



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

August 17, 2026
Agenda Item No. 8

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FROM: Library Services Department
Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director
(949) 717-3801, mhartson@newportbeachca.gov

PREPARED BY: Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director

TITLE: Report of July Library Activities

MELISSA HARTSON, LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Witte Hall Grand Opening Weekend

The Witte Hall Grand Opening festivities began with an Open House and Family Summer Celebration on Saturday, July 11. Over 500 people joined the celebration, enjoying balloon art, hands-on activities, crafts, music, stage performances, and a photo booth. Many attendees commented on how beautiful Witte Hall is, and early questions about future events showed strong interest in using the venue for family programs.

Saturday evening featured International Surfing Champion Shaun Tomson. With a near-capacity attendance of 280, Tomson gave a moving and engaging presentation on his book, *The Surfer's Code*, and invited the audience to participate in writing their own motivational mantra. He received a standing ovation at the end of his presentation.

Wrapping up the weekend, on July 12, a Sunday Musicales with a cello quartet featuring musicians Wonsun Keem, In Hee Na, Crystal Soo-Jung, and Andy Su, drew a crowd of over 340 attendees with guests filtering in throughout the performance. In response to a standing ovation at the conclusion of their performance, they played an encore.





WHEELHOUSE LIST FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES

- Library Foundation Check Presentation
Tuesday, August 25, 4 p.m.
City Council Chambers, Civic Center
- Library Card Sign-Up Month
September 1 - 30
All locations
- Library Closure: Labor Day
Monday, September 7
All locations
- Friends of the Library Check Presentation
Tuesday, September 8, 4 p.m.
City Council Chambers, Civic Center
- Concert on the Green: Flashback Heart Attack
Sunday, September 13, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Civic Center Green
- International Literacy Day Celebration
Thursday, September 17, 10 a.m.
Community Room, Civic Center
- Board of Library Trustees Meeting
Monday, September 21, 5 p.m.
City Council Chambers, Civic Center

REBECCA LIGHTFOOT, LIBRARY SERVICES MANAGER

Literacy

Project Adult Literacy (PAL) Coordinator Christina Smith trained temporary Department Assistant Grace Lopez to assist in the office until the recruitment for a new Department Assistant is complete. PAL hosted *Coffee with the Coordinator*. Fourteen attendees came to discuss the program and goals. PAL hosted Orange Coast College Adult Education Workshop for learners and tutors with 15 attendees. Coordinator Smith is working on marketing for our *In Our Own Words* books and preparing for International Literacy Day.

Facilities

The second-floor entrance doors at Central Library (Central) were replaced and reconfigured on July 23. The previous doors were failing, and Municipal Operations (MOD) deemed it prudent to reconfigure them because the previous unique configuration was causing repeated repair issues.

MOD also repaired a minor condensation leak in the ceiling at Mariners Branch (Mariners).

ANNIKA HELMUTH, BRANCH AND YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

Branch Activities

In July, Mariners continued storytimes and LEGO Wednesdays. The Seed Library achieved a July record of 209 seed packet checkouts, and staff proctored 18 tests. STEAM and BARK programs remained on a summer hiatus.

MOD worked on several facility needs at Mariners, including fixing an air duct fire alarm detector, making restroom repairs, addressing an HVAC leak, and continuing LED lighting upgrades. The HVAC fan coil in the storytime room is still being repaired.

Balboa Branch stayed closed for renovation. Marina Park Preschool Storytimes were on their planned summer break.

Corona del Mar Branch (CdM) continued to have strong turnout for storytimes, drop-in crafts, and Toy Train Tuesdays. The 3rd Thursdays event had a bubble festival for all ages and brought in almost 700 visitors. The *Seagulls in Flight* sculpture was restored and reinstalled.

Youth Services

Summer Reading Program

The Summer Reading Program (SRP) remained the focus of children's programming in July. Mad Science presentations were among the best-attended events. A Newport Beach-themed *I Spy* activity encouraged 310 children to discover both local landmarks and useful areas of the Children's Room at all locations.

Additional SRP events also included Family BINGO and shows by The Ben Band. Teen volunteers helped with programs, registration, and handing out prizes. Since SRP ends on August 1, a more detailed update will come in next month's report.

Personnel

Mariners' part-time Library Assistant Brooke Pauley resigned.

ANDREW KACHATURIAN, ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR

Teen Services

Librarian Danielle Yang is in contact with C2 Education to resume our partnership for SAT and ACT examination preparation. C2 Education provided popular programming to teens before COVID changed the nature of this process but it is once again gaining in popularity with schools and so they are resuming their services.

Staff have observed that summer programming has become increasingly challenging during the summer when teens have so many more events competing for their time. We offered a book club on July 15 with 2 teens attending. We will continue to monitor and adjust programming to make the biggest impacts where we find the greatest opportunities.

Adult Services

Materials selectors resumed ordering in July after a brief pause to close out Fiscal Year 2025-26. Collection maintenance in the stacks continues, with selectors making use of CollectionHQ to aid them in identifying older, less relevant, or worn items for removal to make space for new materials.

Several members of the Reference staff attended training for our eBook platform, OverDrive, which was designed to help troubleshoot common issues for users. Helping patrons set up and utilize OverDrive's Libby app remains a popular service at the Reference desk and staff found the training very useful.

Staffing

There remains one vacant part-time Library Assistant position at Central.

MIRANDA GENTRY, CIRCULATION COORDINATOR

Training

Circulation staff at Central met for cross-training on the Tech Toy check-in process to support consistent customer service.

Staffing

Central welcomed Gracelyn Vu as a new part-time Library Clerk.

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 2026-2027

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	AVG.
Business Databases	1443												1443
Newspapers--Current	562												562
Newspapers--Historical	2576												2576
Magazines	43												43

Database FY Comparisons	JUL 2026	AUG 2026	SEP 2026	OCT 2026	NOV 2026	DEC 2026	JAN 2027	FEB 2027	MAR 2027	APR 2027	MAY 2027	JUN 2027	YTD 26/27
Tracked by #searches													
A to Z Databases	324												324
Alexander Street	753												753
Ancestry	439												439
AskART	79												79
Britannica School Edition	2												2
Ckbk	*												0
Exploring Race in Society	6												6
Gale Suite	16												16
Gale eBooks	65												65
HeritageQuest	94												94
Legal Information Ref Center	75												75
National Geographic	36												36
National Geographic Kids	18												18
NewsBank	3240												3240
NoveList Plus	26												26
NoveList K-8 Plus	23												23
ProQuest	2362												2362
Proquest eLibrary	4												4
Reference Solutions Business	271												271
Reference Solutions Residential	9												9
SIRS Discoverer / Researcher	15												15
StatsUSA (formerly State Statistics)	36												36
World Book Online	15												15
Tracked by #page views													
Artist Works	2												2
Consumer Reports	1325												1325
CultureGrams	47												47
Morningstar	1116												1116
RealQuest	*												0
Value Line	*												0
Wall Street Journal	5956												5956
Tracked by courses													
LinkedIn Learning	116												116
Tracked by books logged													
Beanstack	8811												8811
Tracked by Hours Used													
ABC Mouse	94.60												94.60
Beanstack	8924												8924
Rosetta Stone	29.22												29.22

Notes:
* Data unavailable at the time of posting

NBPL Website Usage 2026-2027

Metric	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Total Users	31,697												31,697	31,697
New Users	23,976												23,976	23,976
Sessions	61,604												61,604	61,604
Pageviews	143,712												143,712	143,712
Sessions Per User	2												2	2
Pages Per Session	2												2	2
Avg. Session Dur. (min)	3												3	3
Bounce Rate (%)	66												66	66

Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Total Data Transferred (GB) 2026-2027

Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa ¹	-												-	-
CdM	433												433	433
Mariners	2,160												2,160	2,160
Central	20,240												20,240	20,240
Total	22,833												22,833	22,833

Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Total Unique Patrons 2026-2027

Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa ¹	-												-	-
CdM	524												524	524
Mariners	1,617												1,617	1,617
Central	14,399												14,399	14,399
Total	16,540												16,540	16,540

Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Average Number of Patrons Per Day 2026-2027

Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa ¹	-												-	-
CdM	29												29	29
Mariners	114												114	114
Central	901												901	901
Total	1,044												1,044	1,044

Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Average Usage Per Patron (MB) 2026-2027

Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa ¹	-												-	-
CdM	846												846	846
Mariners	1,370												1,370	1,370
Central	1,440												1,440	1,440
Total	3,656												3,656	3,656

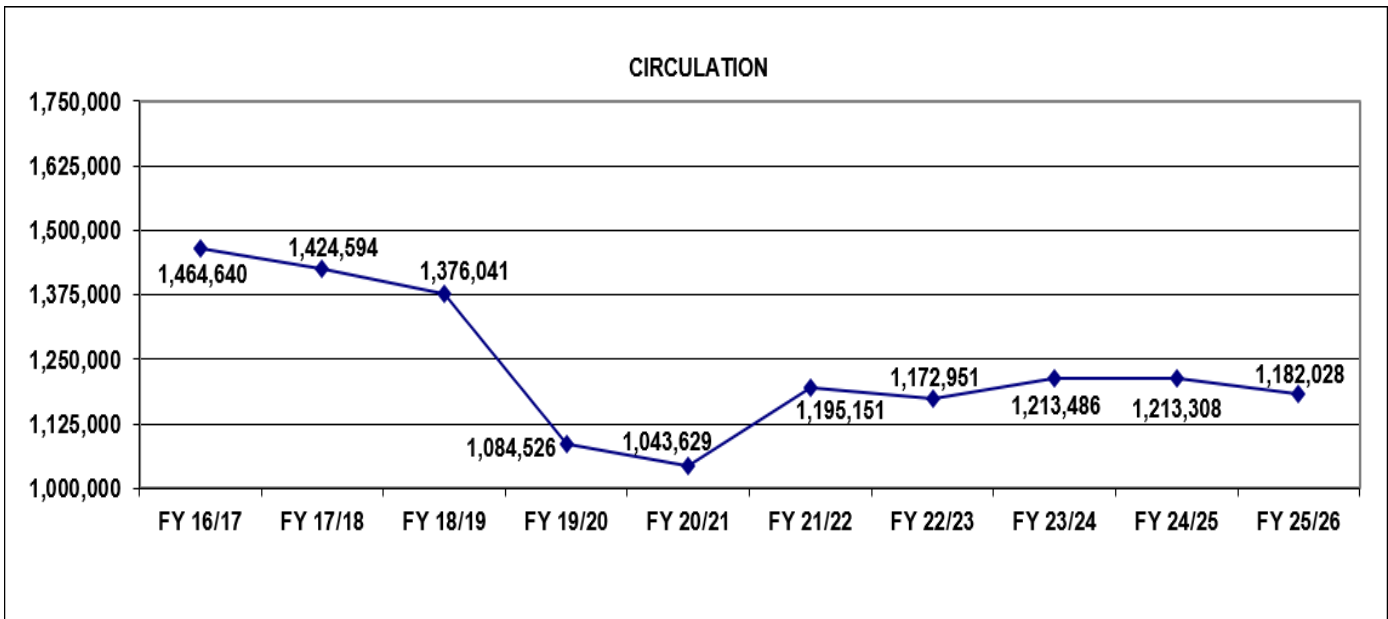
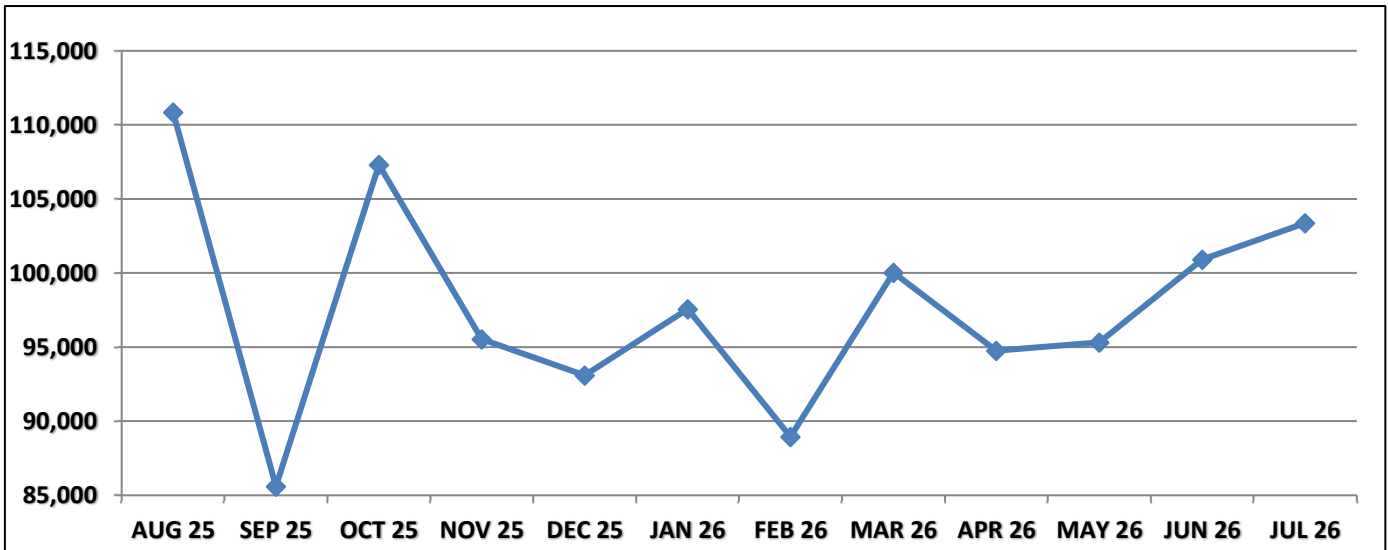
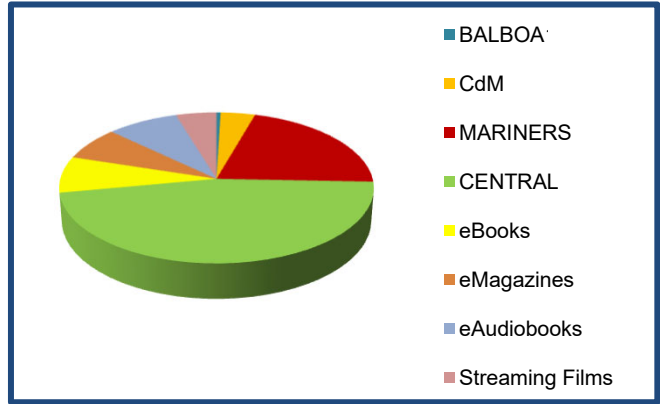
¹ Balboa Branch Library Closure

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - JULY 2026

CIRCULATION

BALBOA¹
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL²
eBooks
eMagazines
eAudiobooks
Streaming Films

JUL 26	YTD 26/27	YTD 25/26
495	495	2,795
4,114	4,114	4,104
21,856	21,856	21,391
48,028	48,028	55,051
8,042	8,042	8,861
7,410	7,410	6,984
8,578	8,578	8,381
4,845	4,845	4,576
TOTAL	103,368	112,143



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

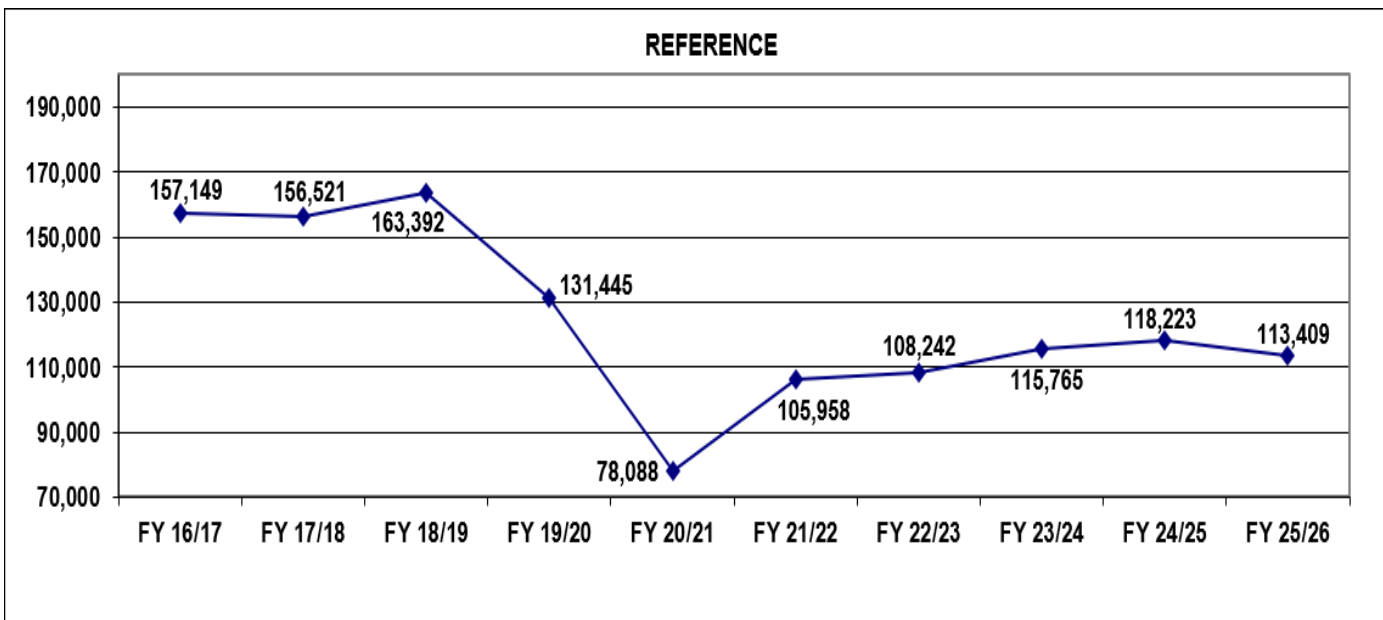
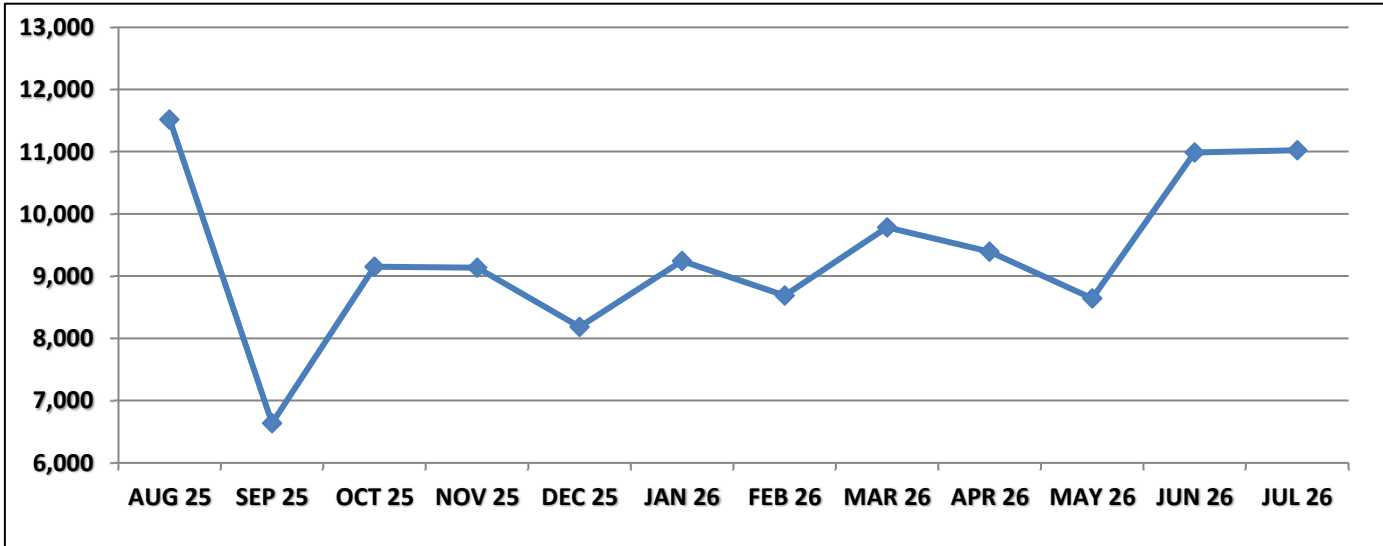
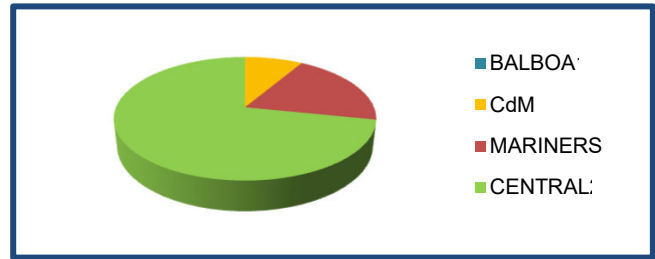
NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - JULY 2026

REFERENCE

BALBOA¹
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL²

TOTAL

JUL 26	YTD 26/27	YTD 25/26
0	0	456
939	939	1,194
2,169	2,169	2,379
7,914	7,914	8,022
11,022	11,022	12,051



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

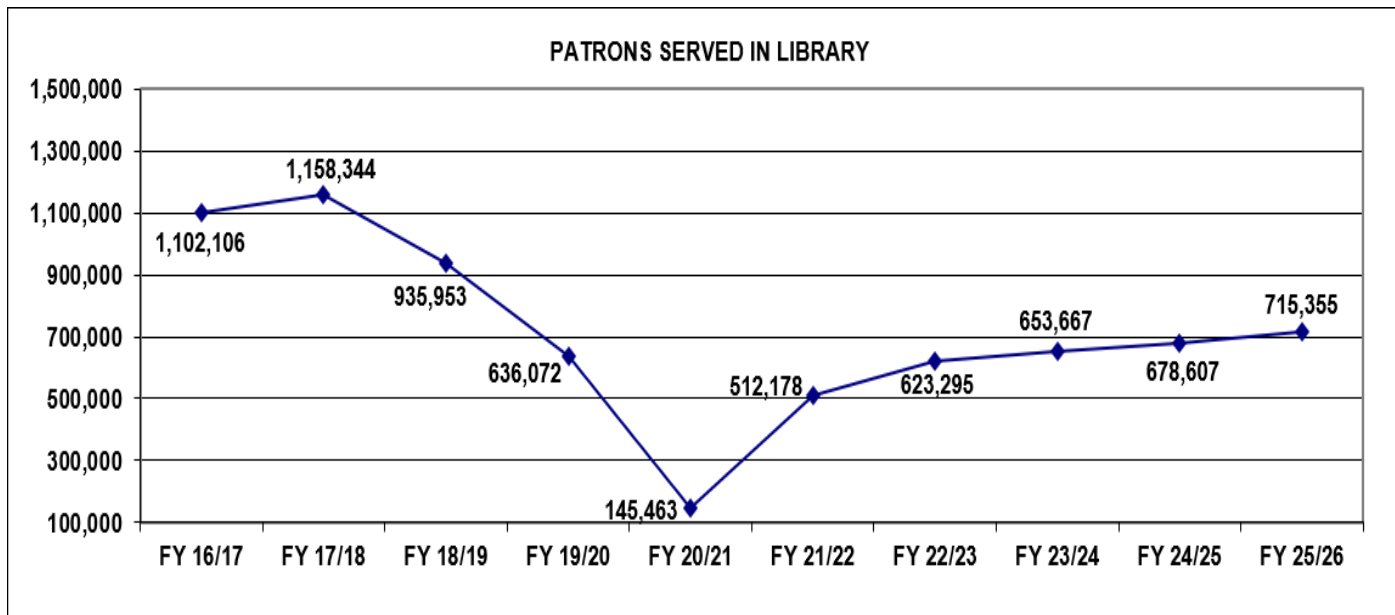
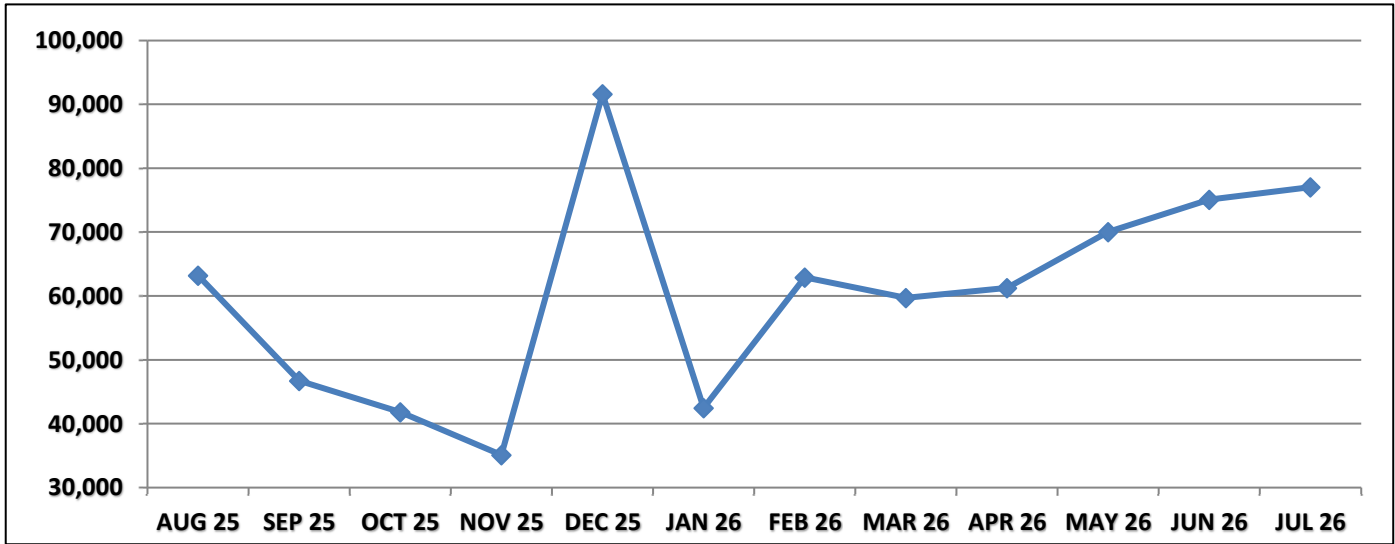
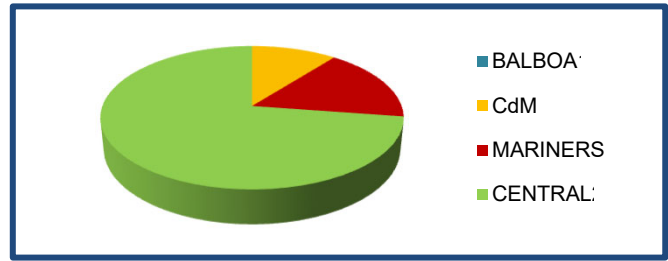
NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - JULY 2026

PATRONS SERVED

BALBOA¹
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL²

TOTAL

JUL 26	YTD 26/27	YTD 25/26
0	0	2,486
8,186	8,186	7,935
12,868	12,868	12,116
55,959	55,959	42,937
77,013	77,013	65,474



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

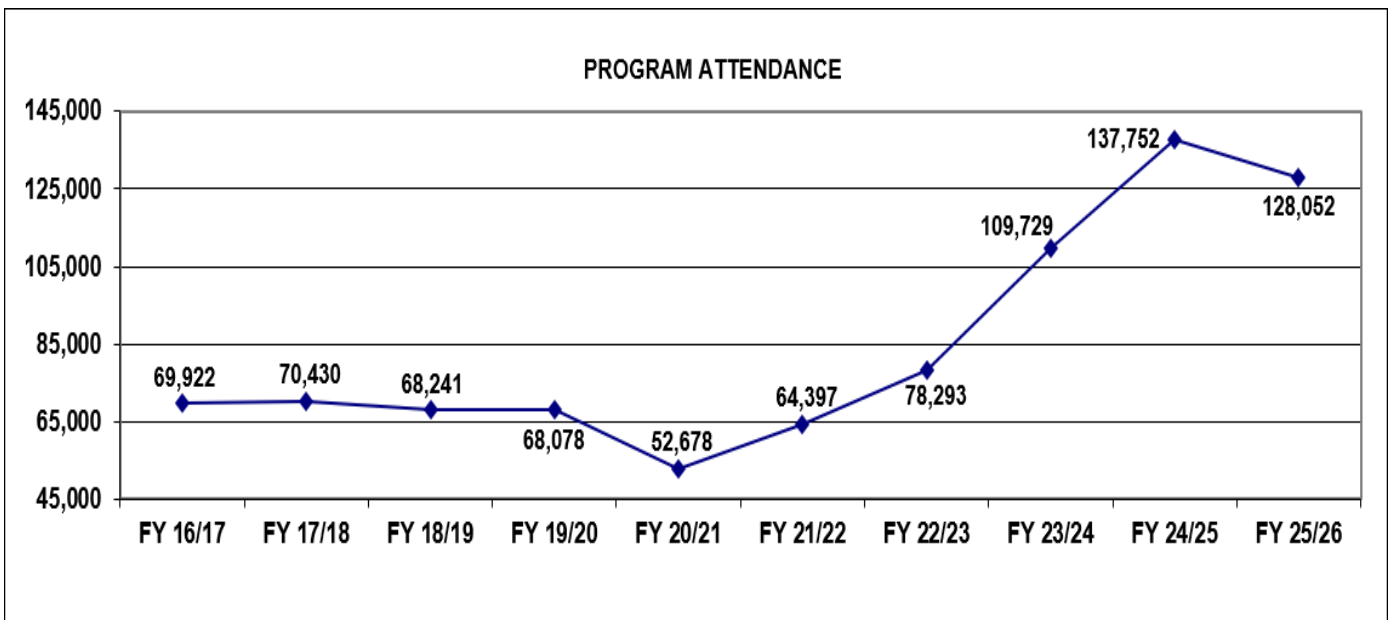
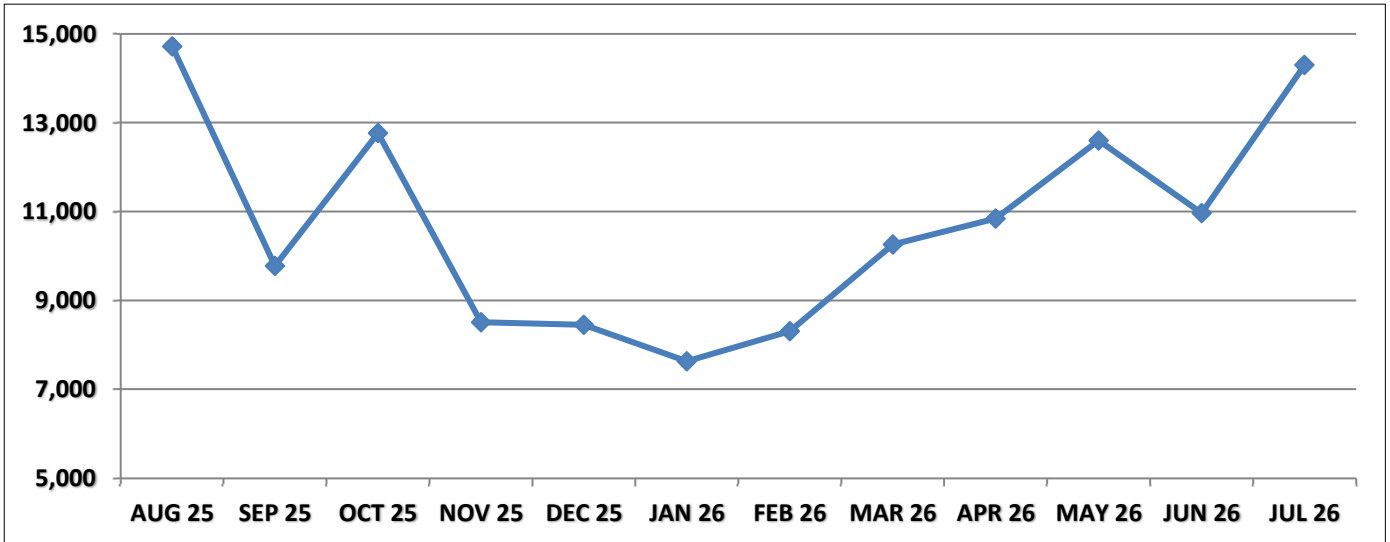
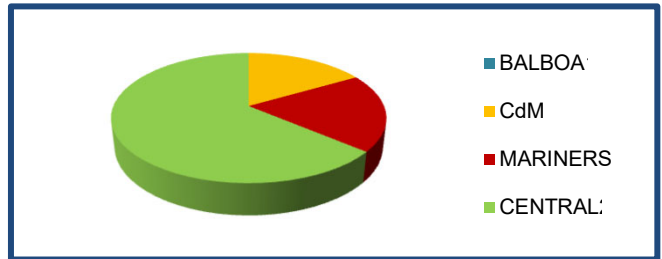
NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - JULY 2026

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

BALBOA¹
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL²

TOTAL

JUL 26	YTD 26/27	YTD 25/26
0	0	711
2,387	2,387	1,525
2,775	2,775	2,495
9,134	9,134	8,515
14,296	14,296	13,246



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