



# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

January 21, 2025  
Agenda Item No. 8

**TO:** BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

**FROM:** Library Services Department  
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**TITLE:** eBranch, Database, and Downloadable Services Update

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**ABSTRACT:**

The eBranch component of the Newport Beach Public Library consists of databases and downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, and streaming video. The eBranch is promoted as the 24/7/365 resource that is accessible anywhere and at any time. Many patrons take advantage of the services provided under the eBranch.

**DISCUSSION:**

Databases and online materials remain essential and well-used resources for the community and staff. The Library is proud to offer over forty databases that specialize in topics that appeal to all age groups and interest levels. Several databases have over 1,000 uses a month, including NewsBank, ProQuest, Consumer Reports, Morningstar, and Value Line.

Staff is always on the lookout for ways to improve database selections, evaluating new databases for possible purchase and existing ones to see if they still meet the needs of the community.

**eBranch**

Service Provided	Vendor
eBooks and audiobooks	OverDrive
eMagazines	Flipster and OverDrive
Streaming Video	Kanopy

**Downloadable eBooks and audiobooks:** The Library saw an uptick in circulation of eBooks and Audiobooks in 2024, with a combined total of 173,138, compared to 164,687 in 2023. In 2012, when Amazon started allowing libraries to circulate Kindle books, eBooks surpassed audiobooks. While audiobooks still have not caught up, they are closing the gap. In 2020, the difference between eBooks and audiobooks was over 38,000, in 2021, it was 26,000, and in the last three years, it was 14,000. This trend seems to suggest that patrons are exploring different options for audiobooks as traditional CD players are no longer as prevalent as they used to be.

The Library also subscribes to Comics Plus, which offers over 20,000 graphic novels, manga, and traditional digital comic books for readers of all ages. Books checked out through Comics Plus are simultaneous use, meaning there are never any wait times, and more than one patron can check out the same title at one time.

**Streaming Video:** The Library introduced Kanopy, a streaming video service, in December of 2017. Kanopy offers access to over 27,000 films, ranging from documentaries to feature films, indie, and foreign films. The Kanopy collection includes titles from PBS, The Criterion Collection, and The Great Courses. In August 2021, Kanopy added major motion pictures from Warner Bros., MGM, and Lionsgate to their downloadable offerings. OverDrive acquired Kanopy, and as of September of 2022, no longer offers their own separate streaming movie service. In November of 2023, Kanopy moved to a different model, tickets rather than play credits, which allows libraries greater flexibility for allocating funds.

**Downloadable Magazines:** The Library offers a collection of over 5,000 magazines through OverDrive, which are accessible through the popular Libby app. The Library also continues to subscribe to Flipster, another downloadable magazine service, that offers a different range of magazines than OverDrive.

**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).