



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

May 18, 2026
Agenda Item No. 8

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

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

TITLE: Report of April Library Activities

MELISSA HARTSON, LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR

National Library Week

All locations celebrated National Library Week featuring family-centered activities aligned with this year's theme, *Find Your Joy*. Special guest storytimes included City Councilmembers Erik Weigand and Joe Stapleton and Board of Library Trustees members Meghan Murray and Chase Rief participating as guest readers at Crean Mariners Branch (Mariners); Mayor Lauren Kleiman, Mayor Pro Tem Noah Blom, and Councilmember Robyn Grant participated at Central Library (Central); and Councilmember Michelle Barto, Board of Library Trustees members Vice Chair Antonella Castro and Secretary Dorothy Larson, and Recreation and Senior Services Director Sean Levin participated at Corona del Mar Branch (CdM). Guest readers collectively welcomed more than 650 attendees during the celebratory week, with families responding enthusiastically to the opportunity to engage with community leaders in a library setting.

Central Library Café Space

Local coffee shop operator, KIT Coffee launched their soft opening of KIT at the Library in April. KIT at the Library serves coffee, tea, and a variety of bagel options. The second-floor lobby space has seen a noticeable increase in activity with the café opening. Current hours of operation are Monday – Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with hours expanding at a future date.



WHEELHOUSE LIST FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES

- Medicine in Our Backyard: Spotting Stroke
Monday, May 18, 7 p.m.
Community Room, Civic Center
- Summer Reading Program
Registration Opens Tuesday, May 26
Program Runs:
Saturday, June 6 – Saturday, August 1
All locations
- Library Closure: Memorial Day
Monday, May 25
All locations
- Board of Library Trustees Meeting
Monday, June 15, 5 p.m.
City Council Chambers, Civic Center
- Friends Used Book Sale
Friday, June 5, 1 – 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 6, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Friends Room and Lobby, Central Library

REBECCA LIGHTFOOT, LIBRARY SERVICES MANAGER

Literacy

Project Adult Literacy (PAL) Coordinator Christina Smith presented at Southern California Library Literacy Network's Quarterly Meeting, speaking about Building Community in Library Literacy Programs. PAL staff completed Annual Learner Assessments. PAL participated in a Literacy Spaces grant and will be receiving new furniture in May. PAL held Spring Volunteer Tutor Training, with six attendees, and New Learner Orientation with 12 attendees.

The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Celebration took place on Saturday, April 25. Thirty-seven attendees enjoyed a catered lunch. Service awards were presented to volunteers and tutors participating in the program.

Programming

In April, the Library offered three Storytellers Extended classes: Crafting Dialogue, The Proposal Process, and Show Don't Tell.

The Library presented a Meet the Author Event featuring Nicola Harrison and *The Island Club*, a historical fiction novel set in 1950s Balboa Island. The event was well received with 173 in attendance. The program was held at the Civic Center Community Room and Lido Village Books was on hand for book sales and author signing.

Facilities

Municipal Operations touched up paint in the Children's room at Central.

ANNIKA HELMUTH, BRANCH AND YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

Branch Activities

CdM continued to see strong family engagement, with more than 1,800 children and caregivers participating in activities and programs during the month. CdM also joined the Corona del Mar 3rd Thursday community event, which drew 751 attendees and featured crafts, games, and a popular petting zoo.

Balboa Branch (Balboa) remained closed for construction of the new facility. Staff continued reopening preparations by developing opening day collection lists and maintained offsite children’s programming at Marina Park, where Preschool Storytimes and a Butterflies & Blooms Spring craft program welcomed just under 100 participants.

Mariners experienced another active month, with nearly 3,000 patrons attending programs, outreach activities, and special events. The branch also celebrated a record-setting month for the Seed Library, surpassing 300 checkouts, about 30% higher than April 2025, and hosted its third annual Spring Planting Event in partnership with UC Master Gardeners.

Youth Services

Central Youth Services team continued to offer creative and educational programming for children. Programs included Coding for Kids, Art Space, Book Club, Crafternoon, and BARK. Of note, Coding for Kids remained fully enrolled throughout April, with strong repeat participation and continued interest from returning students. Total children’s program attendance at Central exceeded 3,700.

Special Programs

At Central, the annual Butterfly Release returned as part of National Library Week, welcoming nearly 300 participants across a morning and afternoon session. The event included butterfly-themed storytimes, songs, crafts, educational activities, and a guided walk to the Civic Center Park, where families participated in a butterfly and ladybug release.

Mariners also hosted a *Create-A-Book* activity during National Library Week that encouraged creativity and literacy development among children. A total of 85 children created their own books using provided craft supplies and writing materials.

Outreach

Youth Services staff participated in the Healthy Kids outreach event at the YMCA for the second consecutive year, where staff interacted with approximately 260 parents and children, distributed Summer Reading Program (SRP) information, and promoted library services and upcoming programs. The event provided a valuable opportunity to engage both current Library users and new families within the community. Additionally, Central hosted a tour for an Andersen Elementary Girl Scout troop, introducing children and caregivers to library resources, book discovery, and upcoming SRP activities.



Personnel

Central part-time Library Assistant Bernadette Gilliam was promoted to full-time Library Assistant at Mariners.

ANDREW KACHATURIAN, ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR

Teen Services

The Young Adult Advisory Committee does not meet in April, but the Library held two Teen programs in April. On Wednesday April 2, Central hosted a *College Admissions 101* course for 23 people that attended. A counselor for Collegewise gave a presentation on college applications, changes in the upcoming year, as well as detailing standardized testing in the college admissions landscape. Teens and parents had opportunities to ask questions, and many families expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to attend. There will be additional courses towards the end of the year.

On Thursday, April 30, Central hosted a Teen AP Exam *Snack and Study* which presents teens the opportunity to gather in the upstairs Charles Sword Meeting Room for dedicated space to study. We had 16 teens in attendance and a large student presence throughout the Library that evening. Additional *Snack and Study* events are scheduled over the first weekend in May.

Adult Services

Librarians Mary-Kay Lutgen and Jeremy Rodriguez held a presentation of library services at Vivante Newport Center, an assisted living facility in Newport Beach. They spoke to 15 residents about popular apps like Libby and Kanopy as well as learning databases such as Rosetta Stone, Ckbk (cookbooks), Artist Works, and LinkedIn Learning. Mary-Kay delivered a presentation on the Library's Homebound services, which at least one resident was interested in joining. They also discussed the Library Foundation of Newport Beach and the Friends of the Library. The residents were all very appreciative of the information and services and engaged in many questions.

Staffing

Part-time Library Assistant Olivia Peasley joined Central in April, filling the last current vacancy in Adult Services.

MIRANDA GENTRY, CIRCULATION COORDINATOR

Staffing

The Library welcomed Kyle Donaldson as one of the new part-time Support Services Aides. Kyle will focus on the delivery of library materials across the library system as well as event setup.

Training

A Library Clerk department meeting was held to discuss updates, procedures, and customer service best practices. Central Senior Library Clerk Michael Tran-Belleville and I focused on the topics of the Integrated Library System account notations, customer service, and the concierge process.

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Board of Library Trustees considers the item).

Proquest Articles Retrieved 2025-2026

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	AVG.
Business Databases	3021	*	*	7149	1288	1206	1705	1264	1780	1417			2354
Newspapers--Current	913	*	*	1000	798	641	618	460	600	471			688
Newspapers--Historical	3265	*	*	1196	1511	2419	1674	1732	1222	1350			1796
Magazines	47	*	*	1054	31	17	22	26	14	17			154

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	339	581	347	230	187	192			3211
Alexander Street	253	682	457	1123	236	574	170	49	302	779			4625
Ancestry	200	205	9	306	521	150	243	334	238	347			2553
AskART	12	17	9	13	31	11	104	41	23	68			329
Brainfuse JobNow/VetNow	107	62	25	3	4	3	**	**	**	**			204
Britannica School Edition	9	0	82	248	75	15	5	0	83	112			629
Ckbk	§	§	§	§	§	§	1132	906	555	244			2837
Exploring Race in Society	24	14	4	40	4	18	7	21	14	3			149
Gale Archives Unbound	7	4	16	17	32	29	2	3	15	4			129
Gale Directory Library	45	25	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇			70
Gale in Context: Biography	1	8	14	81	13	2	23	51	47	22			262
Gale in Context: Elementary	2	0	6	6	7	2	3	2	1	14			43
Gale in Context: Environmental	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			2
Gale in Context: Opposing View	17	10	10	216	21	58	61	9	41	21			464
Gale Interactive: Science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Gale Literature Resource Center	16	17	6	116	9	3	9	22	106	64			368
Gale eBooks	52	15	15	60	172	10	12	31	68	82			517
HeritageQuest	405	325	180	90	587	173	1	109	252	81			2203
Legal Information Ref Center	64	57	22	130	59	70	129	86	42	89			748
National Geographic	12	26	20	46	24	16	33	36	10	26			249
National Geographic Kids	6	34	10	26	12	43	7	20	120	13			291
NewsBank	4794	4741	4505	4846	4260	4156	5216	3736	4098	3902			44254
NoveList Plus	48	41	65	81	78	79	46	27	88	55			608
NoveList K-8 Plus	12	146	33	55	53	90	27	14	26	49			505
ProQuest	4466	*	*	31725	2443	2182	2685	1973	2632	2095			50201
Proquest eLibrary	0	33	23	4	1	1	4	0	1	1			68
Reference Solutions Business	322	609	392	412	105	319	493	169	435	266			3522
Reference Solutions Residential	12	29	14	19	25	17	8	30	12	53			219
SIRS Discoverer	4	12	53	13	1	0	0	0	0	4			87
SIRS Issues Researcher	267	659	1881	379	1	0	1	0	1	0			3189
StatsUSA (formerly State Statistics)	5	6	5	47	20	2	6	7	2	0			100
World Book Online	9	39	53	33	13	84	53	43	73	10			410
Tracked by #page views													
Artist Works	3	2	6	3	3	1	5	1	3	3			30
Consumer Reports	2475	2156	1853	1934	1981	1558	1117	1401	1537	1545			17557
CultureGrams	68	36	4	49	115	23	130	26	85	15			551
Morningstar	3697	7618	4826	3483	3080	3973	4356	4371	3993	3602			42999
RealQuest	8	14	121	36	3	10	14	59	Ω	4			269
Tumblebooks	35	33	11	33	25	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡			137
Value Line	9891	8507	10381	11564	9057	8620	10684	9517	10608	8711			97540
Wall Street Journal	3393	3469	1439	4086	3856	4452	4545	3350	5341	4866			38797
Tracked by courses													
LinkedIn Learning	254	262	209	484	431	210	138	183	251	206			2628
Tracked by books logged													
Beanstack	7403	2832	1877	2334	1662	1097	2045	2215	1813	4630			27908
Tracked by Hours Used													
ABC Mouse †	127.02	130.58	81.07	97.93	125.65	109.97	107.66	73.00	81.55	75.78			1010.21
Beanstack	7738	1554	385	266	360	270	240	228	140	238			11419
Rosetta Stone	28.82	33.70	57.47	85.32	57.01	50.27	70.66	56.08	64.76	58.87			562.96

Notes:

* Accurate date unavailable for August and September 2025. Data restored in October 2025

** Brainfuse subscription cancelled January 2026

§ Ckbk subscription added January 2026. Data available quarterly

◇ Gale Directory Library subscription cancelled September 2025

Ω Unable to retrieve any statistics for March 2026

‡ Tumblebooks Library subscription cancelled December 2025

† Corrected values for ABC Mouse added for 2025

‡ Data unavailable at the time of posting

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	27126	25358	32957	30831	30505	100961			36810	368096
New Users	14608	15467	14189	23841	15006	13147	19502	18281	15702	21329			17107	171072
Sessions	47805	50528	45883	55929	43442	41915	51715	47232	48103	118400			55065	550652
Pageviews	122016	123728	105782	122541	103499	101665	122042	107786	115463	121591			114611	1146113
Sessions Per User	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1			2	--
Pages Per Session	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1			2	--
Avg. Session Dur. (min)	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	4	4	2			5	--
Bounce Rate (%)	64	62	63	66	64	64	66	67	65	85			66	--

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	121	165	215	238	22	--			180	1617
CdM	391	514	540	420	292	287	317	331	472	414			398	3977
Mariners	2240	2200	2460	2340	1910	1570	1860	1610	2770	2150			2111	21110
Central *	14120	16200	6960	11000	12450	12190	15070	13910	15500	14730			13213	132130
Total	16951	19189	10197	13903	14773	14211	17462	16089	18764	17294			15883	158834

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	206	248	229	236	143	--			255	2292
CdM	557	527	695	526	330	407	356	321	411	423			455	4553
Mariners	1454	1432	2038	1749	1376	1292	1211	1341	1728	1630			1525	15251
Central *	11130	10480	6307	8671	9493	9918	9773	9623	10984	12266			9865	98645
Total	13524	12717	9318	11237	11405	11865	11569	11521	13266	14319			12074	120741

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	15	18	18	19	9	--			19	169
CdM	32	34	42	32	22	22	23	23	27	29			29	286
Mariners	111	109	150	135	108	100	94	102	128	122			116	1159
Central *	746	672	361	518	566	612	584	644	672	746			612	6121
Total	919	836	573	704	711	752	719	788	836	897			774	7735

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	602	680	961	1010	160	--			704	6340
CdM	718	999	795	818	905	721	912	1030	1150	1003			905	9051
Mariners	1580	1570	1230	1370	1420	1250	1570	1230	1640	1350			1421	14210
Central *	1300	1580	1130	1300	1340	1260	1580	1480	1440	1230			1364	13640
Total	4135	5161	4030	3992	4267	3911	5023	4750	4390	3583			4324	43241

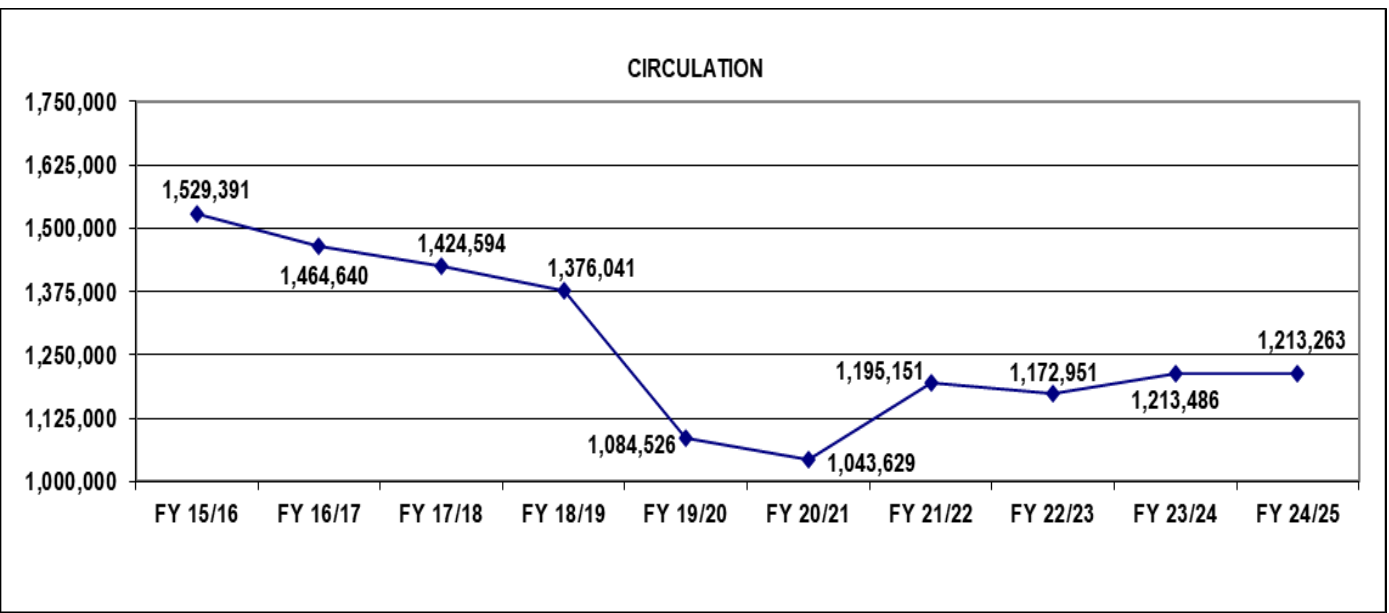
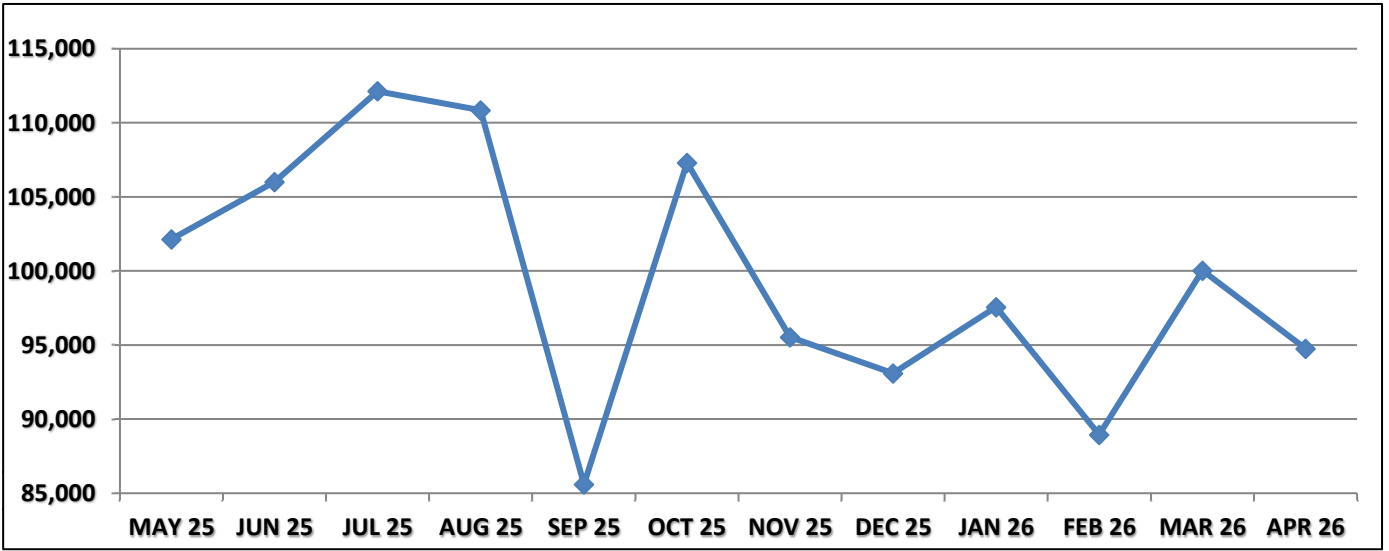
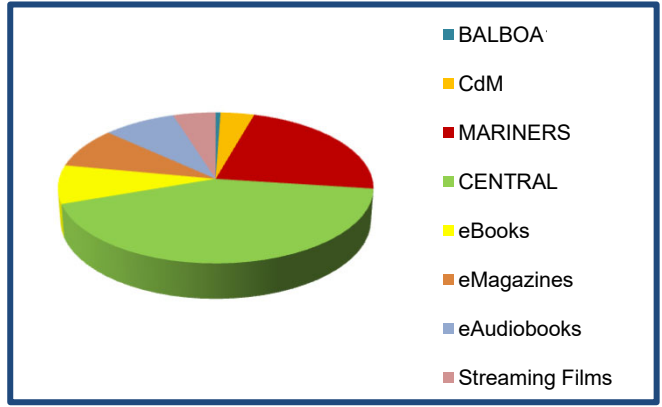
* Central Library Closure: 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

^ Balboa Branch Library Closure: 03/01/2026-06/30/2026

· Library website intermittent maintenance period

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - APRIL 2026 CIRCULATION

	APR 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA ¹	533	18,485	25,897
CdM	3,672	40,852	36,574
MARINERS	21,442	216,480	207,767
CENTRAL ²	40,418	424,807	482,518
eBooks	7,808	81,140	81,200
eMagazines	8,283	77,580	59,382
eAudiobooks	7,949	81,008	76,129
Streaming Films	4,658	45,456	35,659
TOTAL	94,763	985,808	1,005,126



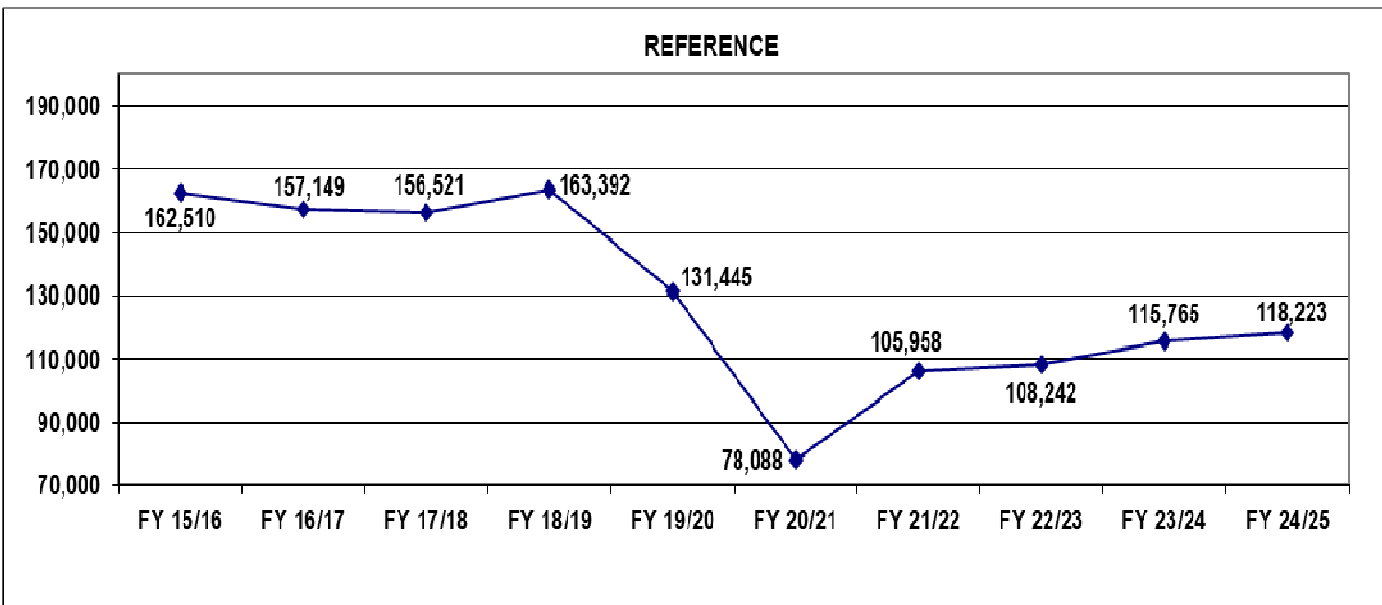
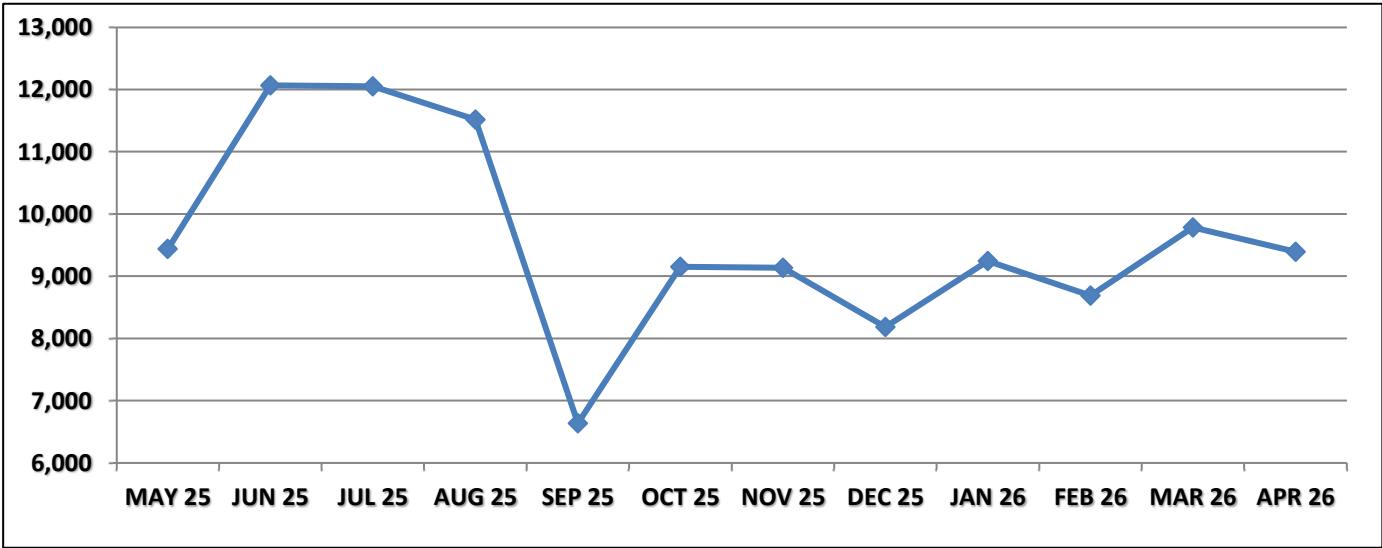
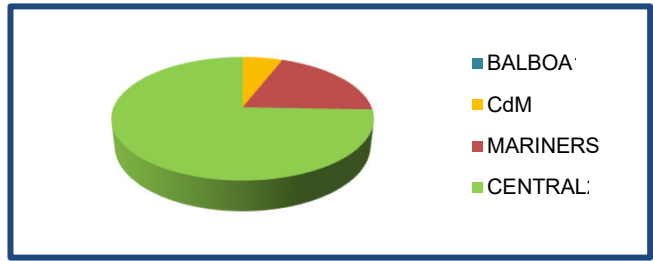
¹ Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026 | ² Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - APRIL 2026 REFERENCE

BALBOA¹
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL²

TOTAL

APR 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
0	3,180	3,934
554	7,508	7,291
1,846	19,080	19,893
6,991	64,009	65,597
9,391	93,777	96,715



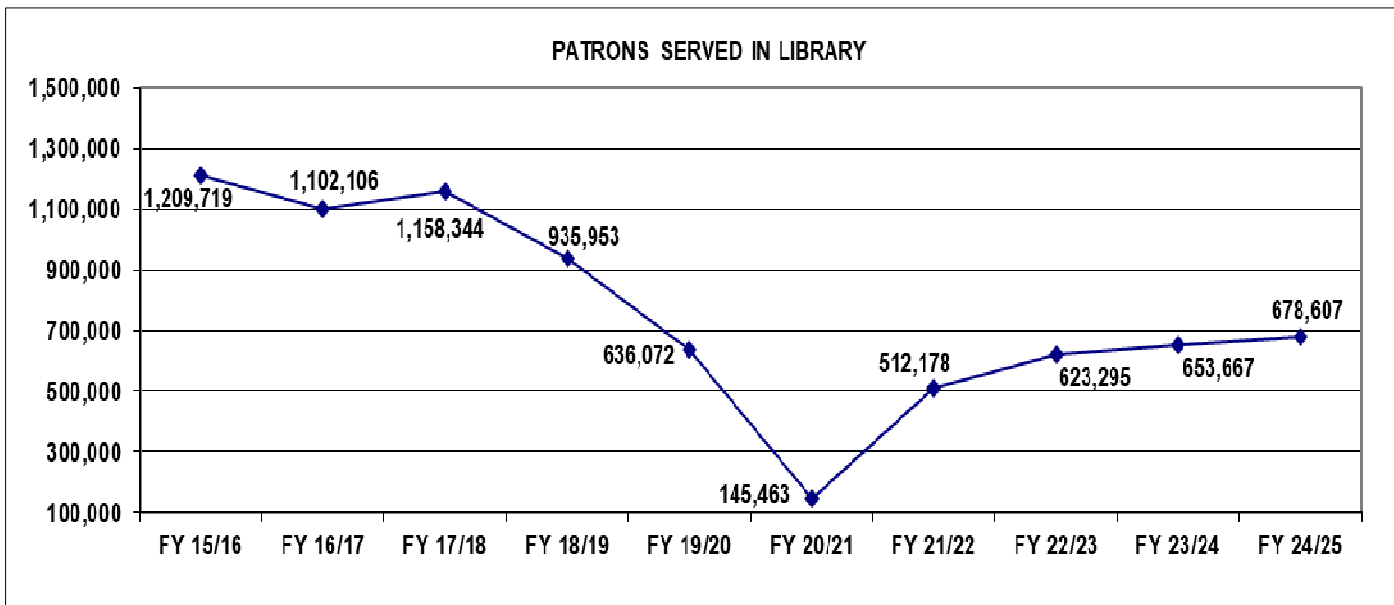
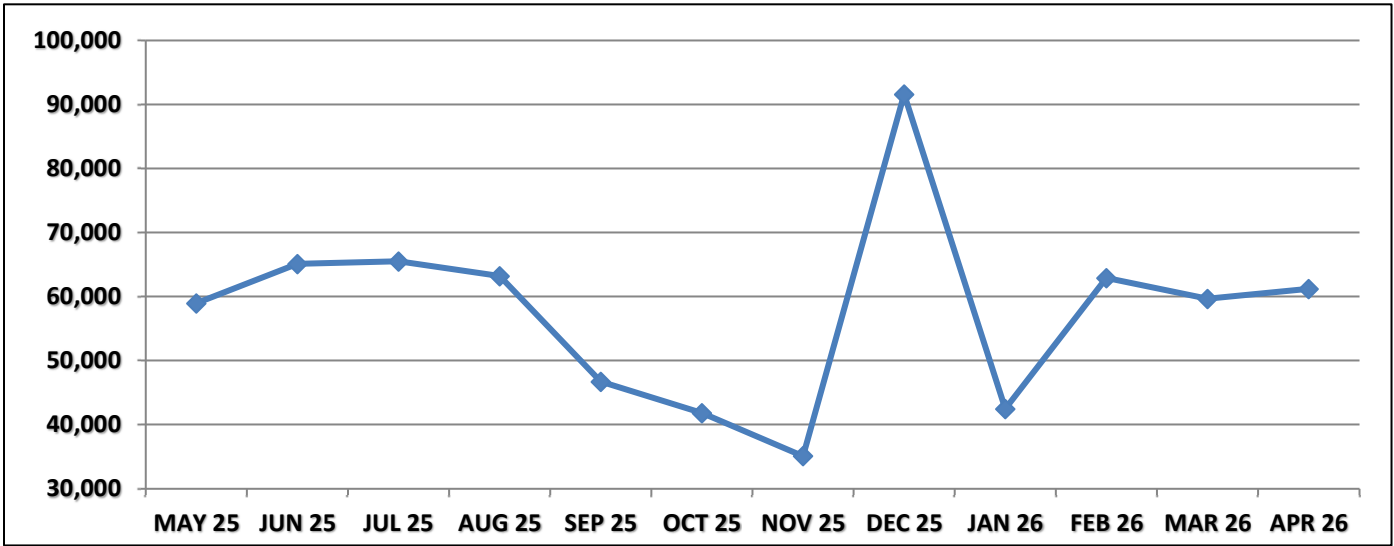
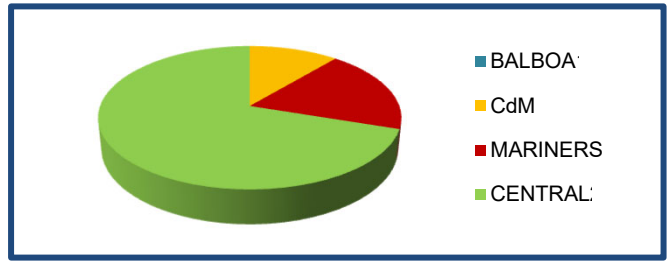
¹ Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026 | ² Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - APRIL 2026 PATRONS SERVED

BALBOA¹
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL²

TOTAL

APR 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
0	15,509	21,489
6,826	69,401	32,726
11,594	127,742	124,559
42,805	357,597	375,748
61,225	570,249	554,522



¹ Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026

² Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

2nd floor entry gate malfunction 09/26/2025-12/9/2025; monthly total for December 2025 includes backlog

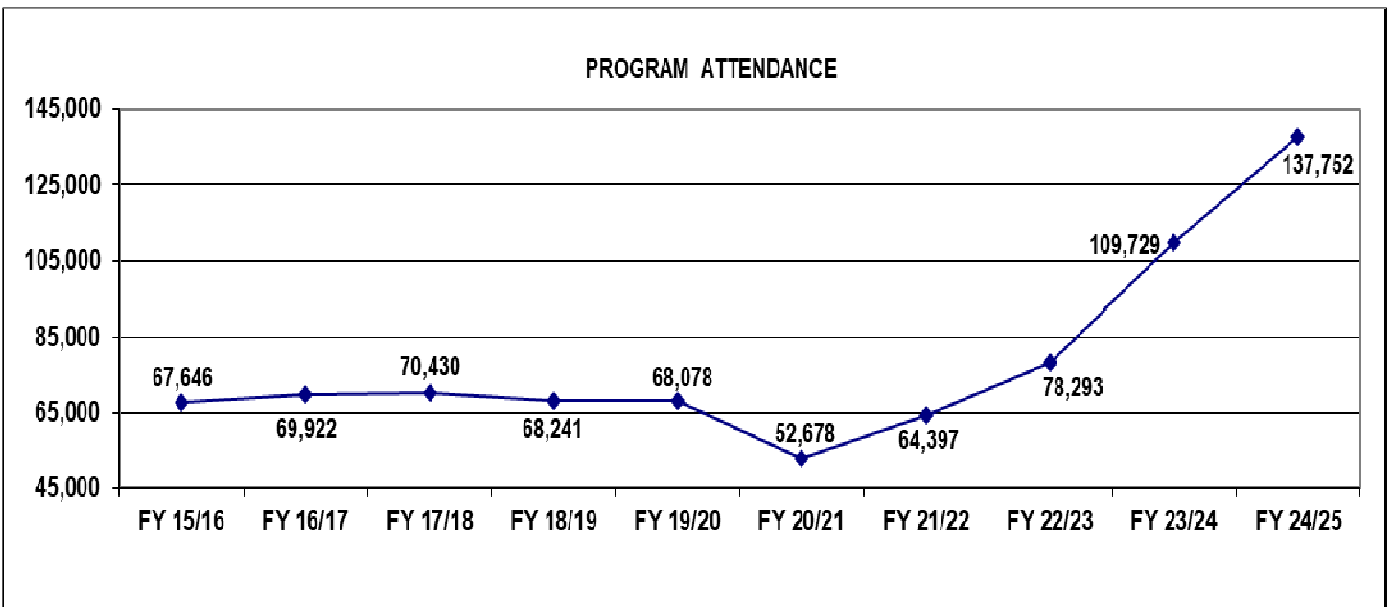
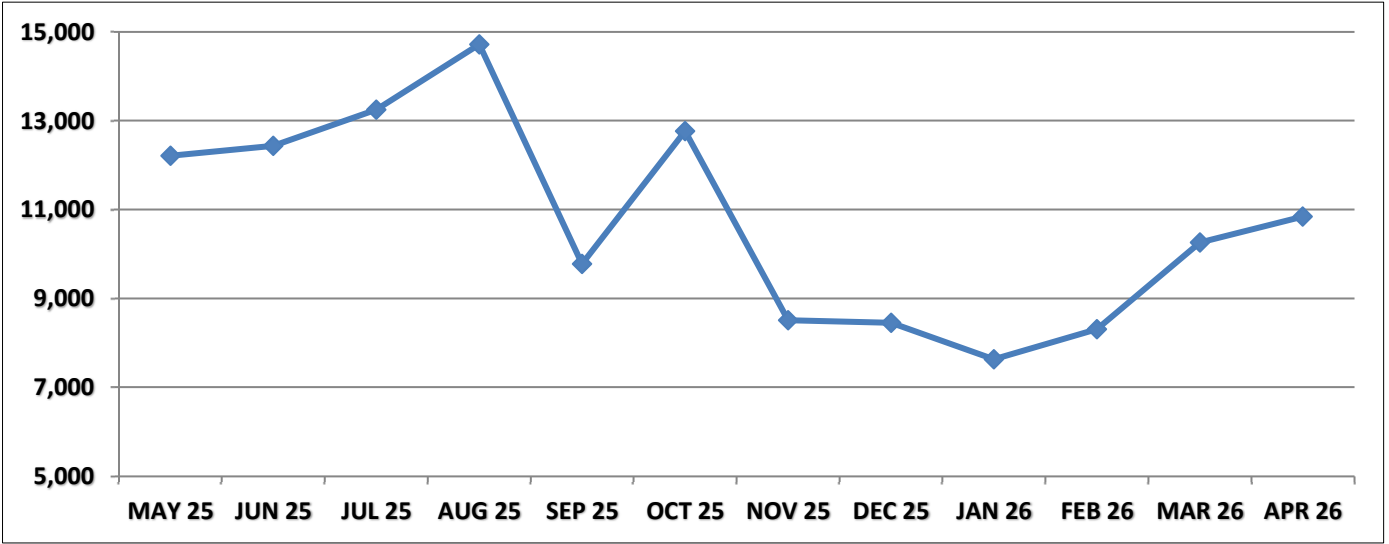
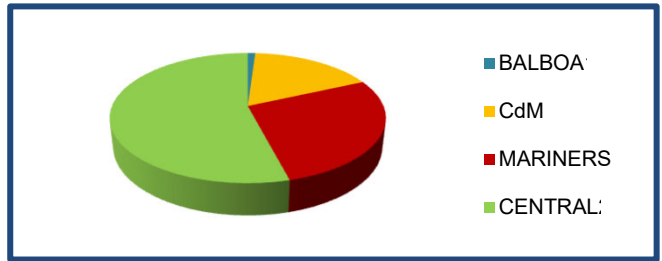
2nd floor entry gate malfunction 01/15/2026-01/31/2026; monthly total for February 2026 includes backlog

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - APRIL 2026 PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

BALBOA¹
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL²

TOTAL

APR 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
114	2,582	4,368
1,867	15,979	14,165
2,998	23,320	21,277
5,864	62,611	73,304
10,843	104,492	113,114



¹ Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026 | ² Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025