



# NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE EQUALIZERS

There are **8.5 Million** annual visits to Nebraska public libraries (not including virtual library visits).<sup>i</sup> That's more than **5 times** the total attendance at home Nebraska football, volleyball, soccer, baseball, softball, men's basketball, women's basketball games, and the college world series, **combined**.<sup>ii</sup>

More than 21% of Nebraskans do not have access to high-speed internet (a paid internet service other than dial-up) at home.<sup>iii</sup> They often rely on their public libraries.

**Libraries** are more than books.

“Libraries are the great equalizer. They are places for ideas that aren't limited by socio-economic boundaries.”

**Pete and Jaden Ferguson**  
Father and Youth Development Team Coordinator at Lincoln Public Schools; Reader and Middle School Student

Libraries change lives.

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## Nebraska Public Libraries are Technology Equalizers

- **99%** offer **free** public internet access<sup>i</sup>
- **94%** offer **free** Wifi<sup>i</sup>
- **311,000** videos<sup>i</sup>
- **98%** offer online employment resources<sup>iv</sup>
- **97%** offer computer training<sup>iv</sup>
- **98%** offer assistance with completing government forms online<sup>iv</sup>
- **668,529** – eBook and Audiobook checkouts in 2014
- **204,502** – number of times users had to wait for desired eBook and Audiobook titles in 2014
- **1.5 Million** – population served by Nebraska public libraries participating in Nebraska eReads

Photo courtesy of the Foundation for the Lincoln City Libraries





## Library Programs Energize Community Connections

“We enjoy the warm, inviting environment and it being a kid-friendly place that embraces learning and helping children and parents to be the best they can be. We love the activities, summer reading program, and summer reading labs.”

– Library Customer, Gretna Public Library



“It’s an emotional experience for many people... The events may have happened decades ago, but the feelings are still fresh and alive today.”

– Bill Jamerson, history through song program provider for the Seward Public Library

- **17,000** Children’s Programs offered, with **490,00** attendees<sup>i</sup>
- **2,600** Young Adult Programs offered, with **37,00** attendees<sup>i</sup>
- **8,000** Adult Programs, with **125,000** attendees<sup>i</sup>
- **Invaluable** catalyst for community connection and early childhood literacy

