

# HOLDREGGE AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

JAN. 2025 -- DEC. 2025



**28,709** Visitors



**10,753**  
Active Card  
Holders

Holdrege = 6,627  
Phelps Co. = 2,432  
Outside of Phelps Co. = 1,694

**45,645**

Items Borrowed

**58,837**

eMaterials  
Borrowed

*Top Library Checkouts*  
PlayStation Controllers  
Headphones

**128,476** Physical  
& Digital Collection



**571,691**

Website & Social Media Reach



## Program Attendance

**3,832**

PRE-K &  
K-4TH GRADE

**5,597**

YA &  
ADULT



*Did you know we have  
a 3D Printer?*

# Holdrege Area Public Library

## – 2025 Annual Highlights –

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### Library Board of Trustees – Opening Remarks

The library's story in 2025 is not just about numbers. This year represented a period of rebuilding, reinvestment, and renewed focus, with intentional work to strengthen the library's foundation so it can continue serving our community well into the future.

Over the past year, Sierra, our Library Director, stepped into a role that required immediate attention to long-standing infrastructure challenges, outdated systems, and internal processes in need of clarity. What the board has seen is steady, thoughtful progress, much of it behind the scenes, that is positioning the library for long-term stability and growth.

Under her leadership, the library focused on strengthening internal operations and communication. New training structures were introduced, procedures are being updated or created, and systems are being put in place to better support staff and daily operations. While these improvements may not always be visible to the public, they are essential to providing reliable, high-quality service.

The library also faced continued facility and technology challenges this year. Rather than responding only as issues arose, Sierra worked closely with the City, Glenwood, the Nebraska Library Commission, and other partners to assess needs and stabilize essential systems. Some projects are still ongoing.

At the same time, the library invested in its people. New staff were welcomed as others celebrated retirement, professional development was encouraged, and a culture of shared responsibility and collaboration began to take shape. The board has seen a team that is becoming more adaptable, confident, and connected.

Despite the operational work happening behind the scenes, the library never lost sight of its role as a community space. Programming reached new levels of engagement, partnerships expanded, and events throughout the year reinforced that the library is not just a building, but a gathering place, a learning space, and a source of connection for all ages.

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## Library Director – Remarks

At the end of 2025, our library held 128,476 items in our physical and digital collection. The digital collection offers eBooks, Audio, and magazines through consortium partnerships.

This year presented a challenge for libraries nationwide when our long-standing materials supplier, Baker & Taylor, announced it would be ceasing operations. Baker & Taylor had served as a primary book supplier for public libraries for about 200 years, and its closure disrupted traditional ordering, cataloging, and standing-order workflows across the library industry.

In response, the library has begun transitioning to new vendors. We are setting up ordering through Amazon's library-focused services, which offer special pricing for libraries and catalog records. They don't have all the bugs worked out yet though, but we are hopeful. In addition, the library is working with Ingram Library Services to restore our Automatically Yours standing order list for popular authors. This service, similar to what Baker & Taylor previously provided, will help ensure timely access to high-demand titles for our patrons. These changes reflect the library's proactive approach to adapting to industry shifts.

## Circulation and Usage Highlights

- Over 45,645 physical items and 58,837 eMaterials borrowed were borrowed last year.
- We welcomed 28,709 visitors through our doors, an increase of 600 visitors, and 10,753 patrons hold active library cards. Which includes approximately 6,627 Holdrege residents, 2,432 outside of Holdrege residents, and 1,694 outside of Phelps County. The top 3 towns for card holders outside of Phelps County were Wilcox, Axtell and Oxford.
- The library serves on average 150 people a day!
- Our website and social media channels reached 138,178 engagements last year and this year we reached 571,691.
- This year also marked an important transition for the library's website. The library is working on a new website platform. This change was necessary for both long-term stability and accessibility. The Nebraska Library Commission will no longer be able to provide website hosting services at no cost in the future.

## Program Highlights

- Programs have also been a high interest area. We hosted 526 programs for all ages, with a total attendance of 9,429, which is an **increase of 2,683 from last year!**
- **3D Printer:** Thanks to a generous donation from the Friends of the Library, the library added a 3D printer to its technology offerings this year. Following staff training, the 3D printer debuted for public use in December. In just one month, it was used 81 times by patrons, showing a strong interest in hands-on learning, creativity, and emerging technologies. This addition expands access to tools that many patrons would not otherwise have available and reflects the library's role in supporting innovation and skill-building.
- **Community Outreach & Partnerships:** This year, the library placed an increased emphasis on meeting people where they are. New partnerships are forming with local homeschool groups, library staff also started visiting schools to connect directly with teens, asking them what they want to see in the library and using that feedback to help shape future programs and spaces.
- The library continued its role as an active partner with the Iron Horse Arts District, supporting local arts initiatives and contributing to downtown community engagement.
- Looking ahead, outreach efforts will continue to extend beyond Holdrege, ensuring residents throughout the surrounding area feel welcomed, represented, and connected to library services.

All of our programs are made possible through the support of our local government, grant funding, local partnerships, donations, and the dedication of our amazing library team!

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## Library Board of Trustees – Closing Remarks

As we move forward, the library is operating within a new phase shaped by intentional planning and reflection. Recently library staff created a new Strategic Plan, along with updated mission, vision, and core values. These guiding documents now provide a clear framework for decision-making and ensure the library's services and priorities align with both current community needs and long-term goals.

In closing, the board is proud of the progress made this year. It has not been without challenges, but those challenges have been met with determination, collaboration, and a clear sense of purpose. We are grateful for the continued support of the City and County, and we look forward to working together as the library continues to grow, adapt, and serve our community.