



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

March 16, 2026
Agenda Item No. 7

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

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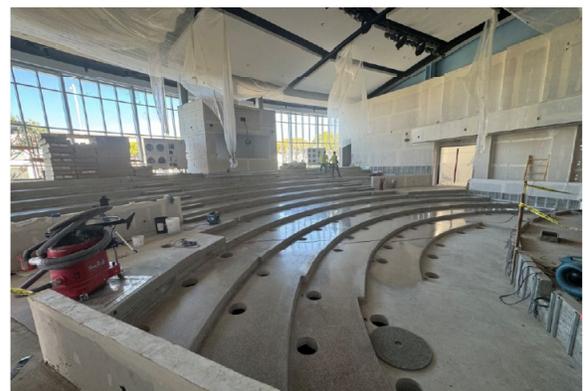
PREPARED BY: Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director

TITLE: Report of February Library Activities

MELISSA HARTSON, LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Witte Hall

During February, the project continued advancing both interior and site-related work. Exterior painting began and entry door installation was completed. The curb and gutter were poured for the parking area on the east side of the Central Library (Central) and the overall parking lot curb and gutter for the site is approximately 80% complete. Restroom finishes began in earnest with progress for fixture installation heading into March. Previous milestones include significant development of seating concrete layout, finishing, and coring, setting interior doors, and startup and testing of HVAC units.



WHEELHOUSE LIST FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES

- Friends of the Library Vintage Book Sale
Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m.
First floor patio, Central Library
- Medicine in Our Backyard: Preventing Cognitive Decline
Monday, March 23, 7 p.m.
Community Room, Civic Center
- Witte Lectures: Pippa Malmgren
Friday, March 27, 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 28, 2 p.m.
OASIS Senior Center
- Library Closure: Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 5
All locations
- National Library Week: April 19 - 25
City Council Proclamation
Tuesday, April 14, 4 p.m.
City Council Chambers
- Spotlight on Science: Miniature Space
Wednesday, April 15, 7 p.m.
Community Room, Civic Center
- Witte Lectures: Annie Griffiths
Friday, April 17, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 18, 2 p.m.
OASIS Senior Center
- Board of Library Trustees Meeting
Monday, April 20, 5 p.m.
City Council Chambers, Civic Center

REBECCA LIGHTFOOT, LIBRARY SERVICES MANAGER

Literacy

Project Adult Literacy hosted another Literacy Library Tour for a local ESL group and had seven attendees. Winter Tutor and Learner Orientations added seven volunteers and nine new learners to the program.

Literacy Coordinator Christina Smith attended a Learner Leadership meeting with the Huntington Beach Literacy Program to build a partnership and exchange ideas. Literacy Coordinator Smith also updated the Career Online High School Manual for staff.

Programming

In February, the Library presented two Storytellers Extended classes: *The Proposal Process* and *Show Don't Tell*. They, along with the other newly added Storytellers topics this season, continue to be very well-received. Genealogy: Brick Wall Breaker was also offered in a small discussion group setting. Participants were encouraged to bring their research "roadblocks" and were offered advice tips from our expert genealogist.

Facilities

At Central, Public Works (PW) repainted the upstairs men and women's restrooms with the downstairs bathrooms slated for paint in early March. The trees in the parking lot were removed during the Presidents' Day holiday closure. New landscaping will go in over the upcoming weeks. Mariners Branch (Mariners) has resumed replacing lighting. PW is continuing to monitor the HVAC system and working with RAM Air to rectify some minor issues.

ANNIKA HELMUTH, BRANCH AND YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR**Branch Activities**

Corona del Mar Branch (CdM) hosted storytimes, daily Drop-In Crafts, and a Seek & Find game featuring Sisi the Snail. Weekly Toy Train Tuesdays and seasonal activities like a heart-themed sensory play program were popular. Educational toys in the children's area were also popular, with 571 children and caregivers participating in play-based learning.

At Marina Park, Balboa Branch (Balboa) staff hosted a Hearts & Hugs Crafts program. As Balboa prepared for its temporary closure for replacement, staff redistributed materials to other locations to ensure continued access for patrons and completed remaining closeout needs.

Mariners offered a range of family programs including storytimes, BARK reading sessions, STEAM activities, and LEGO Wednesdays, all well attended. Seasonal programs like the Valentine's take-home craft kits were enjoyed by many. The new storytime stay-and-play area opened to great enthusiasm and continues to encourage interaction among families. The Seed Library circulated 164 packets, a significant increase from last year.

Youth Services

Youth Services hosted a variety of engaging programs at Central this month, including a Valentine-themed Crafternoon featuring card-making and crafts; and Art Space, where participants explored the work of Alma Thomas and created abstract pieces for the Library's rotating youth gallery. Our STEAM program explored balance and center of gravity through hands-on activities such as balancing birds, straw mobiles, and balancing acrobats. A fuse bead workshop later in the month encouraged collaborative creativity between children and caregivers. Youth readers also gathered for Book Club Explorers to discuss the month's selection using guided prompts and related creative activities.

Special Programs

The Winter Seek & Find program was a popular activity, inviting children to search the Library for winter animals while learning fun facts about each of them. Held at Central, Mariners, and CdM, families often participated together, with older siblings helping younger ones and some children racing to find all five animals. The activity added an engaging element to library visits.

Outreach

Youth Services conducted an outreach visit to a class of Newport Coast Elementary 4th grade students who were studying the Winter Olympics. Children's Librarian Christine Lefter demonstrated how to locate articles and navigate linked information using the World Book database.

Personnel

Youth Services staff Bernadette Gilliam, Nadia Dallstream, and Evelyn Rogers attended the *Joyous Way to Learn!* workshop, an energetic storytelling training session hosted by the Santiago Library System and presented by Jim Gill, a nationally acclaimed author and musician. Staff were inspired to learn new strategies to help enhance story time programs. Branch and Youth Services Coordinator Annika Helmuth participated in Play with Purpose, a webinar that highlighted the value of play-based library spaces and how it contributes to early literacy growth for children and their families.

ANDREW KACHATURIAN, ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR

Teen Services

The February Young Adult Advisory Council meeting had 14 teens in attendance. The group planned and led the meeting which ran smoothly. The teens participated in icebreakers to begin the meeting, played board games, and made cards for Valentine's Day. They also shared Valentine's Day themed trivia questions.

Adult Services

The adult Tech Toy collection received a new cabinet identical to the cabinet in use in the Children's room. We will now be able to accommodate larger items as the collection continues to grow. A staff meeting was held in February to train new staff in the Library's Interlibrary Loan service and help update procedures. Some members of Adult Services attended an online workshop that introduced concepts of Artificial Intelligence in libraries. The focus was on identification, finding a level of familiarity with it, and locating areas where it might be beneficial and where it might be detrimental.

Staffing

There are two vacant part-time Library Assistant positions at Central, which are currently being recruited for alongside the recruitment for a full-time Library Assistant position at Mariners.

MIRANDA GENTRY, CIRCULATION COORDINATOR

Staffing

Allyson Parry was promoted to part-time Library Clerk I. Mariners welcomed Irvin Solorio as a new part-time Library Page. Additional Library Page recruitments remain ongoing, and we are in the process of filling two part-time Support Services Aide positions at Central with second-round interviews planned for the beginning of March.

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					2606
Newspapers--Current	913	*	*	1000	798	641	618	460					738
Newspapers--Historical	3265	*	*	1196	1511	2419	1674	1732					1966
Magazines	47	*	*	1054	31	17	22	26					200

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					2832
Alexander Street	253	682	457	1123	236	574	170	49					3544
Ancestry	200	205	9	306	521	150	243	334					1968
AskART	12	17	9	13	31	11	104	41					238
Brainfuse JobNow/VetNow	107	62	25	3	4	3	**	**					204
Britannica School Edition	9	0	82	248	75	15	5	0					434
Exploring Race in Society	24	14	4	40	4	18	7	21					132
Gale Archives Unbound	7	4	16	17	32	29	2	3					110
Gale Directory Library	45	25	◊	◊	◊	◊	◊	◊					70
Gale in Context: Biography	1	8	14	81	13	2	23	51					193
Gale in Context: Elementary	2	0	6	6	7	2	3	2					28
Gale in Context: Environmental	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0					2
Gale in Context: Opposing View	17	10	10	216	21	58	61	9					402
Gale Interactive: Science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0
Gale Literature Resource Center	16	17	6	116	9	3	9	22					198
Gale eBooks	52	15	15	60	172	10	12	31					367
HeritageQuest	405	325	180	90	587	173	1	109					1870
Legal Information Ref Center	64	57	22	130	59	70	129	86					617
National Geographic	12	26	20	46	24	16	33	36					213
National Geographic Kids	6	34	10	26	12	43	7	20					158
NewsBank	4794	4741	4505	4846	4260	4156	5216	3736					36254
NovelList Plus	48	41	65	81	78	79	46	27					465
NovelList K-8 Plus	12	146	33	55	53	90	27	14					430
ProQuest	4466	*	*	31725	2443	2182	2685	1973					45474
Proquest eLibrary	0	33	23	4	1	1	4	0					66
Reference Solutions Business	322	609	392	412	105	319	493	169					2821
Reference Solutions Residential	12	29	14	19	25	17	8	30					154
SIRS Discoverer	4	12	53	13	1	0	0	0					83
SIRS Issues Researcher	267	659	1881	379	1	0	1	0					3188
StatsUSA (formerly State Statistics)	5	6	5	47	20	2	6	7					98
World Book Online	9	39	53	33	13	84	53	43					327
Tracked by #page views													
Artist Works	3	2	6	3	3	1	5	1					24
Consumer Reports	2475	2156	1853	1934	1981	1558	1117	1401					14475
CultureGrams	68	36	4	49	115	23	130	26					451
Morningstar	3697	7618	4826	3483	3080	3973	4356	4371					35404
RealQuest	8	14	121	36	3	10	14	59					265
Tumblebooks	35	33	11	33	25	‡	‡	‡					137
Value Line	9891	8507	10381	11564	9057	8620	10684	9517					78221
Wall Street Journal	3393	3469	1439	4086	3856	4452	4545	3350					28590
Tracked by courses													
LinkedIn Learning	254	262	209	484	431	210	138	183					2171
Tracked by books logged													
Beanstack	7403	2832	1877	2334	1662	1097	2045	2215					21465
Tracked by Hours Used													
ABC Mouse †	127.02	130.58	81.07	97.93	125.65	109.97	107.66	73.00					852.88
Beanstack	7738	1554	385	266	360	270	240	228					11041
Rosetta Stone	28.82	33.70	57.47	85.32	57.01	50.27	70.66	56.08					439.33

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	30831					29579	236630
New Users	14608	15467	14189	23841	15006	13147	19502	18281					16755	134041
Sessions	47805	50528	45583	55929	43442	41915	51715	47232					48019	384149
Pageviews	122016	123728	105782	122541	103499	101665	122042	107786					113632	909059
Sessions Per User	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2					2	--
Pages Per Session	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2					2	--
Avg. Session Dur. (min)	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	4					6	--
Bounce Rate (%)	64	62	63	66	64	64	66	67					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	238					199	1595
CdM	391	514	540	420	292	287	317	331					386	3091
Mariners	2240	2200	2460	2340	1910	1570	1860	1610					2024	16190
Central *	14120	16200	6960	11000	12450	12190	15070	13910					12738	101900
Total	16951	19189	10197	13903	14773	14211	17462	16089					15347	122776

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					269	2149
CdM	557	527	695	526	330	407	356	321					465	3719
Mariners	1454	1432	2038	1749	1376	1292	1211	1341					1487	11893
Central *	11130	10480	6307	8671	9493	9918	9773	9623					9424	75395
Total	13524	12717	9318	11237	11405	11865	11569	11521					11645	93156

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

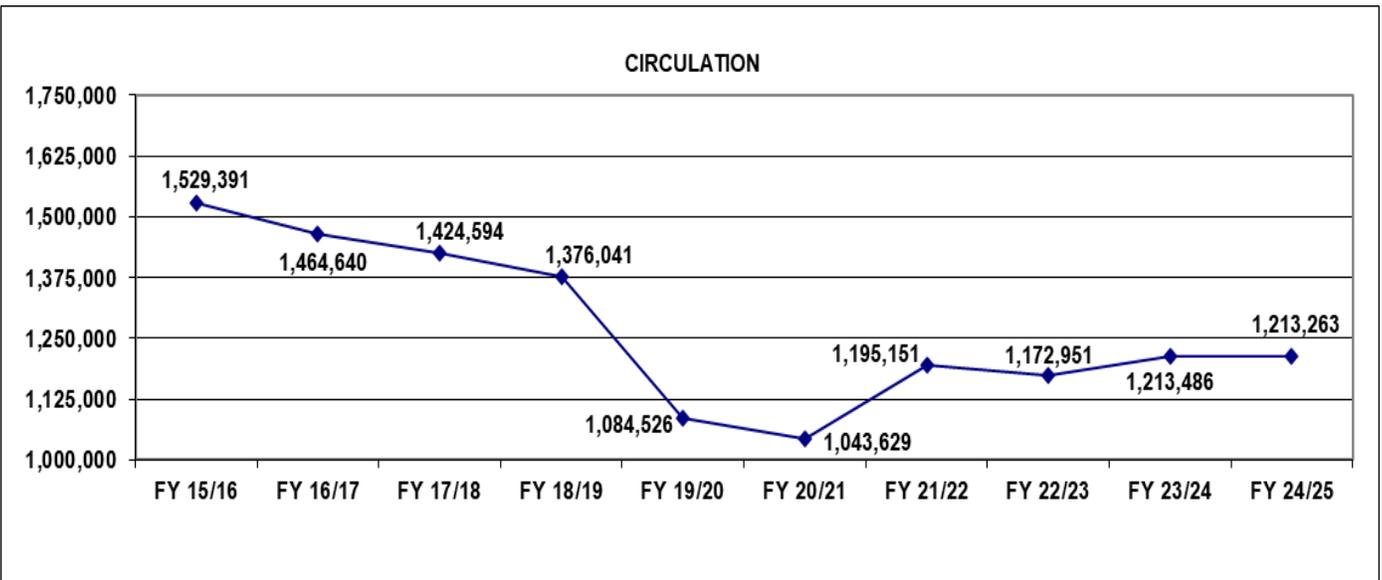
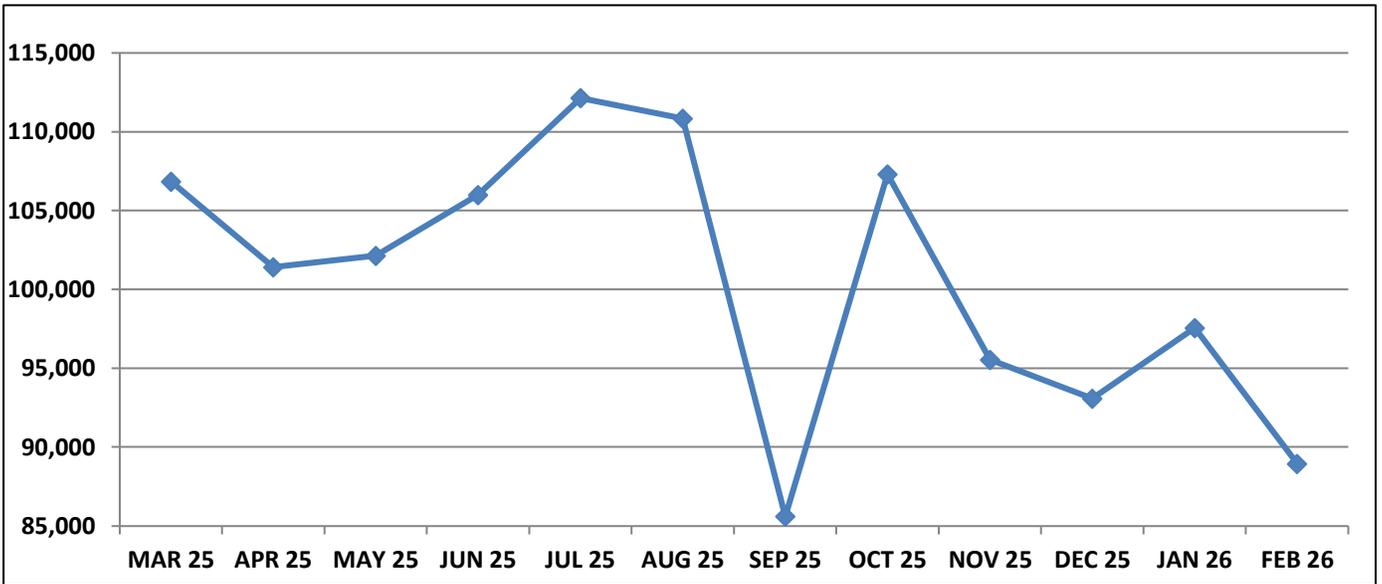
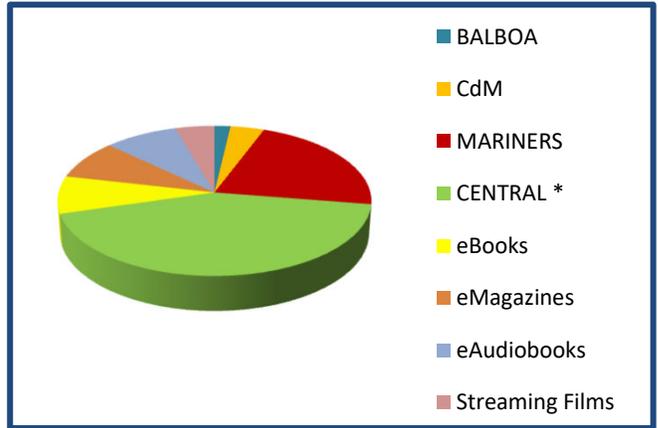
Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa	30	21	20	19	15	18	18	19					20	160
CdM	32	34	42	32	22	22	23	23					29	230
Mariners	111	109	150	135	108	100	94	102					114	909
Central *	746	672	361	518	566	612	584	644					588	4703
Total	919	836	573	704	711	752	719	788					750	6002

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					773	6181
CdM	718	999	795	818	905	721	912	1030					862	6898
Mariners	1580	1570	1230	1370	1420	1250	1570	1230					1403	11220
Central *	1300	1580	1130	1300	1340	1260	1580	1480					1371	10970
Total	4135	5161	4030	3992	4267	3911	5023	4750					4409	35268

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - FEBRUARY 2026 CIRCULATION

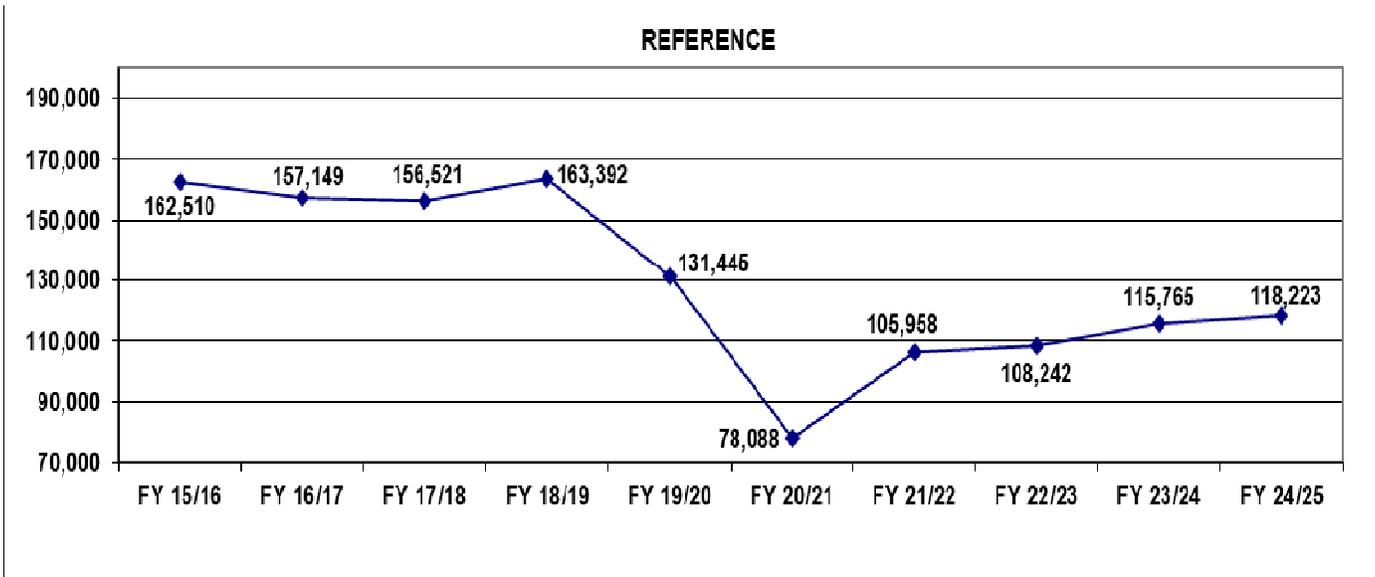
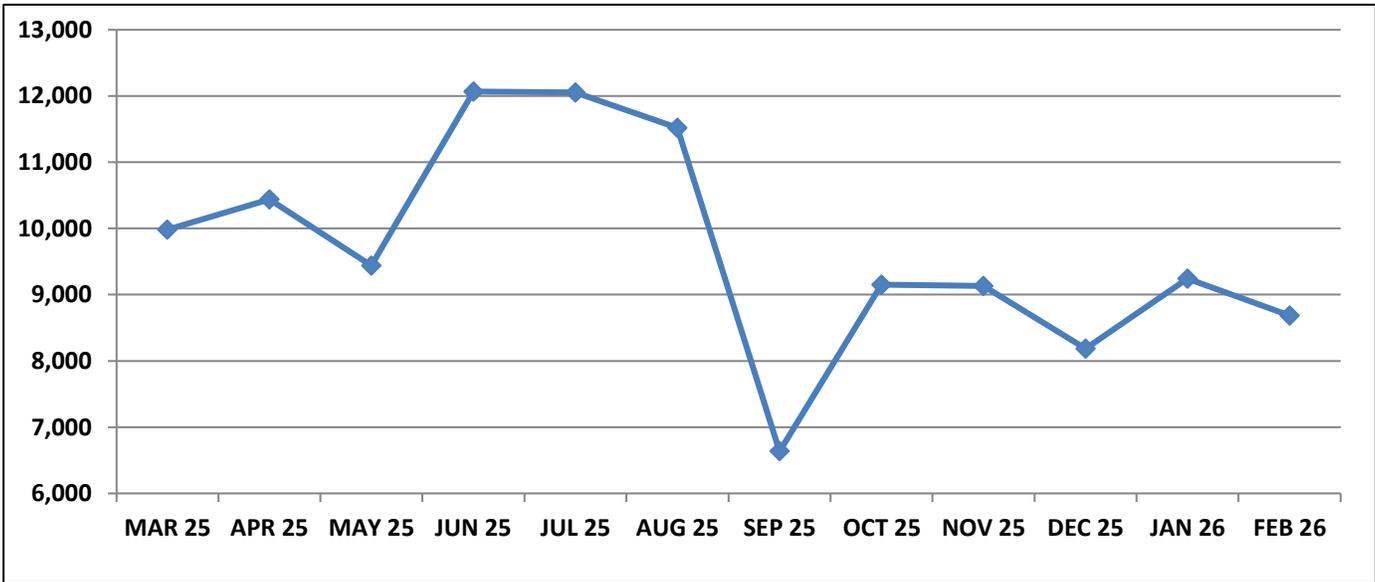
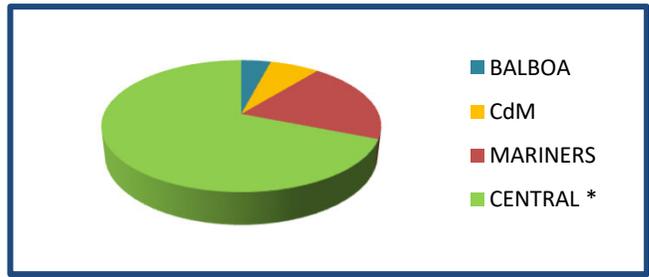
	FEB 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA	1,632	17,157	20,856
CdM	3,459	33,593	29,085
MARINERS	19,358	172,719	163,355
CENTRAL *	38,241	340,472	386,115
eBooks	7,183	65,484	64,337
eMagazines	7,518	61,007	44,777
eAudiobooks	7,567	64,607	60,294
Streaming Films	3,984	35,969	28,045
TOTAL	88,942	791,008	796,864



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

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - FEBRUARY 2026 REFERENCE

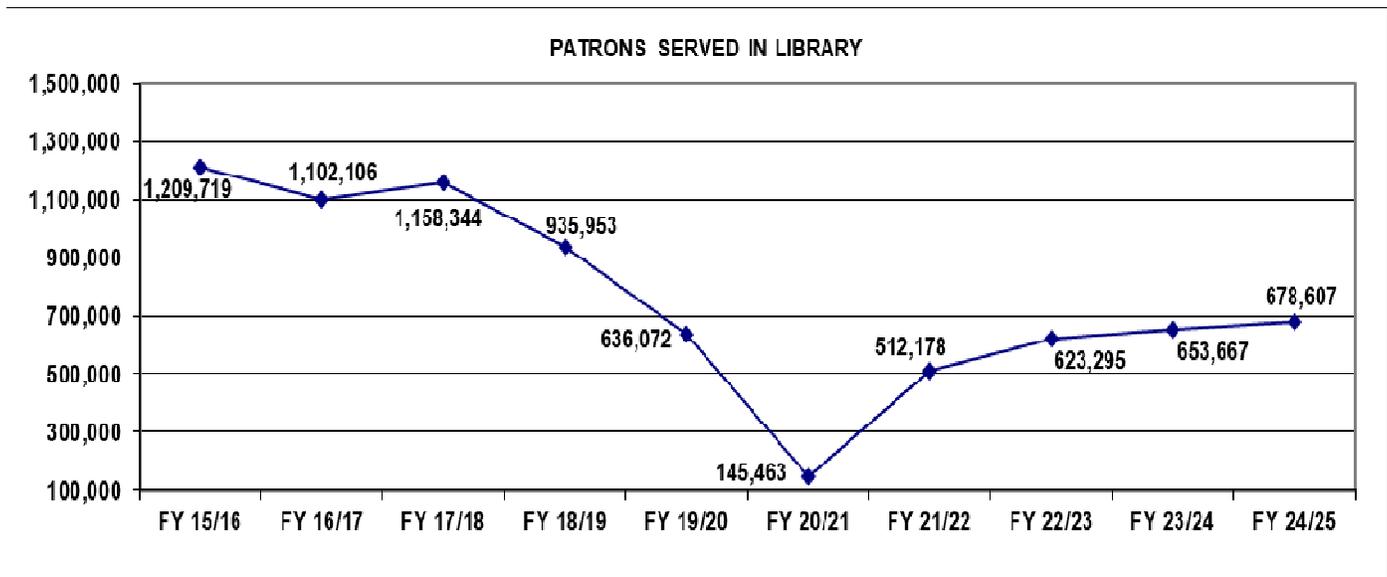
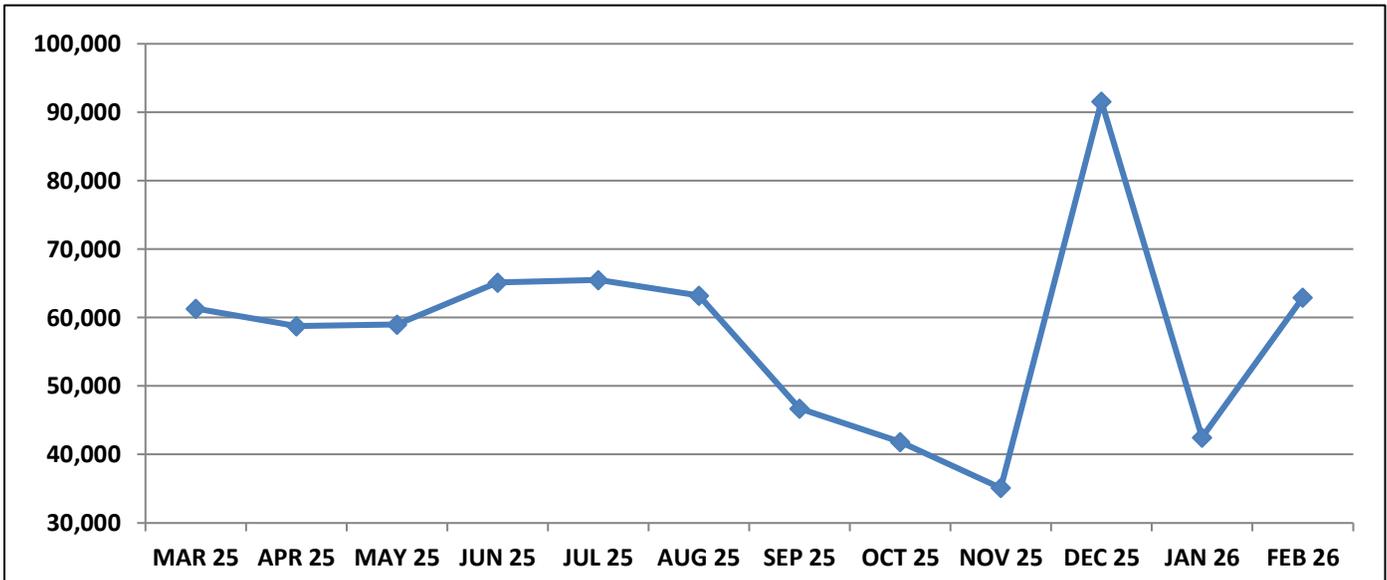
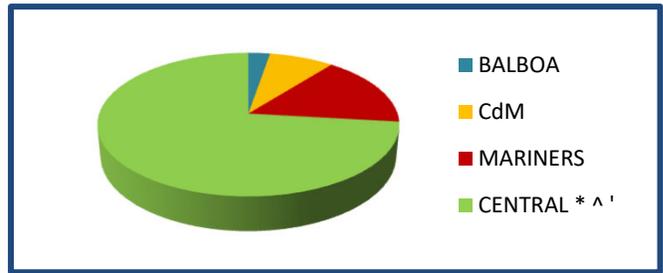
	FEB 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA	356	3,180	3,036
CdM	593	6,307	5,562
MARINERS	1,745	15,203	15,885
CENTRAL *	5,992	49,911	51,813
TOTAL	8,686	74,601	76,296



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

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - FEBRUARY 2026 PATRONS SERVED

	FEB 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA	1,692	15,509	17,309
CdM	5,061	56,000	25,456
MARINERS	10,115	101,986	97,079
CENTRAL * ^ ^	46,054	275,858	294,642
TOTAL	62,922	449,353	434,486



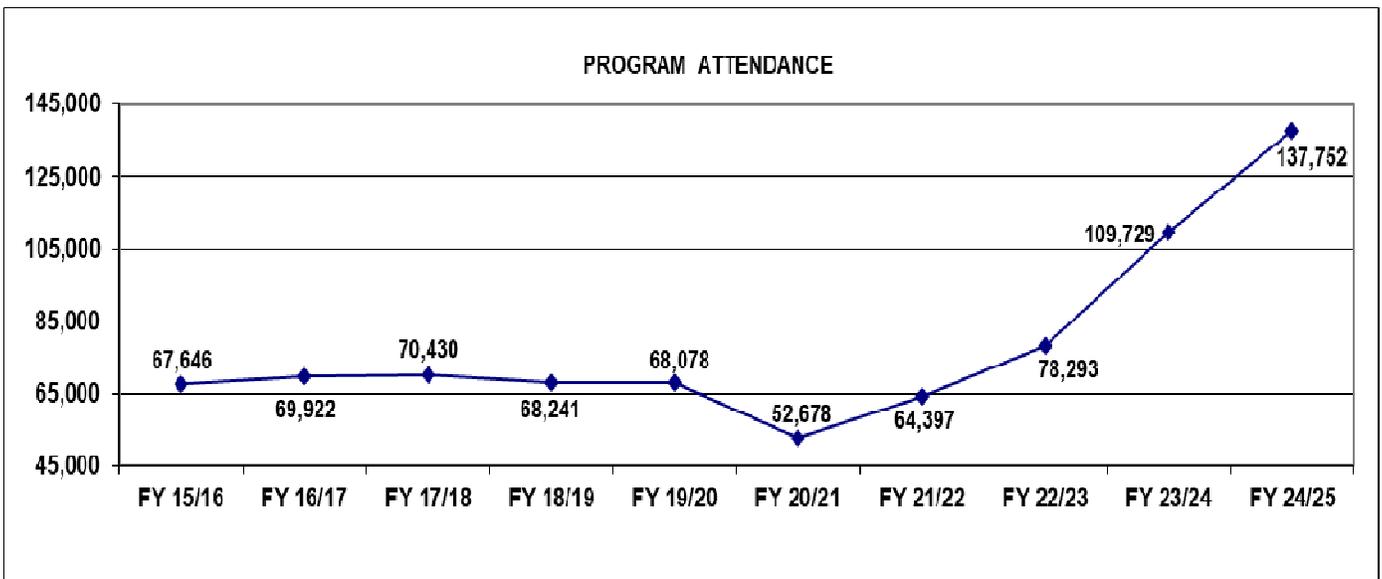
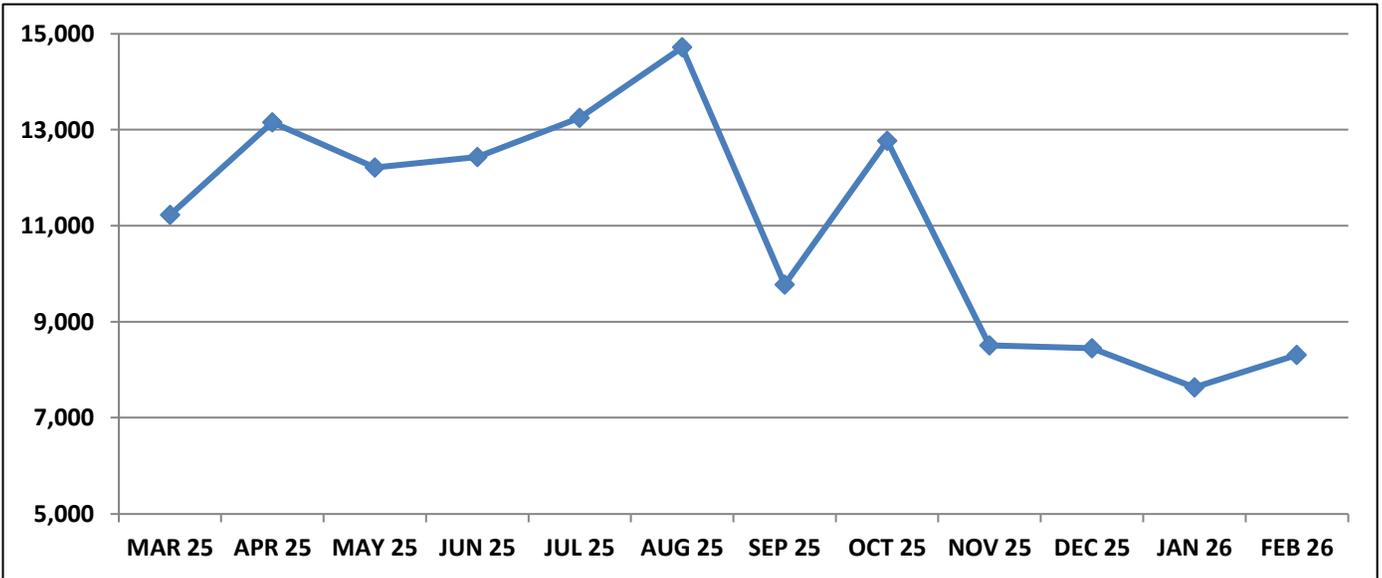
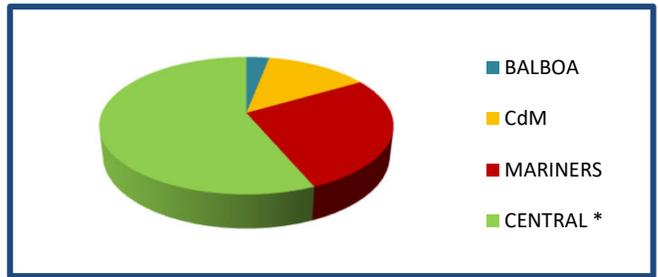
* Central Library Closure: 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

^ 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; monthly total for February 2026 includes backlog

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - FEBRUARY 2026 PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

	FEB 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA	249	2,420	3,300
CdM	1,126	12,729	10,450
MARINERS	2,250	17,559	16,406
CENTRAL *	4,682	50,684	58,583
TOTAL	8,307	83,392	88,739



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