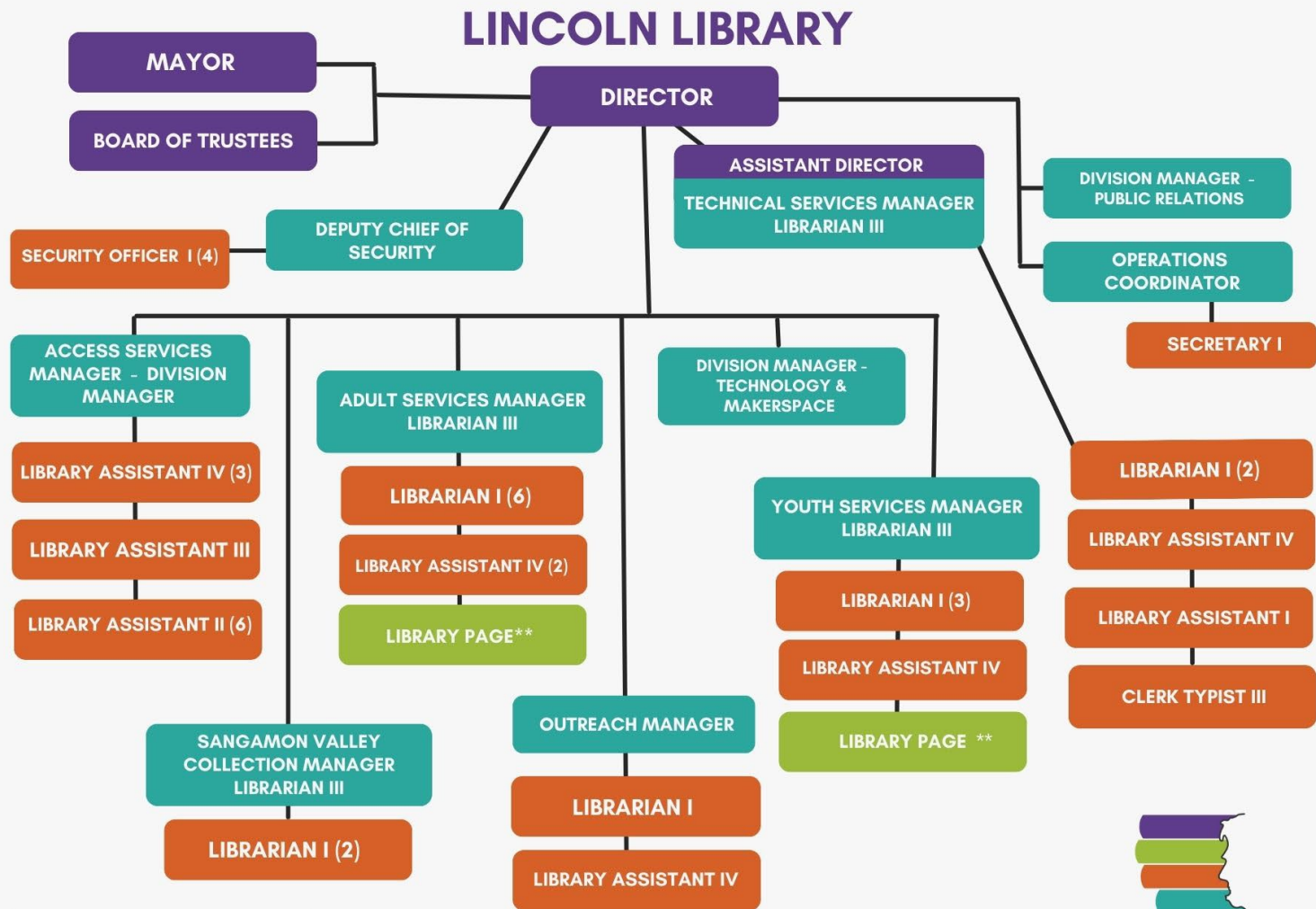




FY 2027 Budget Summary Lincoln Library

***Misty Buscher, Mayor
Gwen Harrison, Director***

**1st Budget Workshop
Thursday, January 15, 2026**



*CURRENTLY VACANT
**PART-TIME EMPLOYEE

UPDATED 01/2026

**ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
FY2027**



FY 2027 Budget

Lincoln Library Fund 003	FY2025 Final	FY 2026 Current Budget	FY 2027 Request	\$\$\$ Variance FY 2026 to FY 2027	% Variance FY 2026 to FY 2027
Personal Services	\$3,637,338	\$4,171,762	\$4,369,631	\$ 197,869	4.74%
Contractual Services	\$ 982,384	\$1,096,200	\$1,146,514	\$ 50,314	4.59%
Commodities	\$ 54,260	\$ 43,650	\$ 54,150	\$ 10,500	24.05%
Equipment	\$ 344,682	\$ 846,700	\$ 625,000	\$ (221,700)	-26.18%
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 41,253	\$ 78,000	\$ 75,500	\$ (2,500)	-3.21%
Telecommunications	\$ 18,919	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	0.00%
Operation of Auto Equipment	\$ 3,624	\$ 8,937	\$ 10,344	\$ 1,407	15.74%
Permanent Improvements	\$ 12,798	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Travel	\$ 3,399	\$ 3,750	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,250	166.67%
Total(s):	\$5,098,657	\$6,268,999	\$6,311,139	\$ 42,140	0.66%

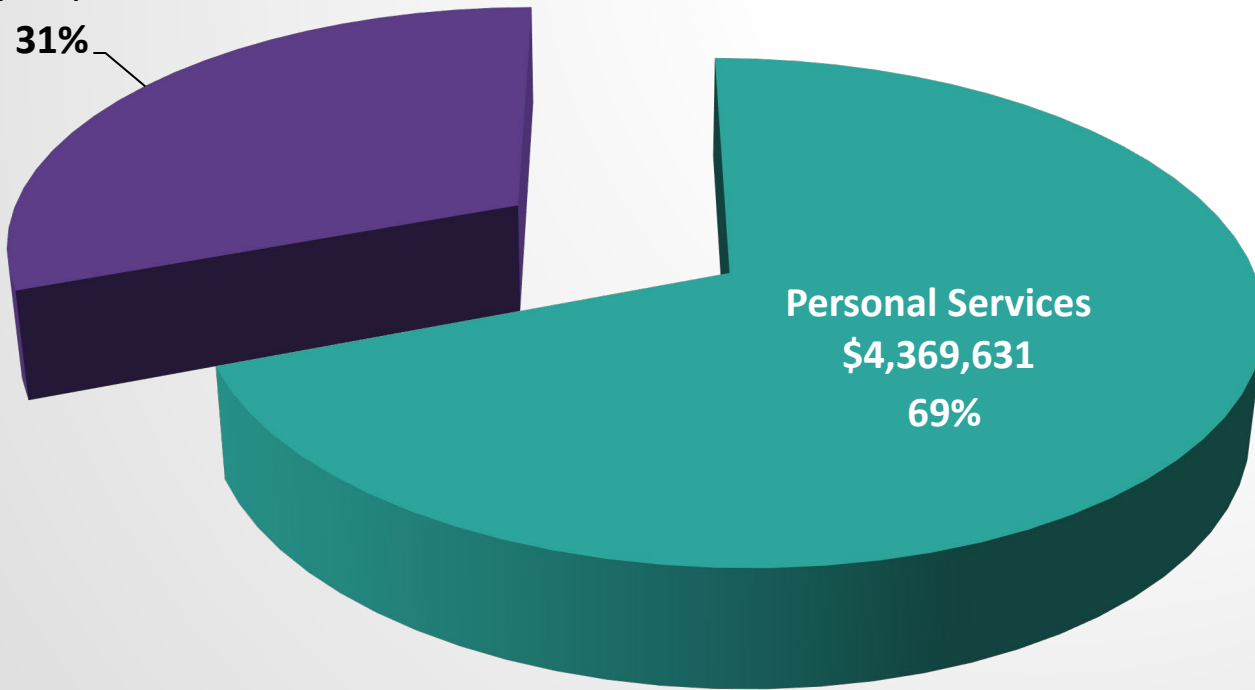


FY 2027 Budget

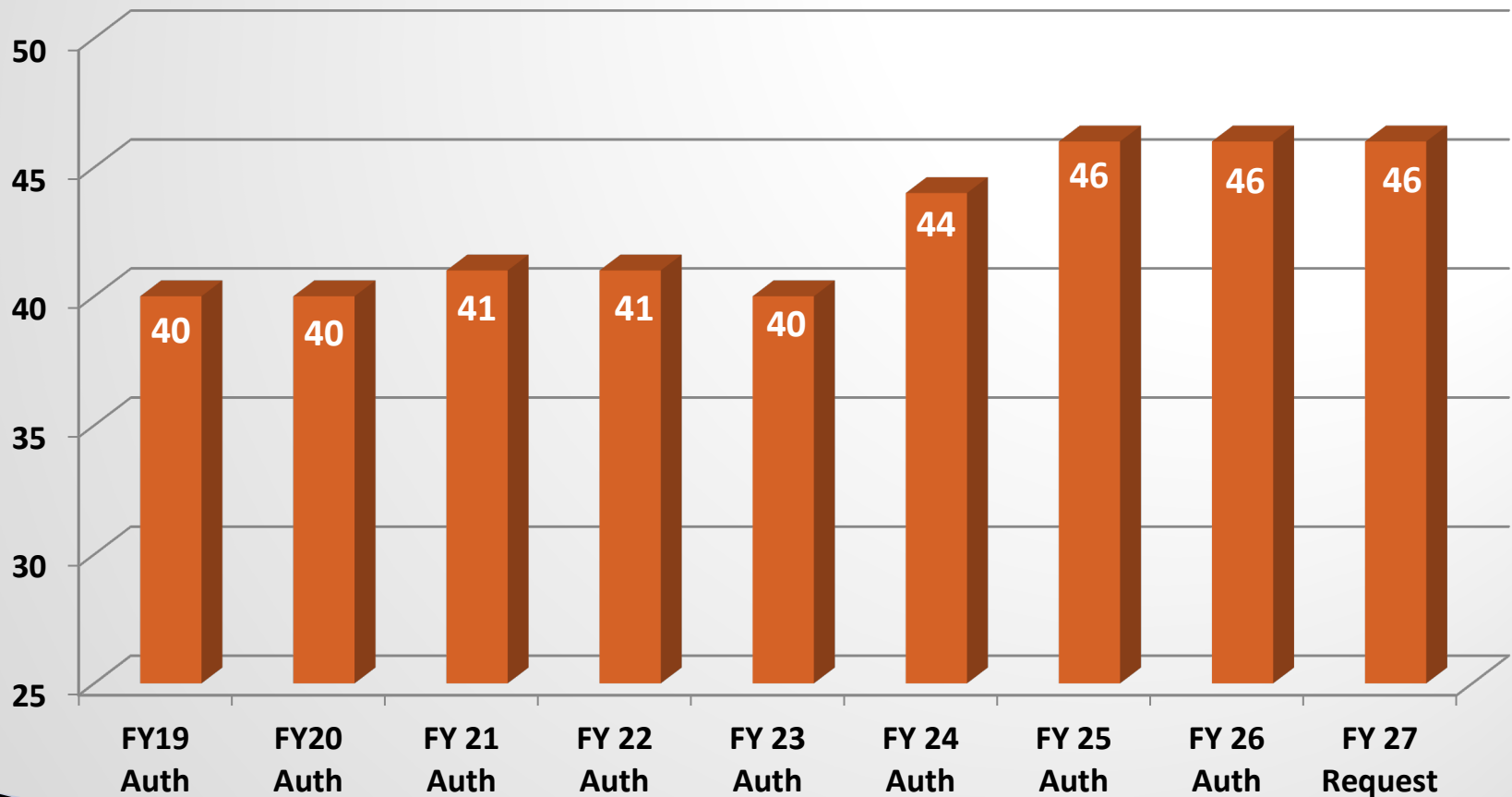
Operations
\$1,941,508

31%

Personal Services
\$4,369,631
69%



Workforce



Females: 31 of 46 (67%)
Minorities: 16 of 46 (35%)



Peer Library Comparisons

Library	Population	Total FTE Employees	FTE Per 1000 residents	Revenue	Revenue Per Capita	Expenditures	Expenditures Per Capita
<i>Lincoln Library*</i>	<i>114,394</i>	<i>42.15</i>	<i>0.37</i>	<i>\$5,668,358</i>	<i>\$49.55</i>	<i>\$5,390,836</i>	<i>\$47.13</i>
Peoria Public Library* ₁	113,150	80.08	0.71	\$7,973,143	\$70.47	\$6,950,668	\$61.43
Champaign Public Library ₁	88,302	82.70	0.94	\$11,846,761	\$134.16	\$9,050,674	\$102.50
Bloomington Public Library*	78,680	57.75	0.73	\$6,077,850	\$77.25	\$5,341,465	\$67.89
Decatur Public Library	70,522	33.13	0.47	\$4,682,571	\$66.40	\$4,680,075	\$66.36
Normal Public Library	52,736	37.35	0.71	\$4,483,864	\$85.02	\$3,619,108	\$68.63
Urbana Free Library	38,336	43.92	1.15	\$5,766,486	\$150.42	\$4,362,468	\$113.80

* Has Bookmobile

₁ Has branch library or libraries

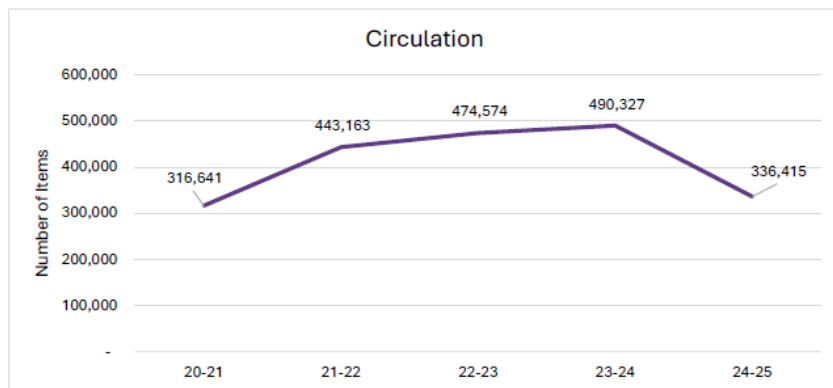
All data is for FY2024; provided by Illinois State Library



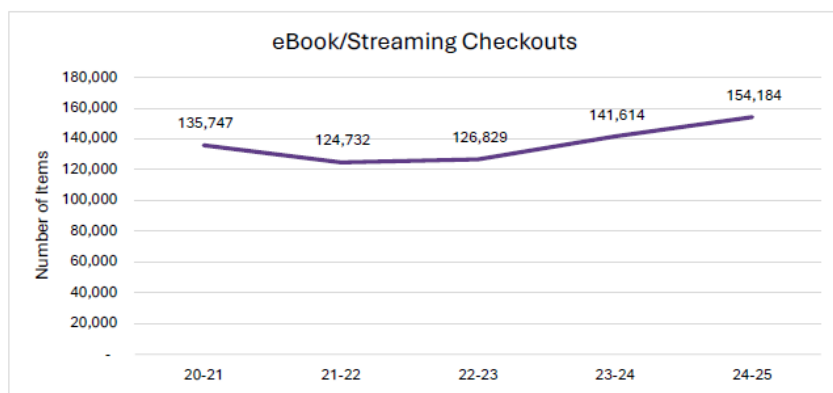
Data Highlights-5 Years

Circulation

Lincoln Library's total circulation increased every year from FY20-21 through FY23-24 with over 490,000 items circulating in FY23-24. Circulation then decreased 31.4% in FY24-25 to 336,415.

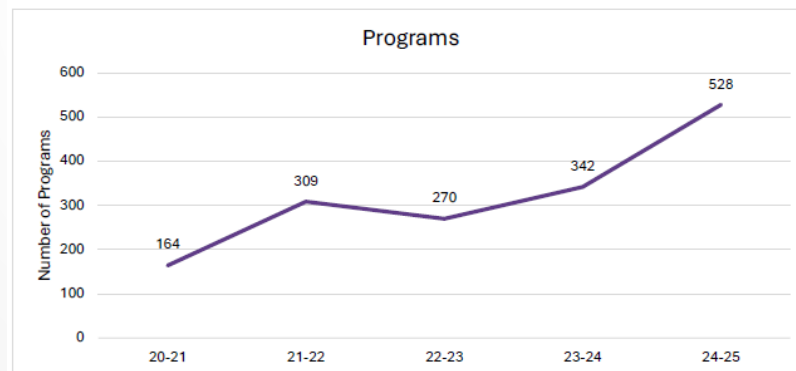


Digital circulation (including eBooks and streaming usage) had over 135,000 uses in FY20-21 but decreased 8% in FY21-22. Digital circulation then increased each subsequent year, reaching 154,194 in FY24-25, 13.6% higher than FY20-21.

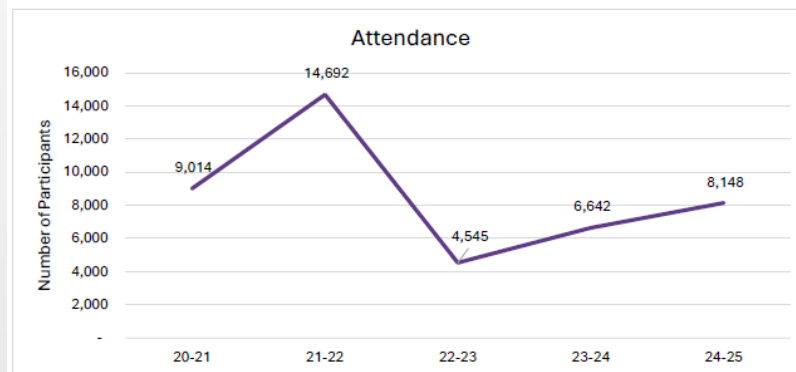


Programs

Like most public libraries, the number of programs at Lincoln Library were fewer in FY20-21 during the height of the pandemic (164 programs). Programs increased 88% in FY21-22 (309 programs) but decreased some in FY22-23 (270 programs). Programs increased again in subsequent years, reaching 528 programs in FY24-25, 222% higher than FY20-21.



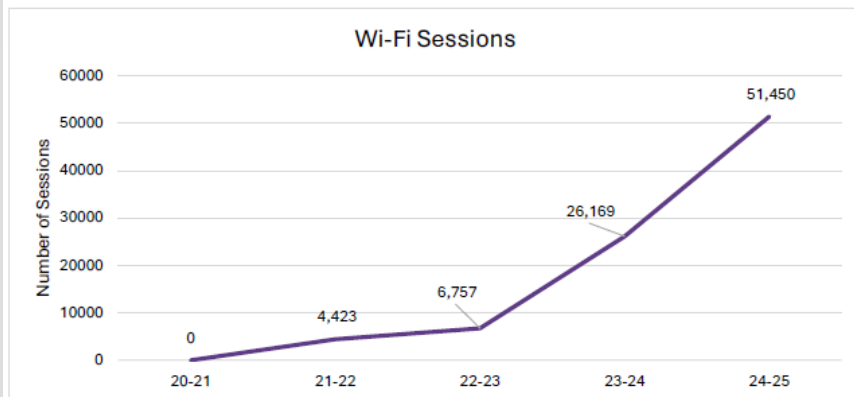
Program attendance was high in fiscal years 20-21 and 21-22 due to the library offering virtual programs and including asynchronous views of virtual programs. Attendance decreased significantly as the library moved back to in-person programming in FY22-23. Participation in programs then increased steadily through fiscal years 23-24 and 24-25.



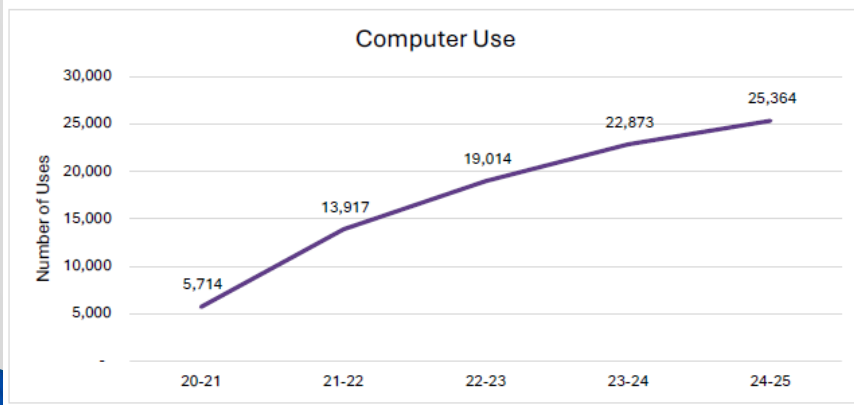
Data Highlights-5 Years

Technology

Library Wi-Fi sessions were not recorded in FY20-21. From FY21-22 through FY24-25, Wi-Fi sessions increased over 1,063%.

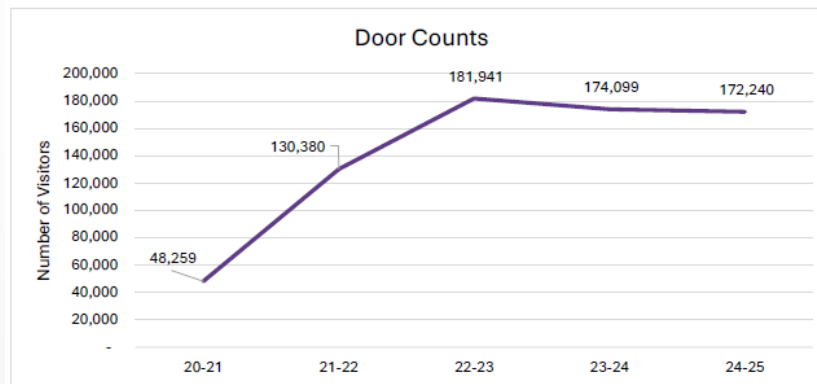


In-library computer use increased every year from 5,714 uses in FY20-21 to 25,364 uses in FY24-25, an increase of 344%.

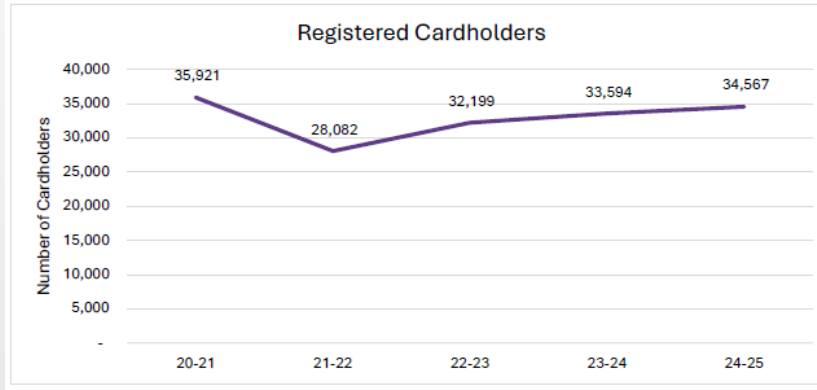


Visitors and Cardholders

Due to pandemic closures and mitigations, library visitors (represented by door counts) were very low in FY20-21 (48,259). Visitors increased in subsequent years, reaching over 181,000 visitors in FY22-23 before declining slightly in fiscal years 23-24 and 24-25.



The library had nearly 36,000 registered cardholders in FY20-21. Cardholders dropped 21.8% in FY21-22 before increasing in subsequent years. Using the American Community Survey 2023 service-area population of 110,730, the FY24-25 cardholder rate was 31.2%.



FY2025 Electronic Use Highlights

76%

Increase in streaming
checkouts compared to
pre-pandemic



\$69

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



414,747

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



299,124

Number of newspaper
articles read in the
Newsbank database

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



Electronic Resources ROI

Fiscal Year	Cost of eBook/Streaming Services	Streaming Checkouts	Cost Per Use
2025	\$93,782.50	154,852	\$0.61
2026*	\$96,282.50	138,372	\$0.70

Fiscal Year	Cost of Online Databases	Database Usage	Cost Per Use
2025	\$153,646.55	399,239	\$0.38
2026*	\$145,559.77	392,603	\$0.37

*FY2026 numbers are current through December 31, 2025



FY 26 Accomplishments

Lincoln Library Outreach

- Mobile Branch is operational and visiting all 10 City Wards



FY 26 Accomplishments

Lincoln Library Security

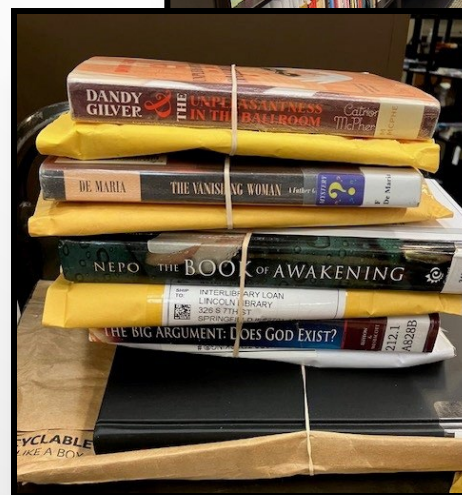
- 8% decrease in 911 calls from 2024 to same period in 2025
- All Security Officers have received training in resilience, de-escalation, report writing, AED, and Narcan administration



FY 26 Accomplishments

Technical Services

- Interlibrary loans
 - 2,943 items borrowed for Lincoln Library patrons from libraries across the US
 - 1,639 titles supplied to other US libraries
- Over 10,000 unique titles cataloged and added to the library collection in 2025
- Supplier pivot



FY 26 Accomplishments

Youth Services

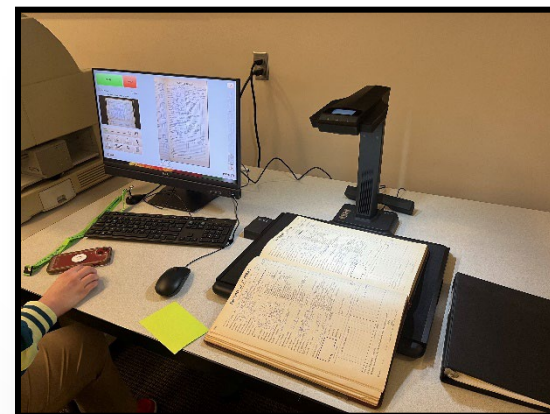
- KPop Demon Hunters party
- Summer Reading – over 500 participants total!
- Storytimes at Lincoln Memorial Garden



FY 26 Accomplishments

Sangamon Valley Collection

- Sangamon County Courthouse Display
- Lake Springfield History Hunt
- Summer intern uploaded over 300 images from the collection to the Illinois Digital Archives



Lincoln Library

Mercury Studio Collection [Browse](#) [From Lincoln Library](#) (<http://www.lincolnbibliography.info>)

The Mercury Studio collection consists of thousands of photograph negatives taken for the years 1946 to the 1990s. The majority of the images were taken during the 1960s and 1970s. The collection was first started by Walter Bubins and eventually was purchased by James Woodruff. The Sangamon Valley Collection acquired this collection after Woodruff's death in 2004. The collection consists of a variety of images including street scenes, businesses, weddings, conventions, portraits and social events. For further information, please contact Lincoln Library.

Subjects that this collection appears in: [Arts in Illinois](#), [State History](#).

[OAI Discovery](#)

Vachel Lindsay Collection [Browse](#) [From Lincoln Library](#) (<http://www.lincolnbibliography.info>)

The Vachel Lindsay Collection is comprised largely of materials containing the published prose and poetry of Vachel Lindsay in formats such as posters, newspaper and magazine articles, booklets, pamphlets, magazines and books. Other items include newspaper and magazine articles on Lindsay and his family, critiques of his work and memorials and tributes to Lindsay. This small collection of photographs include Lindsay, his family, Elizabeth Graham, the Lindsay Verse Speaking Choir, 1940 and his tombstone. Photograph recordings of Lindsay reading his works and his son, Nicholas Cave Lindsay, reading his father's poems make up another part of the collection. Two scrapbook albums put together by Frances "Nannie" Hamilton, the younger sister of Vachel's mother contain materials about Lindsay from 1914 to about 1930. The albums include poems, drawings, private publications, clippings about and by Lindsay, a book of his hair and some photographs. Bound volumes of his work include The Trumps Excursion, The Village Magazine first edition, The Village Magazine third and fourth editions, Vision Magazine, A Letter About My Four Programmes and a notebook kept by Joy Lindsay Blair, Vachel's younger sister. These digital images, made available by the Sangamon Valley Collection at Lincoln Library (Springfield), are of photographs from this collection.

Subjects that this collection appears in: [State History](#), [Arts in Illinois](#), [History Makers](#).

[OAI Discovery](#)

Oak Ridge Cemetery Interment Records [Browse](#) [From Lincoln Library](#) (<http://www.lincolnbibliography.info>)

Established in 1858, Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Illinois, is the largest cemetery in Illinois in land area (365 acres). More than seventy thousand people are interred in this historic cemetery. With more than 2.5 million visitors each year, it is the second most visited cemetery in the United States. Each entry includes the name of the deceased, the date of death, age at death, cause of death, a designation of the grave location, through a combination of block, lot, range, and grave numbers; place of birth, and remarks. Note: The text of each volume is searchable (within the volumes) by name, year of death, and cause of death. These records were made available through the collaborative efforts of the Sangamon Valley Collection at Lincoln Library, Oak Ridge Cemetery, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, and the Papers of Abraham Lincoln.

Subjects that this collection appears in: [Lincolniana](#), [State History](#).

[OAI Discovery](#)

Springfield Aviation Company Collection [Browse](#) [From Lincoln Library](#) (<http://www.lincolnbibliography.info>)

The Springfield Aviation Company Collection, 1927-1995, was donated to the Sangamon Valley Collection at Lincoln Library in May 1995 by Craig Isbell, former co-manager of the company. Isbell formed a partnership with Gerdner Lockwood in the late 1920s and operated this company at Springfield's Southwest Airport. This airport was first called Commercial Airport and later Municipal Airport. It continued as a private airport after the opening of Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport in 1947. The collection is comprised of several hundred photographs, publications and newspaper clippings related to the company and aviation in Springfield. These digital images, made available by the Sangamon Valley Collection at Lincoln Library (Springfield), are of photographs from this collection.

Subjects that this collection appears in: [State History](#), [Institutional Histories](#), [Transportation](#).

[OAI Discovery](#)



FY 26 Accomplishments

CoLab

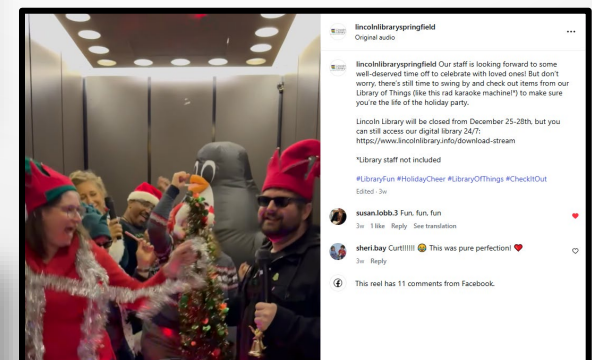
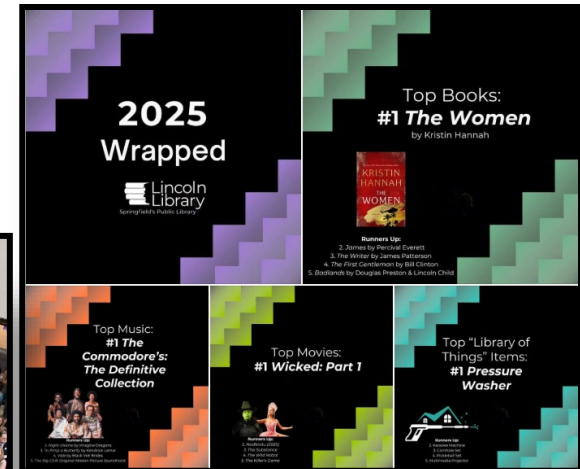
- 34% increase in programs from 2024 to 2025
- New equipment: laser cutter



FY 26 Accomplishments

Library-Wide

- Strategic Plan
- NPR Exhibit
- Social Media



FY 27 Continuing Initiative: Youth Services Renovation

Youth Services Modernization

- HUD Community Project Funding Grant
- Planning underway
- Construction slated to begin Fall 2026



FY 2027 New Initiatives

Lincoln Library Fund

- Summer Interns
 - Sangamon Valley Collection
 - CoLab
- Programs – Director's Series
- RFID/Security upgrades

Wagner Bequest

- Furniture upgrades
- Outreach vehicle



FY 2027 Budget

Thank you!



QUESTIONS?

