home delivery to any resident who is temporarily or permanently unable to come to the library because of illness, disability, or other factors.

Extension staff currently visit **30+** nursing homes, retirement communities, and other facilities.

Extension staff visit nearly **200** homebound customers a month, making it one of the most important services that Lincoln Library has to offer.

Facilities Visited



Adult Services

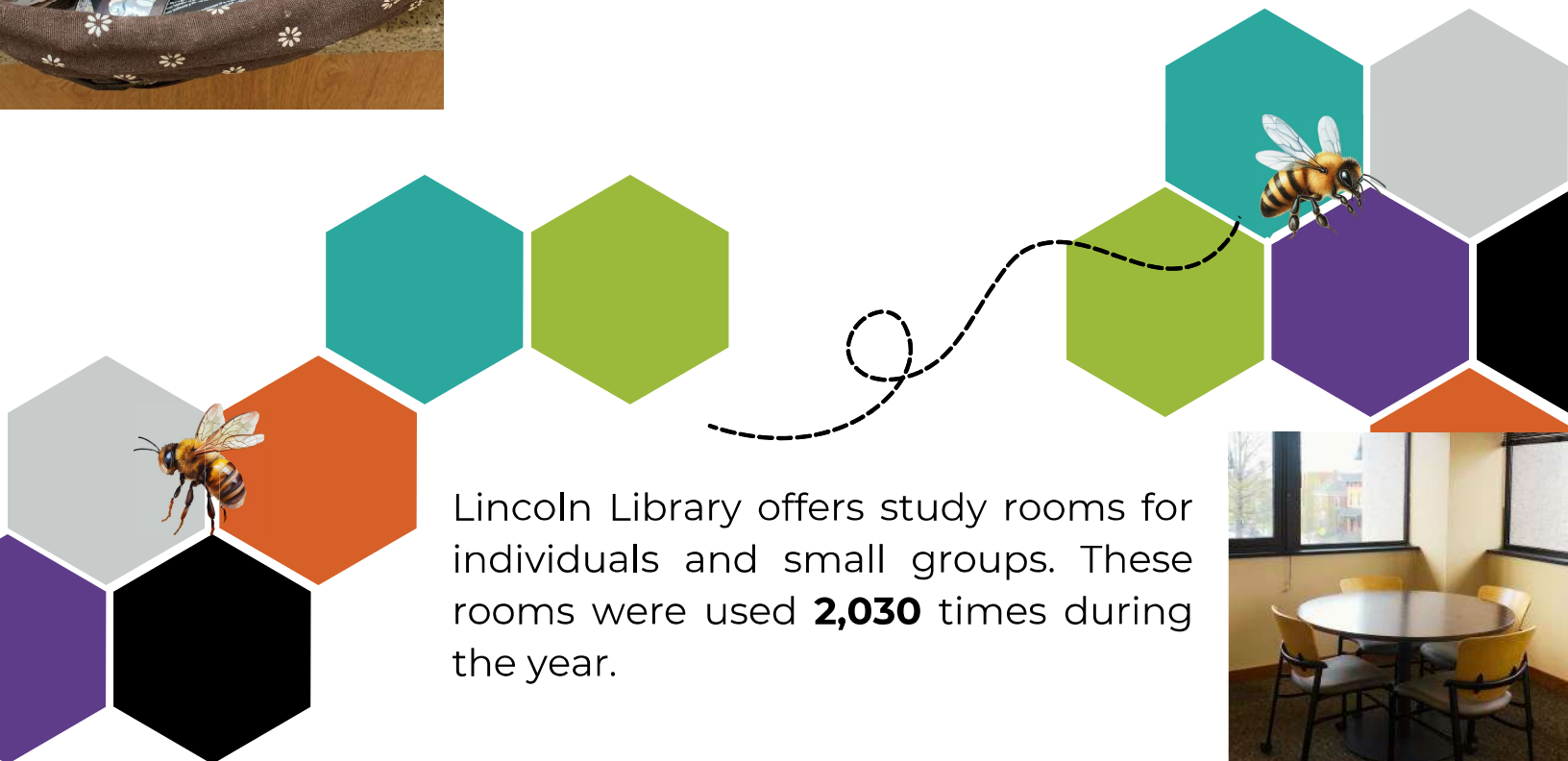


The Lincoln Library Adult Services Department hosted **216** programs with more than **1700** attendees in 2024. This includes programs on financial literacy, yoga, podcasting, historical events, civics, and many other topics.

Adult Services staff answered more than **23,500** reference questions.



The computers in Lincoln Library's public computer lab were used **25,364** times during the year. These computers can be used to access email, apply for jobs, create resumes, stay connected to friends and family, or even use online library resources without a library card.



Lincoln Library offers study rooms for individuals and small groups. These rooms were used **2,030** times during the year.





Outreach

The Outreach Department flourished in 2024, taking Lincoln Library and its services throughout the city and laying the groundwork for the new Mobile Branch!

The Outreach team attended **57** community events, such as Minds in Motion, the Kiwanis Kids Bash, Earth Awareness Day, Mall-O-Ween, and many more.

15 Outreach programs were hosted, introducing Springfield to *The Gathering of the Bookalos* and the *Snail Mailers*.

87 pop-up libraries were held at multiple parks and neighborhoods around the city.



Youth Services

The Youth Services Department hosted **168** programs for kids aged 0 to 18 with **4,979** attendees!

191 children enjoyed Stay & Play programs in February.

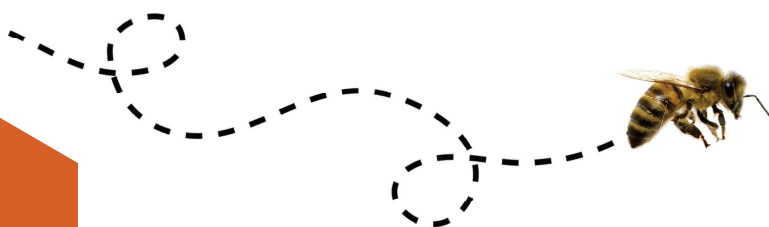
421 kids attended Spring story times.

Through an exciting new partnership, Youth Services staff hosted **259** children for story time at Lincoln Memorial Gardens.

2024 saw a HUGE increase in teen programming! Teen programs were hosted every single Wednesday of the school year, with an average of **12** kids per program. Attendance at teen programming more than doubled over the summer!

Summer Reading by the Numbers

- **45** programs offered.
- **1938** program attendees.
- **450** children completed the Summer Reading Challenge.
- **1800** books read.



CoLab

2024 kicked off with the official opening of the CoLab!

Throughout the year, **52** classes were held for over **200** registrants.

Patrons learned machine sewing and embroidery, serging, Cricut crafting, TinkerCAD, and podcasting.



Services and More

There were over **500** reservations made for community uses of Lincoln Library's public meeting rooms. These events hosted more than **9,000** people.

Lincoln Library staff proudly supported the Springfield community by participating in various parades and city events.

Notary Public services were used **92** times.

Lincoln Library's mobile Wi-Fi hotspots were checked out **672** times.



Sangamon Valley Collection

SVC By the Numbers

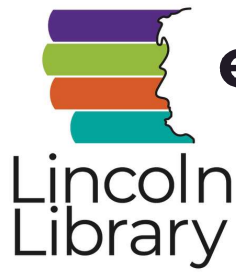
- **12:** number of specialized databases available for local history and genealogy research.
- **21,371:** the number of books, periodicals, and audiovisual materials in the collection catalog.
- **1848-2024:** years of issues of the State Journal-Register available online.
- **174:** checkouts of books in the local author collection during 2024.
- **29:** number of programs hosted during the year.
- **481:** attendees at Sangamon Valley Collection programs.

Notable 2024 Additions to the Collection

- Current Auburn Citizen and Rochester Times subscriptions
- Prairie Flame newspaper from 1997 to 2003
- Springfield tavern tokens
- Lanphier High School Key Club scrapbooks
- Edison and Lanphier High photographs
- Photo postcards from the 1908 Race Massacre
- Books from the Springfield Regional Planning Commission

More than **80** AP History students from Springfield High School used the many resources available in the Sangamon Valley Collection to complete their annual scavenger hunt assignment. Students research the history of their houses, Hutchinson Cemetery (site of their school!), their family tree, what the local news headlines were like in decades past, or a favorite: looking up their parents and teachers in the yearbook collection!





eResource Year in Review 2024

414,747

Number of streaming or downloadable books, audiobooks, videos, music and magazines available to Lincoln Library patrons.

76%

Increase in streaming checkouts compared to pre-pandemic



\$69

Average amount you can save monthly by cutting streaming services and using library resources



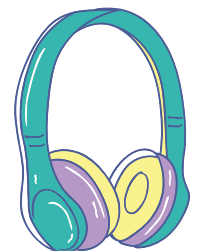
154,852
Total
streaming
checkouts

411,247
Total
database
searches

399,239
Total
database
views

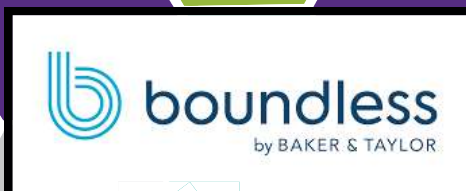
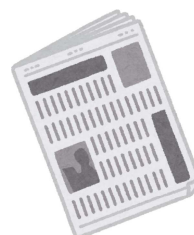
143%

Increase in streaming audiobook checkouts compared to pre-pandemic



299,124

Number of newspaper articles read in the Newsbank database



lincolnlibrary.info



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