



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

November 17, 2025
Agenda Item No. 9

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FROM: Library Services Department
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PREPARED BY: Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director

TITLE: Report of October Library Activities – November 17, 2025 Meeting

MELISSA HARTSON, LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Café Space

Local coffee and tea house, Kit Coffee, began renovations to the Central Library café space. A partition was installed around the front of the space to help mitigate the noise, control the dust, and contain the work during the renovation. Tenant improvements are expected to continue for approximately 10 weeks.

Distinguished Citizen Program

I spoke to the Newport Beach Foundation's 13th Class of the Distinguished Citizen Program. The cohort consisted of 30 individuals who live or work in Newport Beach. The program is designed to teach participants about key components that form the foundation of Newport Beach, including local government. I presented a high-level overview of the Library Services Department highlighting library- and arts-related opportunities for civic engagement. After I spoke, a participant expressed interest in support and involvement with the Library Foundation.

WHEELHOUSE LIST FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES

- Spotlight on Science: Quantum Computing
Thursday, November 19, 7 p.m.
Community Room, Civic Center
- Library Closure: Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28
All locations
- Project Adult Literacy Holiday Potluck
Saturday, December 6, 10 a.m.
Community Room, Civic Center
- Holiday Open House
Sunday, December 7, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Corona del Mar Branch
- Board of Library Trustees Meeting
Monday, December 15, 5 p.m.
City Council Chambers, Civic Center

REBECCA LIGHTFOOT, LIBRARY SERVICES MANAGER

Literacy

Project Adult Literacy (PAL) held their first Learner Open House, where learners and tutors found out more about classes offered in the program. The final Volunteer Tutor Training and New Learner Orientation for 2025 took place on October 20, 21, and 28. The annual Volunteer In-Service Training on October 29, welcomed 27 attendees. Literacy Coordinator Christina Smith attended Career Online High School (COHS) training and will be reaching out to those interested in COHS.

Programming

The Library hosted Storytellers 2.0 in October, the advanced level writing series offered to participants who have completed the first Storytellers three-part series.

Also in October, the first of three Genealogy Uncovered workshops, *Beginning Genealogy*, was presented to an at-capacity class.

Facilities

Central Library (Central) reopened to the public on Monday, October 6. A rupture in the chiller line above the Children's room caused a significant water leak mid-month. Thanks to the quick response from Library and Public Works (PW) staff, all repairs and cleanup were completed with minimal disruption to public service and no lasting effects.

There are still a few items left to complete on the public elevator project, but it has passed inspection and is in use once again.

At Mariners Branch (Mariners), the security vendor came out to troubleshoot a motion detector that continued to trigger an alarm. The technician replaced the battery and appeared to have corrected the issue.

ANNIKA HELMUTH, BRANCH AND YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

Branch Activities

October at the branches was highlighted by seasonal programming and steady library use. At Mariners, staff represented the Library at the City's annual *Spooktacular* event, connecting with over 1,100 attendees. At Balboa Branch (Balboa), programming remained limited to Storytime as staff prepared for the upcoming replacement project. And at Corona del Mar Branch (CdM), early literacy programs continued to draw strong attendance. The annual *CdM Fire Station Storytime* was another tremendous success that drew 179 participants.



PW also completed various maintenance projects at the branches. At Mariners, PW staff repaired study desk cords, replaced broken public toilet parts, and continued LED lighting upgrades. Mariners also had 18 new computer chairs added for public use. At CdM, a restroom plumbing issue was promptly resolved and the space deep-cleaned. At Balboa, thermostats were replaced and are now operating correctly.

Youth Services

Central resumed youth programming in October with strong participation. *BARK: Read to a Dog* welcomed three therapy dogs and several new families; *Middle Grade Book Club* discussed *Wink* by Rob Harrell, followed by a drawing activity; and *STEAM Lab* participants built bird feeders and nature journals. The annual *Halloween Party* drew 157 attendees who enjoyed crafts, stories, and trick-or-treating around the library.

Tech Toys for Kids

The *Tech Toys for Kids* collection successfully launched on October 6. High demand and interest in the collection was evident with all twelve items on hold by mid-afternoon on launch day. In October, the collection circulated a total of 35 times collectively, and patron feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Staff is actively monitoring use patterns and areas of greatest impact as we look towards possible expansion in the next fiscal year.

Personnel

CdM welcomed Carly Quijano as part-time Library Assistant, returning the location to full staffing. Branch and Youth Services Coordinator Annika Helmuth attended the California Library Association annual conference in Riverside, California where she participated in several highly engaging breakout sessions on creating intentional storytime training, creating story walks in the community, student success card partnerships, current legislative priorities, and designing spaces to support lifelong learning.

ANDREW KACHATURIAN, ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR

Teen Services

The Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC) had a large turnout of 19 teens in October. They performed icebreakers, team-building exercises, and leadership skills. The teens enjoyed sharing the books and media that they are currently consuming and assisted in suggestions for the teen area in the Library and helped plan future YAAC meetings.

The Library also participated in three events in October: The Newport-Mesa Unified School District College and Career Fair on October 22, a CollegeWise course on *How to Pay for College* also on October 22, and a *Dare to Prepare* workshop for young drivers on October 25

Library Assistants Greg Johnson and Anne-Marie Angeloff attended the NMUSD College and Career Fair and had 133 visits to their table, where they gave out marketing information, giveaways, and presented information about upcoming programs and volunteer opportunities. Many people stopped by to say how much they enjoy and appreciate the Library. As the Career Fair was scheduled at the same time as the CollegeWise class, attendance was slim, but this afforded the presenter to spend more personalized time with each person, which was appreciated. The *Dare to Prepare* course on October 25 was well attended with 16 teens and adults. The focus was on distracted driving and helped families understand the importance of staying focused and safe while driving.

Adult Services

Reference Librarian Jeremy Rodriguez provided a tour of the Library to a small group of health services librarians on October 16. They were interested in learning what resources the Library offered, both for academic and personal interest. They were most interested in learning about the Media Lab, physical media in the Popular Library, meeting spaces, and programs offered by the Library, especially the Medicine in Our Backyard series provided by the Newport Beach Public Library Foundation.

Staffing

There were no staffing changes in Adult Services in October.

MIRANDA GENTRY, CIRCULATION COORDINATOR**Staffing**

We are in the process of filling two part-time Library Clerk I positions with one vacancy at Mariners and one at Central. We have extended offers to two candidates who are working with HR on background and fitness checks.

We are currently recruiting for one Library Page vacancy at Central. First round of interviews will take place in the middle of November.

Proquest Articles Retrieved 2025-2026

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	AVG.
Business Databases	3021	*	*	7149									5085
Newspapers--Current	913	*	*	1000									957
Newspapers--Historical	3265	*	*	1196									2231
Magazines	47	*	*	1054									551

Database FY Comparisons	JUL 2025	AUG 2025	SEP 2025	OCT 2025	NOV 2025	DEC 2025	JAN 2026	FEB 2026	MAR 2026	APR 2026	MAY 2026	JUN 2026	YTD 25/26
Tracked by #searches													
A to Z Databases	481	438	234	182									1335
Alexander Street	253	682	457	1123									2515
Ancestry	200	205	9	306									720
AskART	12	17	9	13									51
Brainfuse JobNow/VetNow	107	62	25	3									197
Britannica School Edition	9	0	82	248									339
Exploring Race in Society	24	14	4	40									82
Gale Archives Unbound	7	4	16	17									44
Gale Directory Library	45	25	**	**									70
Gale in Context: Biography	1	8	14	81									104
Gale in Context: Elementary	2	0	6	6									14
Gale in Context: Environmental	0	2	0	0									2
Gale in Context: Opposing View	17	10	10	216									253
Gale Interactive: Science	0	0	0	0									0
Gale Literature Resource Center	16	17	6	116									155
Gale eBooks	52	15	15	60									142
HeritageQuest	405	325	180	90									1000
Legal Information Ref Center	64	57	22	130									273
National Geographic	12	26	20	46									104
National Geographic Kids	6	34	10	26									76
NewsBank	4794	4741	4505	4846									18886
NoveList Plus	48	41	65	81									235
NoveList K-8 Plus	12	146	33	55									246
ProQuest	4466	*	*	31725									36191
Proquest eLibrary	0	33	23	4									60
Reference Solutions Business	322	609	392	412									1735
Reference Solutions Residential	12	29	14	19									74
SIRS Discoverer	4	12	53	13									82
SIRS Issues Researcher	267	659	1881	379									3186
State Statistics	5	6	5	47									63
World Book Online	9	39	53	33									134
Tracked by #page views													
Artist Works	3	2	6	3									14
Consumer Reports	2475	2156	1853	1934									8418
CultureGrams	68	36	4	49									157
Morningstar	3697	7618	4826	3483									19624
RealQuest	8	14	121	36									179
Tumblebooks	35	33	11	33									112
Value Line	9891	8507	10381	11564									40343
Wall Street Journal	3393	3469	1439	4086									12387
Tracked by courses													
LinkedIn Learning	254	262	209	484									1209
Tracked by books logged													
Beanstack	7403	2832	1877	2334									14446
Tracked by Hours Used													
ABC Mouse	34.58	37.55	19.98	19.62									111.73
Beanstack	7738	1554	385	266									9943
Rosetta Stone	28.82	33.70	57.47	85.32									205.31

Notes:

* Accurate data unavailable for August and September 2025. Data will be restored in October 2025.

** Gale Directory Library subscription cancelled September, 2025

NBPL Website Usage 2025-2026

Metric	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Total Users	28317	28872	26436	36733									30090	120358
New Users	14608	15467	14189	23841									17026	68105
Sessions	47805	50528	45583	55929									49961	199845
Pageviews	122016	123728	105782	122541									118517	474067
Sessions Per User	2	2	2	2									2	--
Pages Per Session	3	2	2	2									2	--
Avg. Session Dur. (min)	7	7	6	6									6	--
Bounce Rate (%)	64	62	63	66									64	--

Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Total Data Transferred (GB) 2025-2026

Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa	201	275	237	143									214	856
CdM	391	514	540	420									466	1865
Mariners	2240	2200	2460	2340									2310	9240
Central *	14120	16200	6960	11000									12070	48280
Total	16951	19189	10197	13903									15060	60241

Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Total Unique Patrons 2025-2026

Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa	383	278	278	291									308	1230
CdM	557	527	695	526									576	2305
Mariners	1454	1432	2038	1749									1668	6673
Central *	11130	10480	6307	8671									9147	36588
Total	13524	12717	9318	11237									11699	46796

Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Average Number of Patrons Per Day 2025-2026

Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa	30	21	20	19									23	90
CdM	32	34	42	32									35	140
Mariners	111	109	150	135									126	505
Central *	746	672	361	518									574	2297
Total	919	836	573	704									758	3032

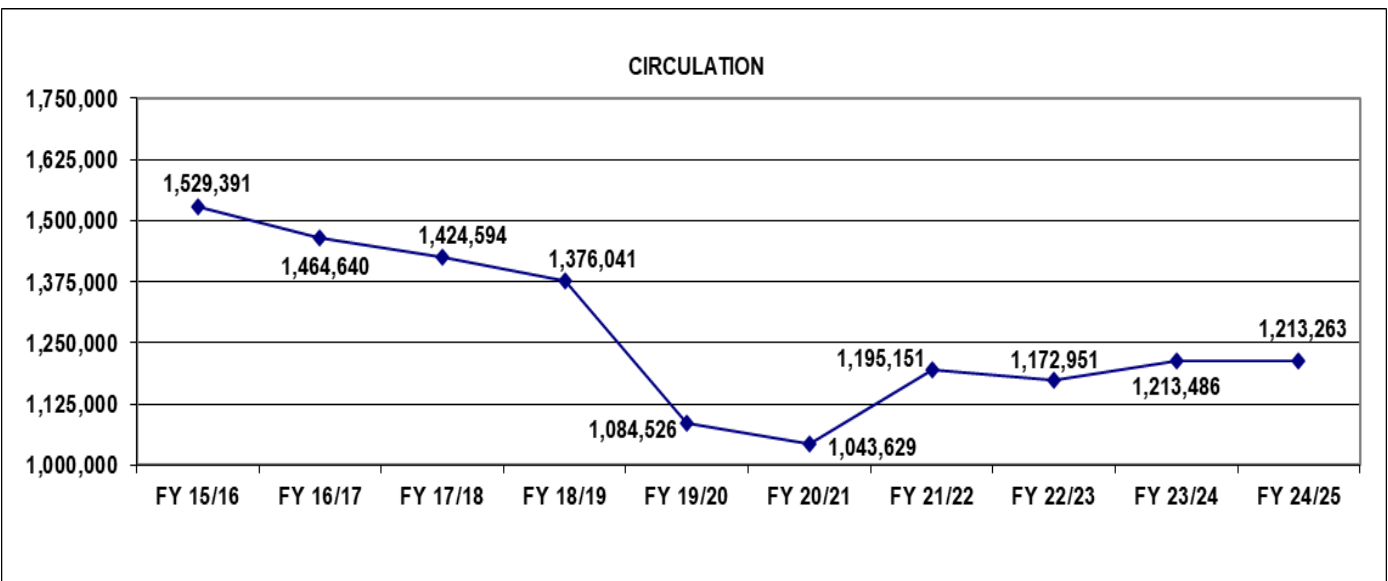
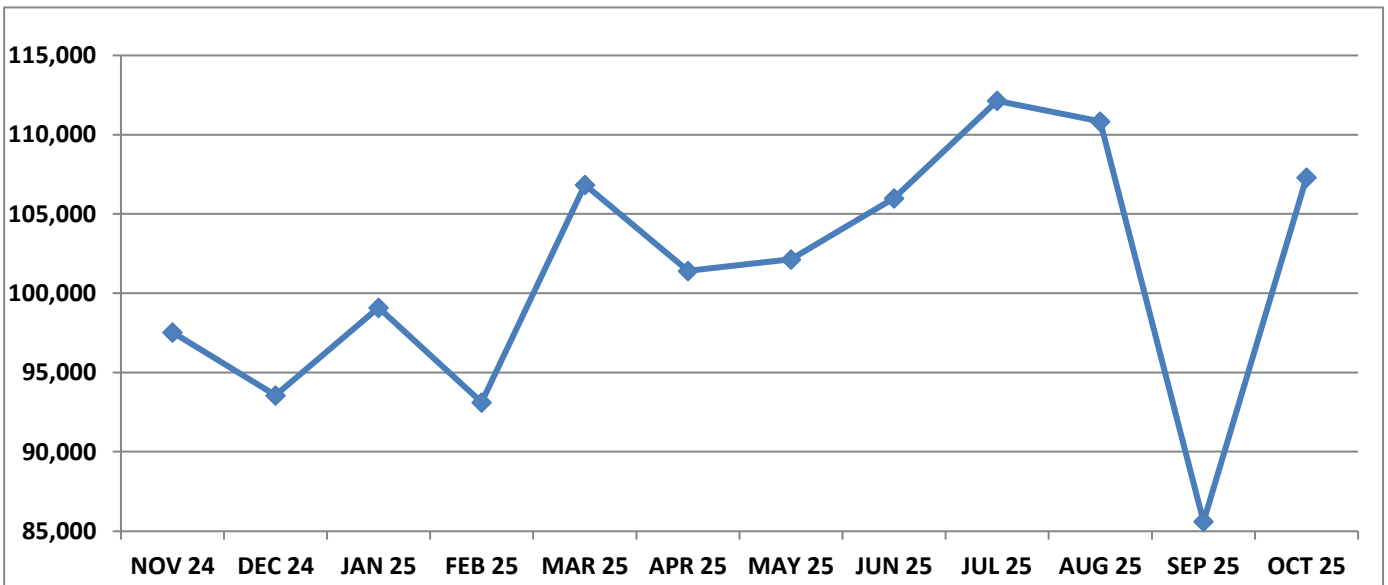
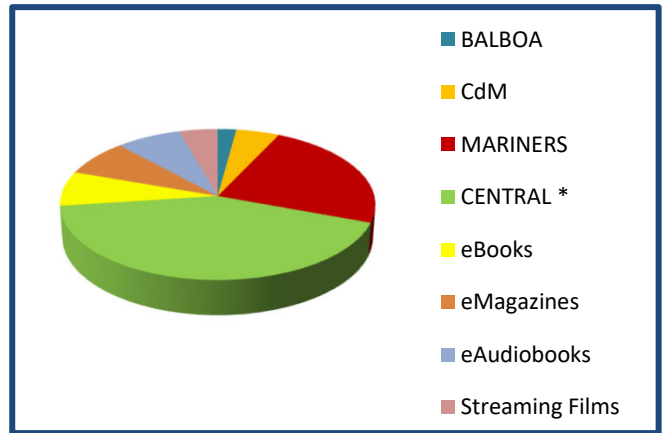
Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Average Usage Per Patron (MB) 2025-2026

Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa	536	1012	874	505									732	2927
CdM	718	999	795	818									833	3330
Mariners	1580	1570	1230	1370									1438	5750
Central *	1300	1580	1130	1300									1328	5310
Total	4135	5161	4030	3992									4329	17317

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - OCTOBER 2025

CIRCULATION

	OCT 25	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA	2,281	10,065	11,389
CdM	5,332	18,620	15,690
MARINERS	25,225	92,199	85,130
CENTRAL *	45,412	178,988	205,802
eBooks	7,977	33,760	32,098
eMagazines	8,342	30,853	19,768
eAudiobooks	8,036	32,862	30,107
Streaming Films	4,696	18,548	13,555
TOTAL	107,301	415,895	413,539

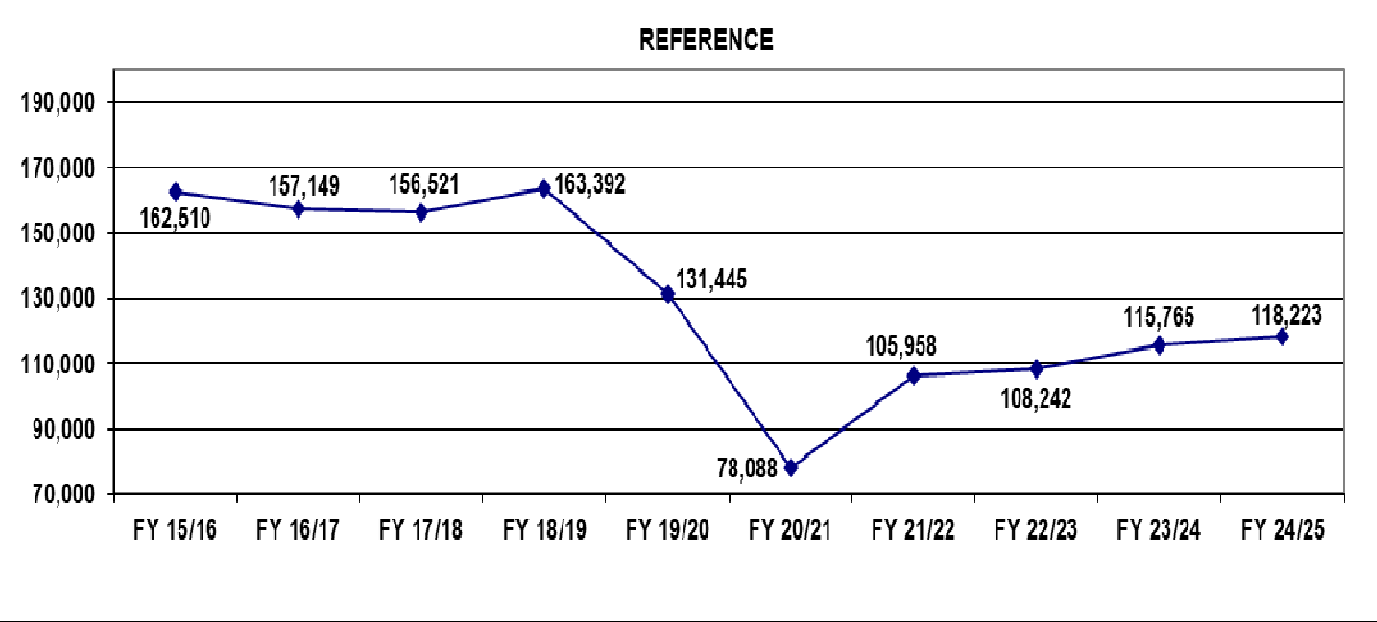
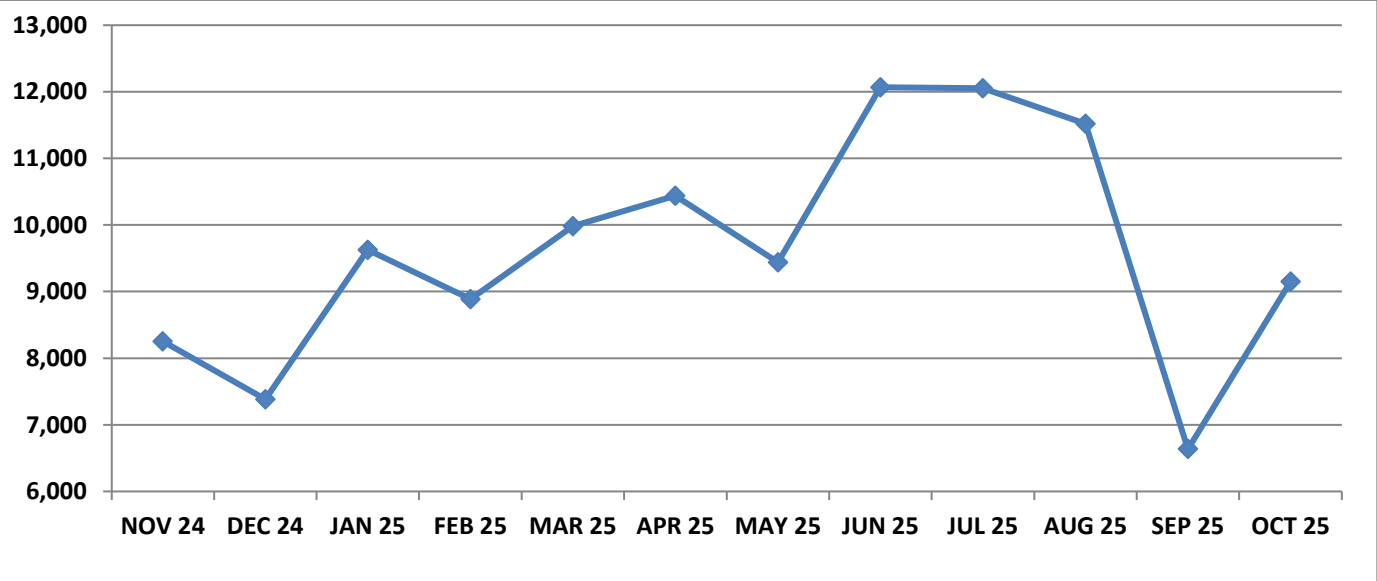
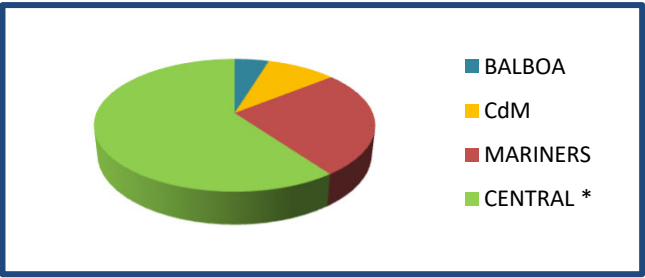


* Central Library Closure: 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - OCTOBER 2025 REFERENCE

BALBOA
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL *

OCT 25	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
432	1,898	1,619
872	4,129	3,053
2,358	8,022	8,509
5,487	25,307	28,969
9,149	39,356	42,150



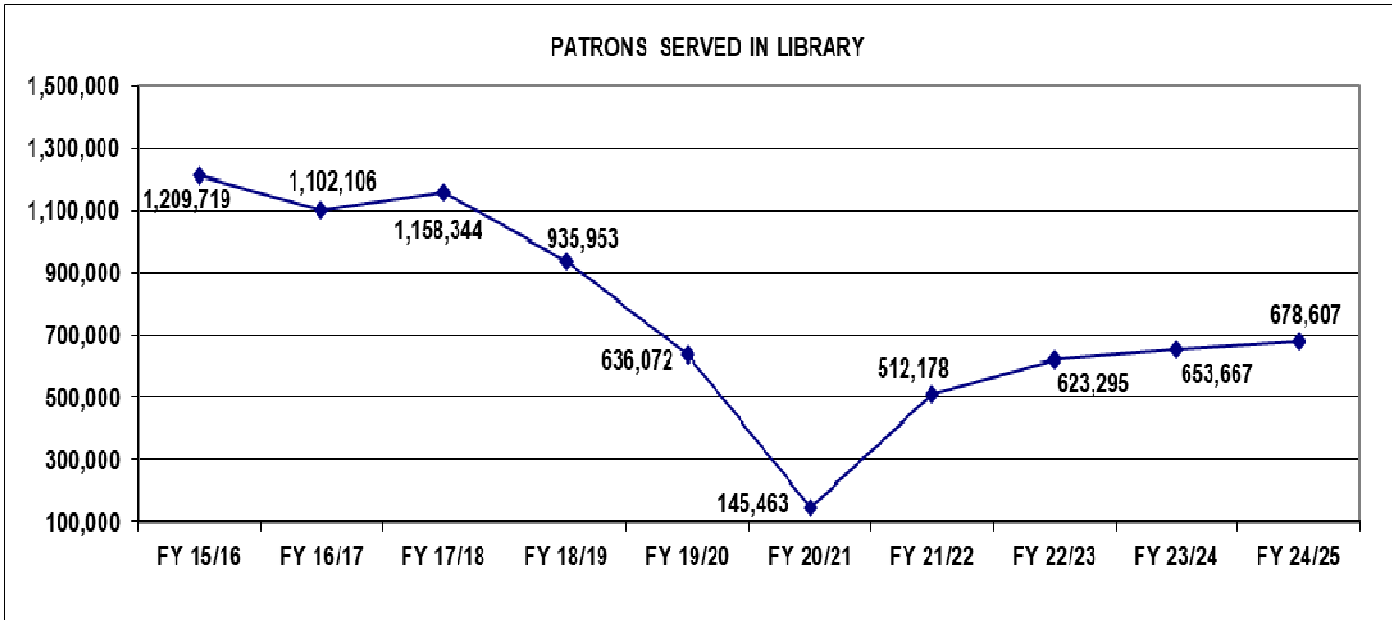
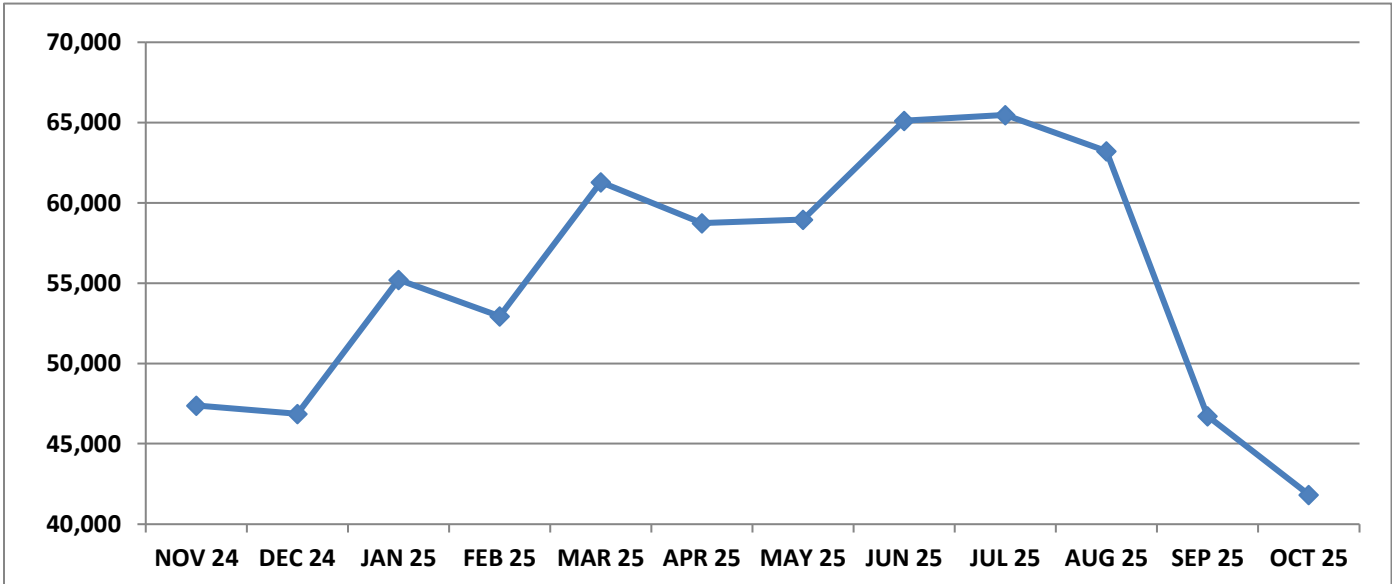
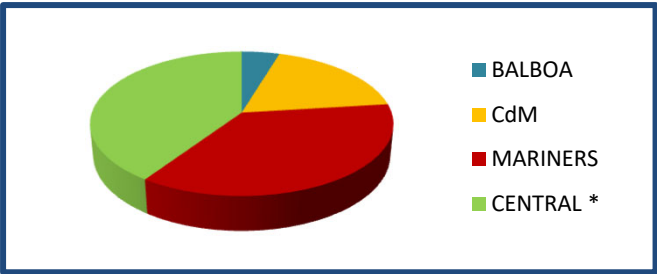
* Central Library Closure: 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - OCTOBER 2025 PATRONS SERVED

BALBOA
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL *

TOTAL

OCT 25	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
1,957	8,684	9,675
7,686	31,754	13,799
15,245	56,723	51,155
16,935	120,074	157,457
41,823	217,235	232,086



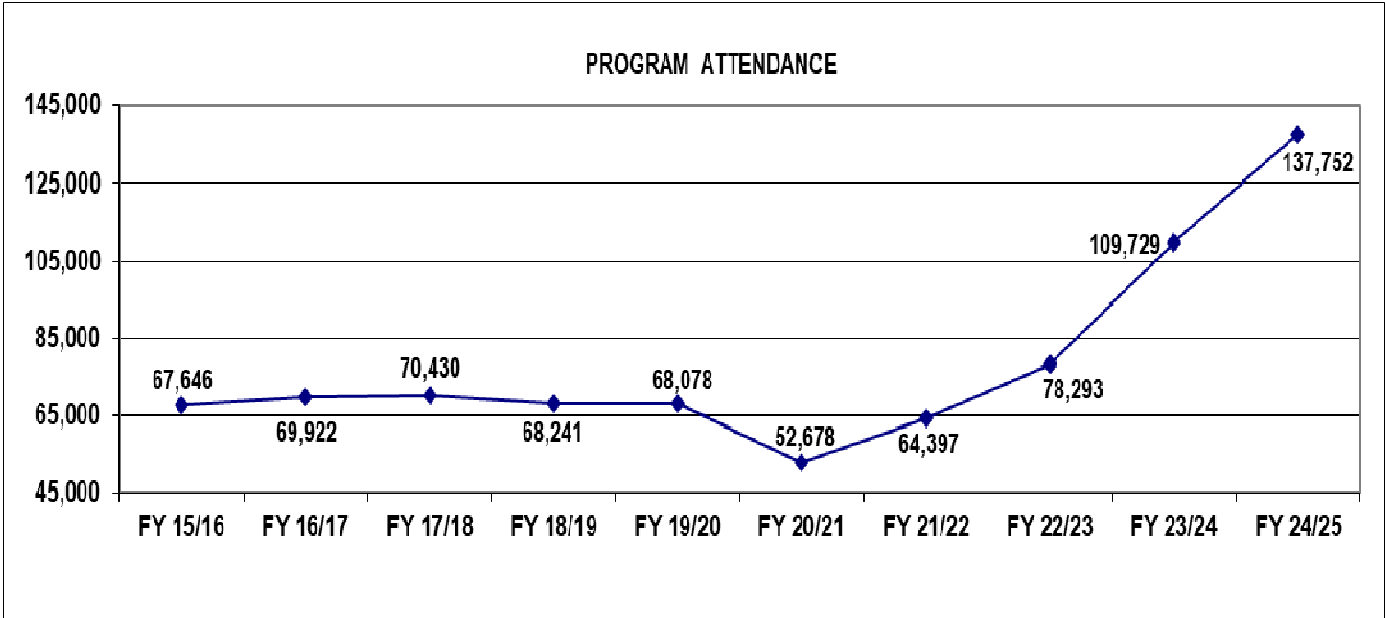
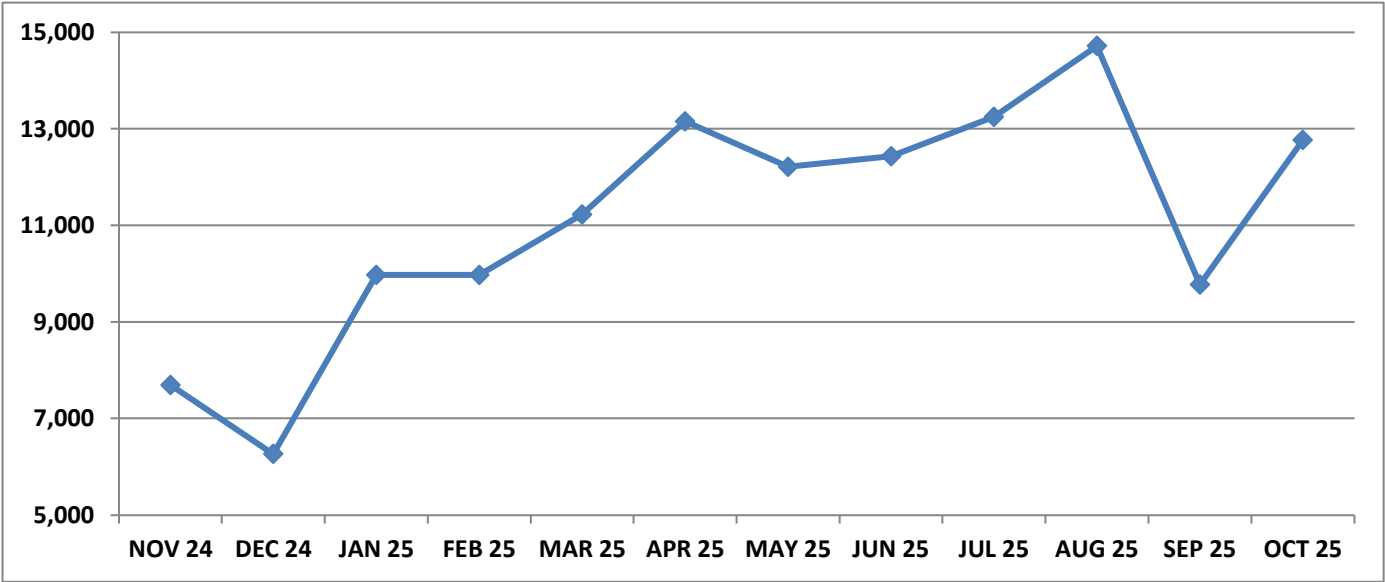
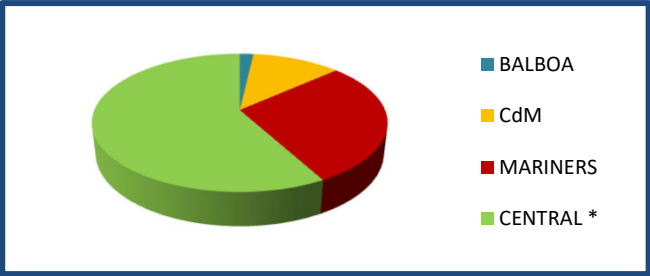
* Central Library Closure: 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - OCTOBER 2025 PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

BALBOA
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL *

TOTAL

OCT 25	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
229	1,412	1,700
1,480	6,360	5,197
3,658	10,130	8,954
7,399	32,597	38,986
12,766	50,499	54,837



* Central Library Closure: 09/15/2025-10/05/2025