



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

February 23, 2026
Agenda Item No. 9

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 January Library Activities

MELISSA HARTSON, LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Balboa Branch

The request for proposals for the Balboa Fire Station No. 1 / Balboa Branch Replacement Project closed on February 5. Public Works received five closely spaced bids with the proposed bids coming in less than anticipated. Public Works will request that City Council award a contract for the project at the City Council Regular Meeting on February 24.

If approved, staff are prepared to close the branch at the end of the month with a groundbreaking ceremony anticipated in March. The Friends of the Library have expressed interest in holding a book sale after the closure.

City Council Planning Session

Library Services Manager Rebecca Lightfoot and I attended the annual City Council Special Meeting at the end of January. During this planning session, City staff presented updates on the City's financial status, budget development, Community Development projects, and the Capital Improvement Program. City initiatives in the coming year are focused on resiliency improvements, crime prevention and public safety priorities, technology and communications improvements, and harbor and operations management.

WHEELHOUSE LIST FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES

- Witte Lectures: Julian Gewirtz
Friday, February 27, 7 p.m.
Saturday, February 28, 2 p.m.
OASIS Senior Center
- Board of Library Trustees Meeting
Monday, March 16, 5 p.m.
City Council Chambers, Civic Center
- Library Live: Colm Tóibín
Thursday, March 12, 7 p.m.
OASIS Senior Center

REBECCA LIGHTFOOT, LIBRARY SERVICES MANAGER

Literacy

Project Adult Literacy (PAL) hosted Southern California Library Literacy Network's Quarterly Meeting at the Newport Beach Public Library with 32 attendees from other literacy programs in Southern California.

PAL held another Literacy Library Tour for a local ESL group with seven attendees.

PAL Coordinator Christina Smith held Tutor Connection with 12 tutors attending.

Coordinator Smith built a new partnership with a local college, Orange Coast College's Adult Education Program.

Programming

In January, the Library hosted the original Storytellers Writing Workshop 3-part series, as well as two stand-alone Storytellers Extended classes: "Promoting & Marketing Yourself as a Writer" and "Crafting Dialogue," which are part of the new series offered this year.

The Library also presented a Beginning Genealogy workshop, facilitated by genealogy expert Arlene O'Donnell, who has taught genealogy research for over 10 years. This beginning class gave an overview of how to begin your research, covered various resources available, and each participant received a packet with fill-in charts, outlines, and research information to help them get started.

Facilities

The roofing project at Mariners Branch (Mariners) continued through January and is wrapping up. Public Works is also working on replacing the lighting at Central Library (Central), switching out the fluorescent lights for more efficient LED.

ANNIKA HELMUTH, BRANCH AND YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

Branch Activities

In January at Mariners, two monthly programs launched. BARK is now held on a regular fourth-Thursdays schedule, and STEAM Lab debuted as a new second Thursday program supporting hands-on science and creative learning. Regular storytimes and LEGO Wednesdays remained well attended, and the Seed Library continued to grow with 148 checkouts. Facility projects included continued roof replacement, LED lighting upgrades, and fire sprinkler system repairs to bring the building back into compliance.

At Corona del Mar Branch (CdM), children's services were again active throughout the month. Staff presented storytimes, daily Drop-In Crafts, Toy Train Tuesdays, BARK, and the annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover. Educational toys remained a major draw, supporting consistent use of the children's area. Facility improvements included deep carpet cleaning and installation of a new public printer, which resolved ongoing ePrint issues.

At Balboa Branch (Balboa), children's programming transitioned to Marina Park as part of preparations for the upcoming branch rebuild. Preschool Storytimes were restructured and moved to Wednesdays, and seasonal craft programs shifted to Thursdays. The first Marina Park craft program, *Wonderful Winter Crafts*, was well received by attendees.

Youth Services

Storytimes resumed after the winter break and saw strong participation at all locations. January youth programs at Central included BARK, STEAM Lab, Book Club, Art Space, and Crafternoon. Family BINGO remained a popular program, with gift cards to the newly opened Gelato Paradiso generating strong enthusiasm among attendees.

Special Programs

CdM's annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover returned in January. A community favorite, the program featured strong engagement on social media and positive feedback from families. The new STEAM Lab at Mariners also drew strong engagement, with hands-on STEAM activities including a brief butterfly life cycle lesson and an engineering-based craft that allowed children to build their own fluttering butterfly models.

Outreach

In January, Youth Services staff supported a first-grade class visit from Lincoln Elementary and a fourth-grade database instructional visit to Newport Coast Elementary. These visits supported student research skills and strengthened relationships with local schools.

Personnel

Several Youth Services staff participated in *Sign, Baby, Sign!: ASL in Baby and Toddler Storytimes* webinar that demonstrated practical ways to incorporate accessibility strategies into future storytimes. Mariners' Librarian Leah Duffy joined the Youth Services team to support children's programming while continuing her reference duties. Also at Mariners, the full-time Library Assistant and Library Page recruitments remain ongoing.

ANDREW KACHATURIAN, ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR**Teen Services**

The January Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC) was held on January 14, with 13 teens in attendance. The YAAC members had the opportunity to practice planning and running this meeting with staff coaching them, which proved to be fun and educational for the teens. The January group planned and implemented icebreakers to get to know each other, a winter trivia game, and a vision board as an activity for the group. They also began planning for the next meeting in February.

Adult Services

The Adult Reference staff continue to focus on refreshing their collections and have been updating call number signage throughout Central's second-floor nonfiction area. Reference staff also met in January to discuss current tasks, and upcoming training opportunities.

MIRANDA GENTRY, CIRCULATION COORDINATOR**Staffing**

Central welcomed Cameron Andersen 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 2025-2026

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	AVG.
Business Databases	3021	*	*	7149	1288	1206	1705						2874
Newspapers--Current	913	*	*	1000	798	641	618						794
Newspapers--Historical	3265	*	*	1196	1511	2419	1674						2013
Magazines	47	*	*	1054	31	17	22						234

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						2602
Alexander Street	253	682	457	1123	236	574	170						3495
Ancestry	200	205	9	306	521	150	243						1634
AskART	12	17	9	13	31	11	104						197
Brainfuse JobNow/VetNow	107	62	25	3	4	3	**						204
Britannica School Edition	9	0	82	248	75	15	5						434
Exploring Race in Society	24	14	4	40	4	18	7						111
Gale Archives Unbound	7	4	16	17	32	29	2						107
Gale Directory Library	45	25	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇						70
Gale in Context: Biography	1	8	14	81	13	2	23						142
Gale in Context: Elementary	2	0	6	6	7	2	3						26
Gale in Context: Environmental	0	2	0	0	0	0	0						2
Gale in Context: Opposing View	17	10	10	216	21	58	61						393
Gale Interactive: Science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Gale Literature Resource Center	16	17	6	116	9	3	9						176
Gale eBooks	52	15	15	60	172	10	12						336
HeritageQuest	405	325	180	90	587	173	1						1761
Legal Information Ref Center	64	57	22	130	59	70	129						531
National Geographic	12	26	20	46	24	16	33						177
National Geographic Kids	6	34	10	26	12	43	7						138
NewsBank	4794	4741	4505	4846	4260	4156	5216						32518
NoveList Plus	48	41	65	81	78	79	46						438
NoveList K-8 Plus	12	146	33	55	53	90	27						416
ProQuest	4466	*	*	31725	2443	2182	2685						43501
Proquest eLibrary	0	33	23	4	1	1	4						66
Reference Solutions Business	322	609	392	412	105	319	493						2652
Reference Solutions Residential	12	29	14	19	25	17	8						124
SIRS Discoverer	4	12	53	13	1	0	0						83
SIRS Issues Researcher	267	659	1881	379	1	0	1						3188
StatsUSA (formerly State Statistics)	5	6	5	47	20	2	6						91
World Book Online	9	39	53	33	13	84	53						284
Tracked by #page views													
Artist Works	3	2	6	3	3	1	5						23
Consumer Reports	2475	2156	1853	1934	1981	1558	1117						13074
CultureGrams	68	36	4	49	115	23	130						425
Morningstar	3697	7618	4826	3483	3080	3973	4356						31033
RealQuest	8	14	121	36	3	10	14						206
Tumblebooks	35	33	11	33	25	‡	‡						137
Value Line	9891	8507	10381	11564	9057	8620	10684						68704
Wall Street Journal	3393	3469	1439	4086	3856	4452	4545						25240
Tracked by courses													
LinkedIn Learning	254	262	209	484	431	210	138						1988
Tracked by books logged													
Beanstack	7403	2832	1877	2334	1662	1097	2045						19250
Tracked by Hours Used													
ABC Mouse †	127.02	130.58	81.07	97.93	125.65	109.97	107.66						779.88
Beanstack	7738	1554	385	266	360	270	240						10813
Rosetta Stone	28.82	33.70	57.47	85.32	57.01	50.27	70.66						383.25

Notes:

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

** Brainfuse subscription cancelled January, 2026

◇ Gale Directory Library subscription cancelled September, 2025.

‡ Tumblebooks Library subscription cancelled December 2025

† Corrected values for ABC Mouse added for 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	27126	25358	32957						29400	205799
New Users	14608	15467	14189	23841	15006	13147	19502						16537	115760
Sessions	47805	50528	45583	55929	43442	41915	51715						48131	336917
Pageviews	122016	123728	105782	122541	103499	101665	122042						114468	801273
Sessions Per User	2	2	2	2	2	2	2						2	--
Pages Per Session	3	2	2	2	2	2	2						2	--
Avg. Session Dur. (min)	7	7	6	6	6	6	5						6	--
Bounce Rate (%)	64	62	63	66	64	64	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	121	165	215						194	1357
CdM	391	514	540	420	292	287	317						394	2760
Mariners	2240	2200	2460	2340	1910	1570	1860						2083	14580
Central *	14120	16200	6960	11000	12450	12190	15070						12570	87990
Total	16951	19189	10197	13903	14773	14211	17462						15241	106687

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						273	1913
CdM	557	527	695	526	330	407	356						485	3398
Mariners	1454	1432	2038	1749	1376	1292	1211						1507	10552
Central *	11130	10480	6307	8671	9493	9918	9773						9396	65772
Total	13524	12717	9318	11237	11405	11865	11569						11662	81635

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

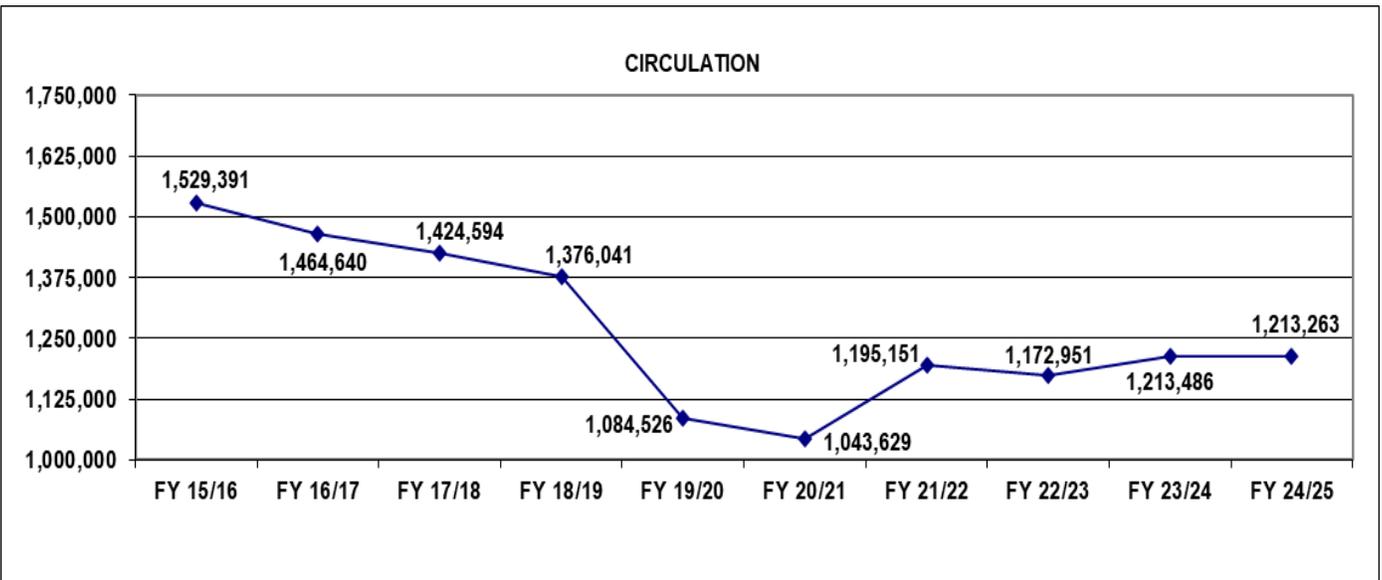
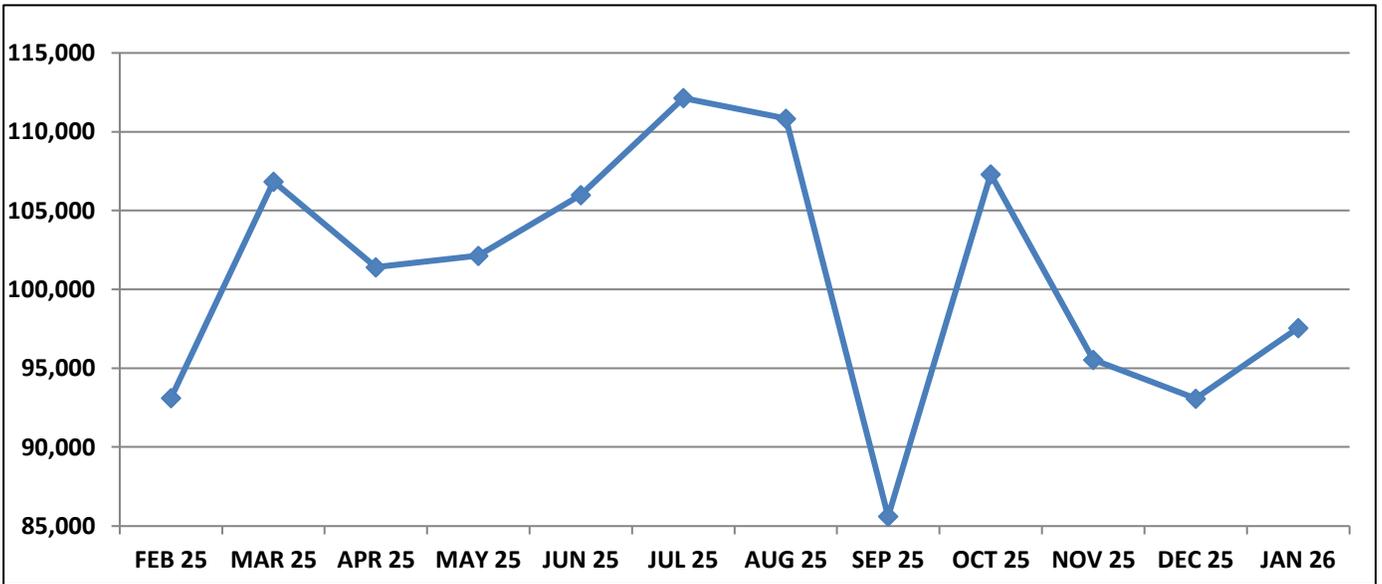
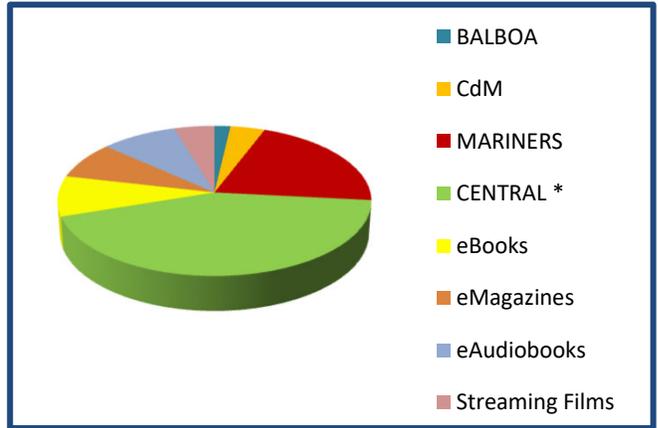
Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa	30	21	20	19	15	18	18						20	141
CdM	32	34	42	32	22	22	23						30	207
Mariners	111	109	150	135	108	100	94						115	807
Central *	746	672	361	518	566	612	584						580	4059
Total	919	836	573	704	711	752	719						745	5214

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						739	5171
CdM	718	999	795	818	905	721	912						838	5868
Mariners	1580	1570	1230	1370	1420	1250	1570						1427	9990
Central *	1300	1580	1130	1300	1340	1260	1580						1356	9490
Total	4135	5161	4030	3992	4267	3911	5023						4360	30518

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - JANUARY 2026 CIRCULATION

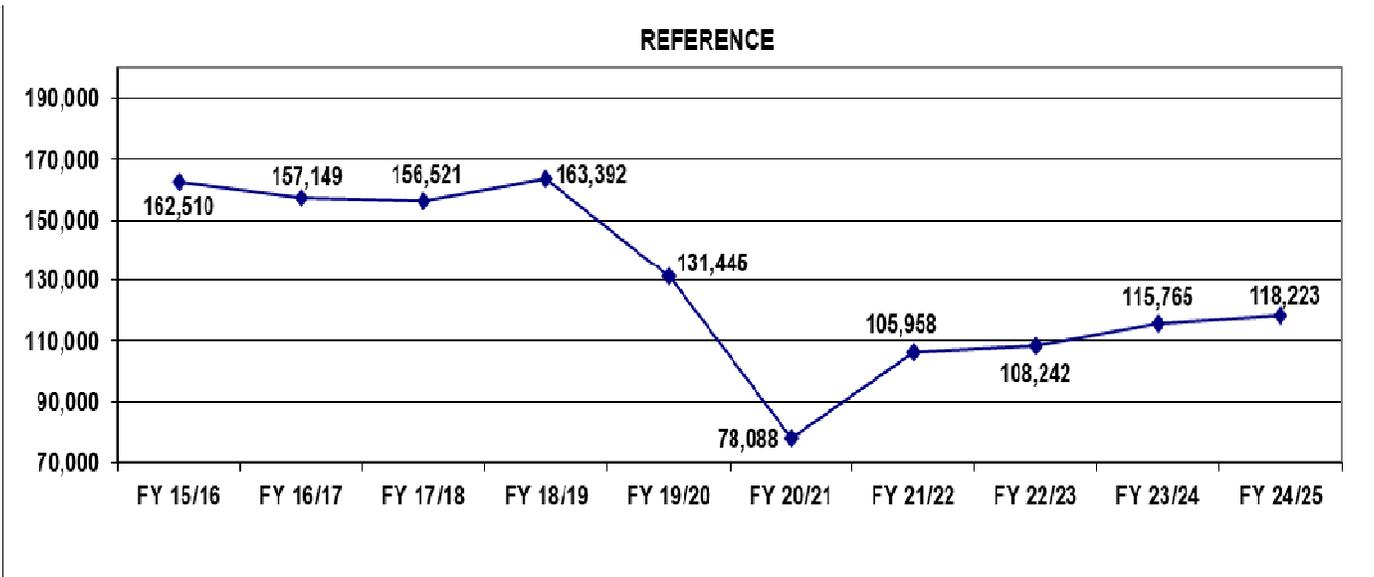
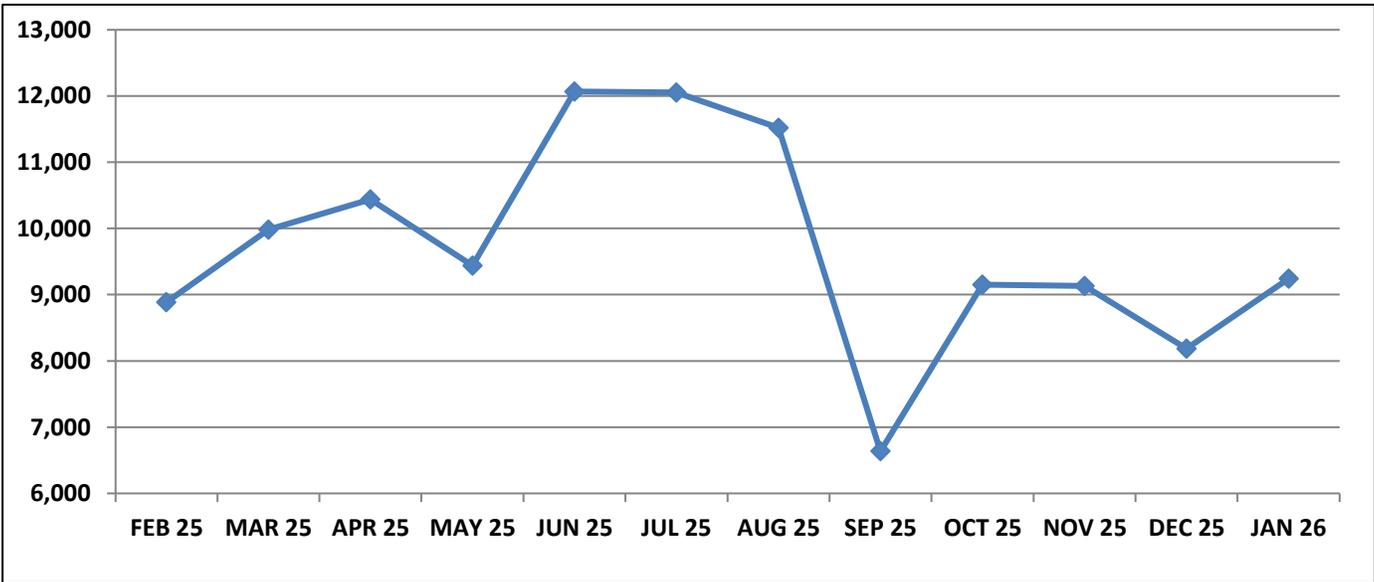
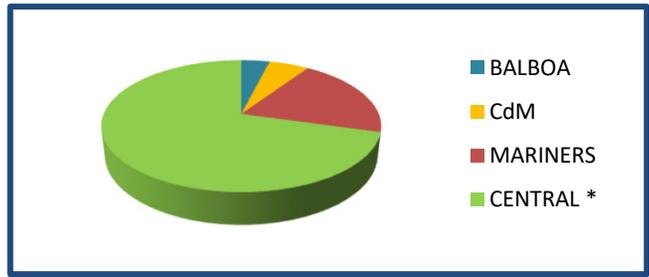
	JAN 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA	1,788	15,525	18,304
CdM	3,872	30,134	25,790
MARINERS	20,309	153,361	144,571
CENTRAL *	42,220	302,231	342,451
eBooks	8,477	58,301	56,436
eMagazines	7,807	53,489	38,526
eAudiobooks	8,586	57,040	53,150
Streaming Films	4,495	31,985	24,520
TOTAL	97,554	702,066	703,748



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

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - JANUARY 2026 REFERENCE

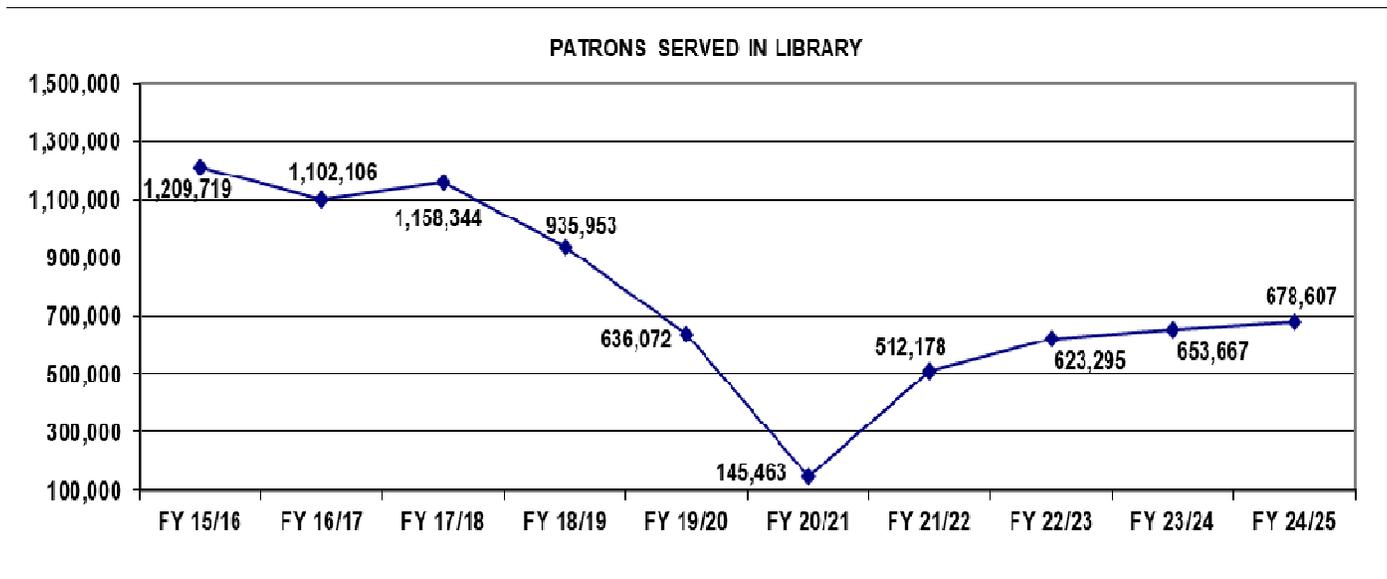
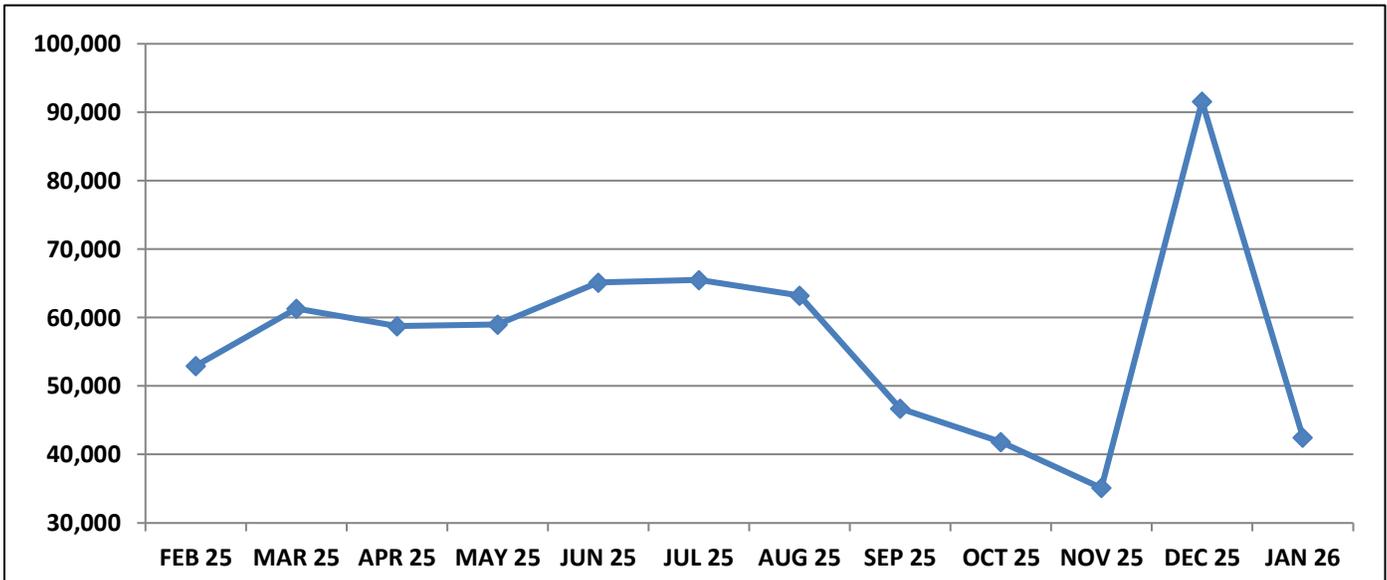
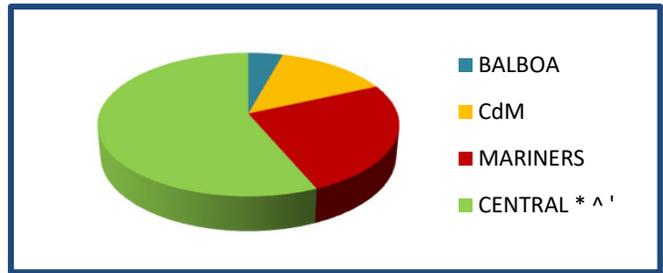
	JAN 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA	363	2,824	2,698
CdM	509	5,714	4,955
MARINERS	1,843	13,458	14,145
CENTRAL *	6,527	43,919	45,610
TOTAL	9,242	65,915	67,408



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

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - JANUARY 2026 PATRONS SERVED

	JAN 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA	1,818	13,817	15,380
CdM	5,953	50,939	22,448
MARINERS	10,736	91,871	85,404
CENTRAL * ^ ^	23,969	229,804	258,309
TOTAL	42,476	386,431	381,541



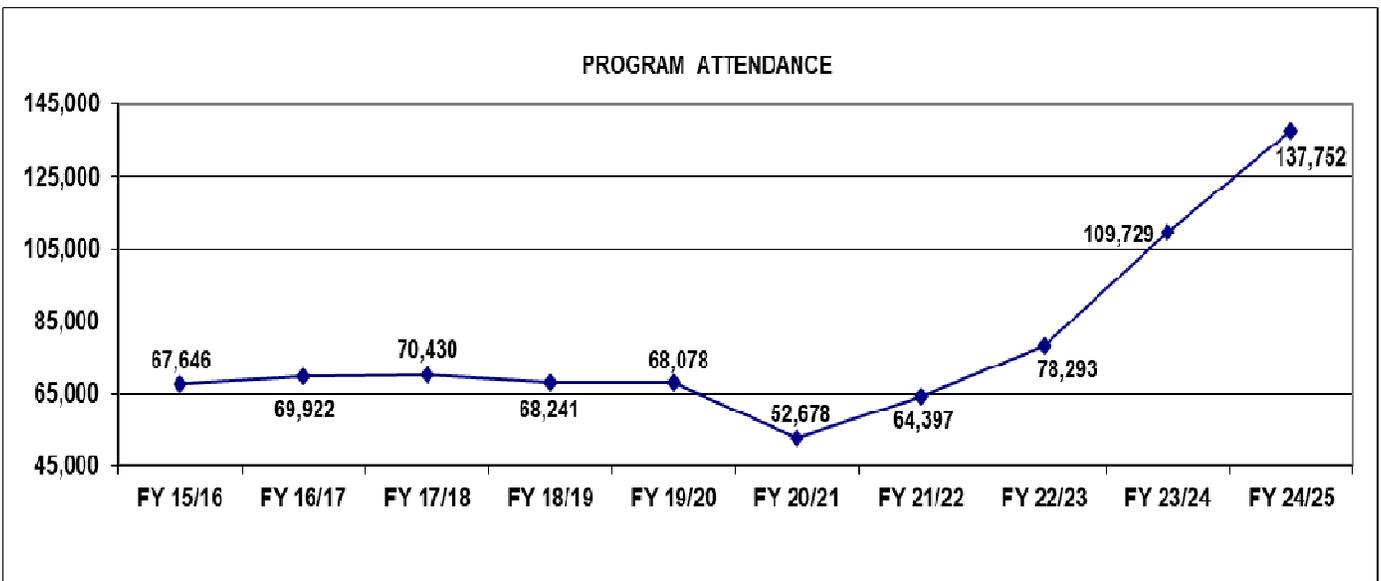
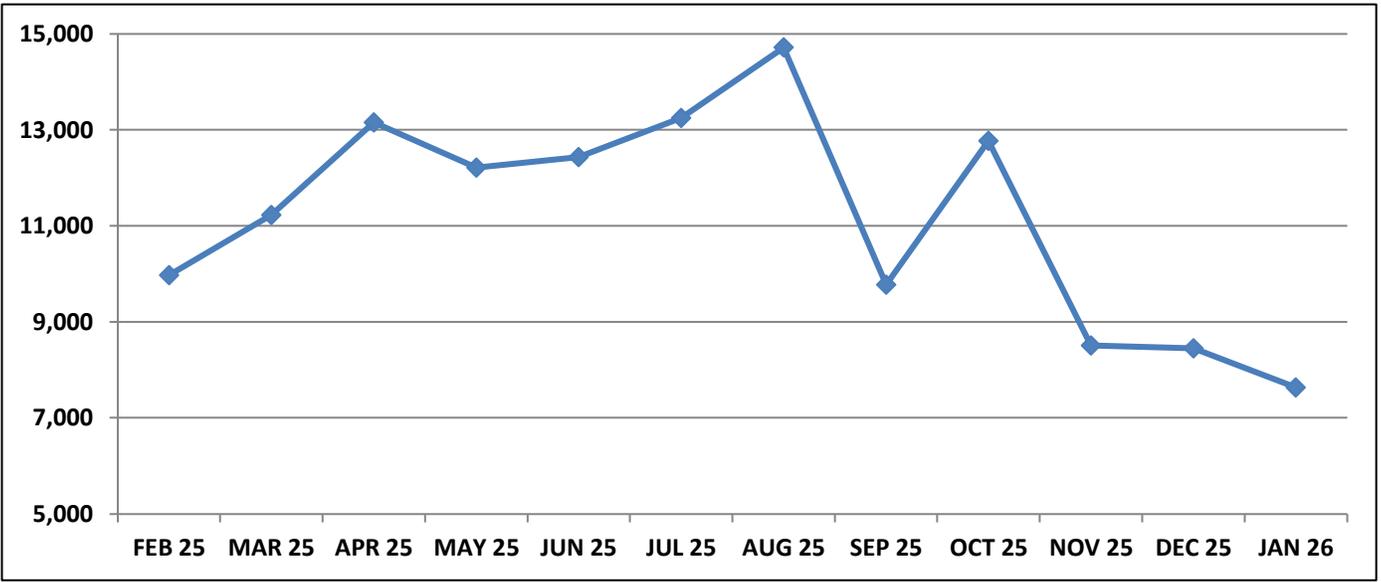
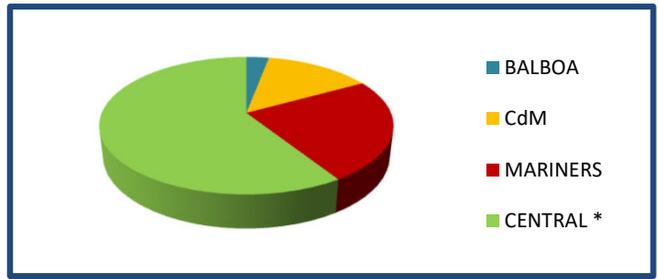
* Central Library Closure: 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

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

' Central Library 2nd floor entry gate malfunction: 01/15/2026-01/31/2026

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - JANUARY 2026 PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

	JAN 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA	226	2,171	2,745
CdM	1,066	11,603	9,077
MARINERS	1,837	15,309	14,449
CENTRAL *	4,504	46,002	52,493
TOTAL	7,633	75,085	78,764



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