

Hastings
Memorial
Library

Learn... Grow... Create...

2024 Annual Report
Grant, Nebraska

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Val Foster

Tyler Mahnken

LIBRARY MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES

MISSION STATEMENT

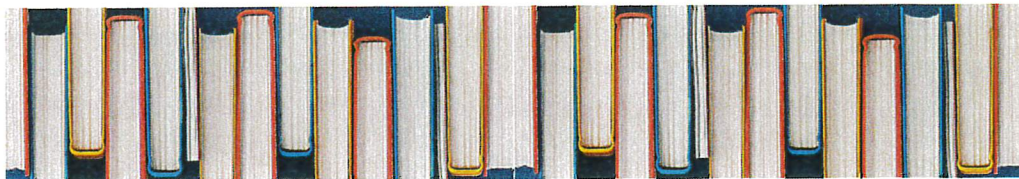
The purpose of the Hastings Memorial Library is to meet the informational needs of the citizens of the community by providing resources to assist in their pursuit of lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, recreation, and solutions to everyday problems.

VISION STATEMENT

Hastings Memorial Library aspires to be an integral and innovative community asset, continually anticipating and exceeding the needs and expectations of the community.

MOTTO

Learn... Grow... Create...



Core Values of Hastings Memorial Library:

- **Accountability:** We deliver library services in a consistent, reliable, trustworthy, and responsible manner.
- **Community Engagement:** We are an integral part of the community we serve and are constantly looking to enhance and expand partnerships with other organizations and resources to better serve and move the community forward.
- **Excellence:** We pride ourselves on providing quality, positive service to our community. We have educated, dedicated staff members who are always acquiring new skills and collaborating to provide the best possible patron experience.
- **Free and Equal Access:** We are committed to providing free and equal access to library resources, programming, and services which interest, inform, and enlighten all people in our community. Our collections, print and electronic, represent diverse points of view and are available to all.
- **Innovation:** We continually look for the best and newest services to provide to our community. We anticipate trends and change and respond accordingly.
- **Integrity:** In our actions and attitudes, we treat each other and our customers with respect and compassion. We take pride in being a trusted resource for our community.

The staff and Board of Trustees of Hastings Memorial Library work diligently to respond to the changing needs of the community we serve while simultaneously maintaining the quality library services patrons already know. 2024 was full of change and growth for the library. Adjustment, improvement, and progression seemed to be the themes for the past year spanning multiples areas of focus.

STAFFING

One of the most visible changes was in the makeup of our staff. After almost 9 years of serving our community, Assistant Librarian Sarah Pick resigned in May and accepted another position out of state. As Sarah's departure came right before the start of our busy summer schedule, Lila Konecky who had worked for HML previously in an intern position, agreed to return to the library on a temporary basis. Having Lila allowed us to have an experienced staff member on hand to be able to dive right in and help manage our busiest time of year. In September, Tyler Mahnken was hired to fill the position on a full-time basis.

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

Programming continues to be a major focus for the library. In 2024, Hastings Memorial Library hosted 127 programs and had total attendance numbers of 1,607. Regular programming presented included: monthly preschool storytimes at Perkins County Schools, end of year visits with elementary school



Assistant Librarian Val Foster gives a tour to PCS Second Graders in May 2024.

students, Kindercard for Kindergartners to get their first library card, the high school career fair, and our annual Summer Reading Program. We also continue to host a twice weekly ESL class for English language learners in our community. We hosted several one-time programs including a Taylor Swift themed friendship bracelet day for elementary students and a paper flower program for adults. The Friends of the Library hosted their annual puzzle tournament in April with 47 participants.

In September, we launched a completely new slate of programming. The first Tuesday of each month, we host After School: Makerspace where children in grades 2-6 join Robin to complete projects utilizing the library's Makerspace equipment. The 3rd Tuesday of each month is LEGO Day, where Tyler supervises a boisterous time of free building with the LEGO collection. Gather Craft Club is offered twice monthly for local crafters to bring their projects to the library, visit with other crafters, and share ideas. In addition to her monthly storytimes at the school, Val has

started visiting Hugs and Teddybears Daycare at Perkins County Health Services for twice monthly storytimes as well. Connie Mahnken volunteered to take over our Family Storytime program. She has storytime every Wednesday morning and a bonus offering on the second Saturday morning of each month.



Puzzlers doing their thing at the Annual Friends of the Library Puzzle Tournament.

GRANTS

Sometimes innovation takes money. Library staff are always on the lookout for grant opportunities to help supplement our budget and allow us to offer new programs and services to our patrons. We were fortunate to receive three grants in 2024. We were awarded a Youth Grant for Excellence from the Nebraska Library Commission to purchase a multi-use storage cart for the library. The cart is being used to store our large collection of LEGOs, but also has two white boards that can be used by the ESL class and the library for programming.



The new LEGO storage cart purchased with funds from a Nebraska Library Commission Youth Grant for Excellence.

We also received a Library Improvement Grant from the Nebraska Library Commission to purchase preservation supplies for our puzzle and board game collections to prepare them for circulation. Currently 23 puzzles have been added to our collection and board games are just waiting for original cataloging to be completed before they are ready to check out.

A \$1200 grant from the Perkins County Community Foundation Fund served as a stipend for our summer intern. This year, Perkins County Junior Cecilia Putnam was hired as our intern. She was invaluable help with summer programming and also learned about many of the different facets of library work and what a career in Library Science can include. We are very grateful and proud that we can continue to offer this professional internship opportunity to local youth each year.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Hastings Memorial Library continues to offer a variety of services to the community in addition to our circulating collection. Public computer and free Wi-Fi use, scanning, photocopy, and fax services, test proctoring, and technology and research assistance are just a few of the things we offer besides books. 2024 brought a lot of exciting changes to public service. In April, the Board of Trustees voted to make Hastings Memorial Library fine free! This policy removes the penalty for not returning your books on time, and removes a service barrier for patrons who may avoid using the library because of their inability to pay late fees. Damaged and lost fees still remain for materials that are not returned. Staff has found that the book return rate has actually increased since the policy went into effect, and many patrons are choosing to make donations to the library in lieu of the late fee.

Another great addition to our services this year was the launch of our online patron catalog. Patrons can now access the library's collection any time, anywhere by visiting <http://grant-pioneer.bywatersolutions.com> or by downloading the Aspen LIDA app on their personal devices. Not only can patrons browse the library's physical collection, the catalog is also connected to our Overdrive/Libby digital catalog as well. Patrons can request renewals, put items on hold, see their reading history, make purchase requests and more with the user-friendly interface provided by ByWater Solutions, our integrated library system (ILS) provider. Our Bywater access is facilitated through our membership in the Nebraska Pioneer Consortium, a group of 17 libraries across the state.



Our internet services received a major update this summer thanks to the Nebraska Library Commission. Andrew Sherman, the Technology Coordination for the Commission visited the library in June. He updated our switch and routers which were woefully outdated and also installed DNS filtering on our connection, so we are fully compliant with Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requirements. This upgrade was funded through a grant the commission received from Medica to update internet connections and equipment in Nebraska's public libraries.

The library's Makerspace expanded this year with the purchase of a Glowforge Pro laser cutter. The Glowforge was funded with matching and donated funds held by the Hastings Memorial Library Foundation. The machine can laser engrave a variety of materials including wood, paper, acrylic, metals, and leather. We have used the machine a lot to make projects and prizes for programming, and patrons have used it to engrave everything from leather patches to Christmas ornaments. This is also the same machine the high school owns so we look forward to more collaboration between the two entities.



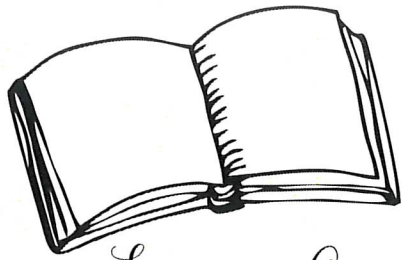
Children in Perkins County now have access to even more books due to the library's new partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This book-gifting program established by Parton 30 years ago mails a high-quality, age appropriate book to registered children every month from birth to age 5. Any child residing in Perkins County is eligible for the program. Registration is available online or via paper form at the library. This program is fully funded by the Hastings Memorial Library Foundation and administered by library staff. Start-up funds for the program were generously donated by Midwest Electric, and Highline Electric with matching funds from CoBank and Basin Electric.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI)

How do you measure the value of a library? The benefits of many programs and services are intangible, but what would it cost our community if the library did not exist? What would residents pay for materials and services provided for free by the library? The Nebraska Library Commission provided each library in the state with Return on Investment data based on the average cost of applicable library services. These figures were based on 2023 statistics.

- Total operating revenue (cost to taxpayers): \$137,577
- Total amount that residents would spend without a library: \$407,500
- Population of legal service area (population served): 1,172
- Average annual cost per resident: \$117

Category	Number of Uses/Circulation	Average Cost	What Residents Would Spend on Their Own
Adult Items (non-electronic)	6,058	\$20.00	\$121,160
Adult Electronic Items (eBooks and audiobooks)	9,720	\$9.99	\$97,103
Children's Items (non-electronic)	8,894	\$15.00	\$133,410
Children's Electronic Items (eBooks and audiobooks)	4,108	\$9.99	\$41,039
Computer Uses	503	\$29.40	\$14,788
Total Amount That Resident Would Spend Without a Library			\$407,500
Total Operating Revenue (Cost to Taxpayers)			\$137,577
Savings			\$269,923



Hastings Memorial Library

Learn... Grow... Create...

BY THE NUMBERS 2024

LIBRARY HOLDINGS

Print Collection:
14,889
Items Added: 784
Items Removed: 721



LIBRARY VISITS

14,924



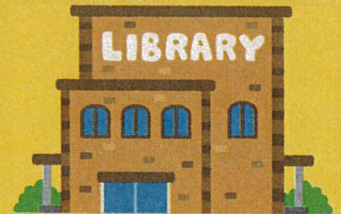
CHECKOUTS

28,044 items borrowed



PATRONS

Cardholders: 1,579
Users Added : 63
Users Removed : 59



DIGITAL HOLDINGS

Digital Collection:
74,383
Cardholders: 618



COMPUTER USE

491 uses of library computers



REFERENCE

802 information queries answered



PROGRAMS

127 Programs
Total Attendance:
1,607

