

**Kathleen Lute Public Library
Ogallala, NE**

**FY 2022/23 Annual Report
October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023**

Library Hours: Mon - Thurs 9 am to 8 pm / Fri 9am to 5pm / Sat 10am to 1pm
55 hours per week

** Kathleen Lute Public Library is accredited at the Silver Level of Accreditation through the Nebraska Library Commission and the Federal Government Classification System of Ratings held with the Institute of Library and Museum Standards and will be up for renewal December 31, 2027. The Kathleen Lute Public Library Board of Directors is certified as well, completing all their hours of Continuing Education annually to keep the Board accredited.

Patron and Circulation Statistics:

Patrons in Database:	6,465
Total Patron/Door Count:	20,964
Total Circulation:	48,877

Collection Statistics:

Total Print/Book Items in House:	43,554
Total Video/DVD Items in House:	6,221
Total Audio Books in House:	2,055
Total Overdrive/Libby Checkouts:	15,208
Total Periodical (magazine) Subscriptions:	113
Total Number of Newspaper Subscriptions:	8
Total of Electronic Database Subscriptions:	23
Total Titles of E Books Held	4,074
Total of items Held	56,025
Total Number of Titles Weeded:	364
Total Number of Titles added /catalogued:	2,459
Total Internet Desktop Users:	1,967
Total of Wi-Fi Users (Start date 4/20/13):	4,088

Interlibrary Loans:

Books Borrowed from other libraries :	20
Books Lent to other libraries:	175

Technology/ other library new additions:

- Upgraded Rosetta Stone Offering - more languages added
- Libby - the complete one stop for downloadable books - updated and new title offerings daily
- New shelving in the youth area - revamped
- Memorial Art Piece added to the Library grounds in Fall 2023

Friends of the Library:

** The Friends of the Library assist the library in being the pass-through account for our Region II Grant of \$3000 annually that the library staff write in for. This grant provides a lot of programming needs throughout the year for the youth of our community. The Friends group also assists the library with all snacks and any food items needed for programming as grant dollars cannot be used for any food or drink offerings at events. This year the Friends of the Library assisted greatly with our Summer Reading Program, both youth and adult. This program is such an important piece of our annual offerings we are so Thankful to the Friends for assisting us in providing such amazing program offerings to the public.

Library Foundation:

- \$600 towards the purchase cloth library patron bags

Adult Services:

WEL Life: Books delivered to patrons weekly or as needed

Curbside Pickup - - this service is available should patrons want contactless services

Device Assistance: Adult Library Personnel are the Tech Champions in the community as the Kathleen Lute Public Library assists patrons at an average of 4 per week in getting setup to download materials to their respective devices. Tech 101 has become the new normal of the librarians' job.

Reference: This is a much-overlooked area of the library - the Kathleen Lute Public Library fields reference requests from all over the City, County and World. A request could be so simple as to help a patron get signed up for City Water by assisting them in where to go or it could be as in-depth as tracking down Obituary and Birth Announcements from the early 1800s.

Total for 2022/23= 62,780 requests fulfilled

** Adult Programming Classes and Presentations were offered in Fall and Summer 2022/2023
Humanities / Craft classes offered throughout the year totaled 303
Crochet Class - held once a month = 110 attendees annually
Weekly Wednesday Morning Painting at the Library = 408
Puzzle Tournament offering = 15
Summer Reading Program presentations in August - weekly craft programs (4 total classes) =40

Youth Services:

Story Time / Baby Talk (Tuesdays and Thursday evenings): 1562 Attendees

School Partnering: St. Paul's Lutheran preschool - 5th grade - - these classrooms bring their students to our location for "library" day weekly to have their student's checkout books

Summer Reading Program: 1017 children participating and reading weekly
2291 Attendees at the 5 major programs - speakers and presenters

**paid for with Region II grant funds and help from the FOL

Amazing Magic show
Wildcat Hill Nature Center
Amazing Balloon Animals
Real Reptiles Presentation
Obstacle Course Finale

** New library items purchased to highlight the SRP finale - - we purchased new inflatable water sprinklers and a fun obstacle course water feature as well thru grant funds and the Friends of the Library the previous year and we added to that offering in 2023 with more sprinklers and game and a major water balloon fight with over 400 water balloons.

Other programming events:
Halloween Party = 187 total attendees

Volunteers / Total Library: Total: 40 hours

Staff: 3 full time staff, 7 part time staff.

Library Director (FT): Kendra Caskey

Youth Services Librarian (FT): Michael Coolidge - - resigned July 2023 - Trenton Knaub - new F/T hire officially on staff July 2023

Adult Library Librarian / Asst Director (FT): Kasia Helmuth

Adult & Youth Library Clerks: Barb Brandt

Library Assistant Clerks: Alyse McEvoy, Karen Bowlin, Ella Schlake, Mary Worthing, Wendy Gullingsrud and Victoria Edwards

Training:

- Summer Reading Program - in person and virtual
- Annual Library Conference - all virtual for KC

- Strategic Planning - virtual trainings KC
- Various online cataloging trainings KC
- Kendra Caskey Completed over 50 hours of Continuing Ed for accreditation for the Library Director MLS certification

Future / Strategic Planning:

The facility is a wonderful addition to the community of Ogallala. We have really promoted the Library Conference Room - that room is used on average 7 times each week with various community groups with over 6,440 total people using the space in the fiscal year 2022/2023. We have had a few off-hour rentals but the bulk of the space has been used for groups holding their regular meetings in the space.

In the Fall of 2023, we were able to install the Svoboda Family Art piece. This piece has been widely talked about in the community. The Art Piece Committee along with the City Council and the Library Foundation plan to do an unveiling event to promote the piece and commemorate the piece and the donation from the family during the year 2024. More to come on this.

As mentioned in previous reports, the biggest concern for the future health of the Library is finding and retaining qualified staff. As we look to building in programming and technology to highlight all the wonderful offerings we have at the library and things we would like to grow we need to understand our staffing limitations and how we can best do more with the staff we have who we have retained.

Director Stats:

- Member for Local Rotary Club of Ogallala
- Treasurer of Ogallala Post Prom Committee - Office Held since 2007
- Nebraska Library Commission Advocacy Committee Member - work with State Officials to advocate for all Nebraska Public Libraries
- Grant Writer - Kathleen Lute Public Library
- Masters in Library Science Degree (MLS) Awarded December 2011
- Member of Keith County Historical Society
- Grant Writer - Keith County Historical Society
- Friends of Kathleen Lute Public Library Member
- School Board President of St. Paul's Lutheran School / Voting member of Church Council
- PTL President of St. Paul's Lutheran School
- Active Church Member of St. Paul's Lutheran School
- Grant Writer for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School
- Active in various Youth Sports / Coaching Organizations throughout Ogallala
- President of Ogallala Softball Association
- Voting Member of 100 Women of Keith County Organization