



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

April 20, 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 March Library Activities

MELISSA HARTSON, LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Balboa Branch

Balboa Branch (Balboa) closed operations to the public on Saturday, February 28. During March, items from the collection that were not transferred to other locations were removed from the catalog. Staff processed these items to prepare them for the Friends of the Library big blowout sale, which was held on Saturday, March 7. In the weeks following the book sale, staff finished vacating the facility and officially turned it over to Public Works. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 24 to kick off the construction project. This Library and Fire Station replacement project is expected to finish Fall 2027.



WHEELHOUSE LIST FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES

- National Library Week
Sunday, April 19 – Saturday, April 25
All locations
- Library Live: Anthony Doerr
Thursday, April 23, 7 p.m.
OASIS Senior Center, Corona del Mar
- Spring Planting With a UC Master Gardener
Saturday, April 25, 2 p.m.
Crean Mariners Branch
- Medicine in Our Backyard: Managing Knee Pain
Monday, April 27, 7 p.m.
Community Room, Civic Center

WHEELHOUSE LIST FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES (*continued*)

- Meet the Author: Nicola Harrison
Wednesday, April 29, 7 p.m.
Community Room, Civic Center
- Spotlight on Science: Matter, Antimatter, and the Evolution of the Universe
Wednesday, May 6, 7 p.m.
OASIS Senior Center
- Witte Lectures: Ruth Ben-Ghiat
Friday, May 1, 7 p.m.
Civic Center Lawn
Saturday, May 2, 2 p.m.
OASIS Senior Center
- Board of Library Trustees Meeting
Monday, May 18, 5 p.m.
City Council Chambers, Civic Center

REBECCA LIGHTFOOT, LIBRARY SERVICES MANAGER

Literacy

Project Adult Literacy (PAL) staff, along with several learners and tutors, attended the 2026 Southern California Library Literacy Network Conference in Buena Park. One of our learners, Omi Choi, was recognized as a Writer-to-Writer winner at the luncheon.

PAL Coordinator Christina Smith hosted her first *Coffee with the Coordinator* and met with 17 attendees.

PAL staff prepped for the following April events: Volunteer Appreciation Celebration, New Learner Orientation, and Volunteer Tutor Training.

PAL staff began work on the *In Our Own Words* learner anthology.

Programming

In March, the Library hosted the original Storytellers three-part series as well as two stand-alone classes: *Promoting & Marketing Yourself as a Writer* and *Crafting Dialogue*. The Library also offered the final Genealogy workshop of the season, *Methodology Roundup*.

Facilities

Municipal Operations repainted the parking lot light poles at the Central Library (Central) in the beginning of March. New trees were planted in the Central parking lot as well; the first-floor restrooms were repainted. At Crean Mariners Branch (Mariners), the brightly colored walls in the Children's room received some touch up paint.

ANNIKA HELMUTH, BRANCH AND YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

Branch Activities

The Corona del Mar Branch (CdM) offered storytimes, daily Drop-In Crafts, and interactive activities such as *Library I Spy*, alongside ongoing play-based learning in the children's area.

At Marina Park, Balboa staff continued to provide offsite storytimes during the branch closure, maintaining service to the community. Storytime attendance at Marina Park is already outpacing recent Branch attendance.

Mariners remained highly active with popular storytimes and family programs, including STEAM, LEGO, and BARK sessions, as well as strong engagement with the Seed Library and a collaborative children's feature wall reflecting the transition into spring.

Youth Services

The Central Youth Services team delivered a dynamic mix of creative, educational, and interactive programming, including a garden-themed *Crafternoon*, an *Art Space* focused on floral studies, and a hands-on *STEAM Lab* that explored bridge design and problem-solving.

Recurring programs such as the BARK reading sessions and board game activities continued to foster literacy, social interaction, and repeat attendance from both returning and new families.

Special Programs

Two well-attended special events at Central generated strong engagement. A spring painting program invited families to create decorated rocks and fairy doors in a creative setting that encouraged extended participation. And an interactive live cello performance by Chelsea Wong introduced children to music through familiar songs, rhythm activities, and playful sound exploration.

Outreach

Youth Services participated in the City's Mayor's Egg Race event hosted by the Recreation and Senior Services Department. The event drew 548 participants to the Library's table and provided a valuable opportunity to connect with new families, promote upcoming programs, and increase awareness of continued services during the Balboa closure.

Personnel

Balboa staff were reassigned across Library locations to support operational needs, including offsite programming, delivery services, and schedule coverage for current vacancies.

ANDREW KACHATURIAN, ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR

Teen Services

There were 15 members in attendance for the March 11 Young Adult Advisory Council. The teens played a book guessing game as an icebreaker, helped form a female protagonist book display for the Teen Center, and painted small *Tiny Art* miniature canvas projects, which they greatly enjoyed and expressed an interest in doing again in the future. The teens also went around the room discussing the media they are currently watching and the books that they are reading.

Library Assistants Greg Johnson and Anthony Duhamel attended an outreach event at the Newport Harbor High School Volunteer Fair on March 27. They spoke with 61 teens that expressed an interest in volunteering with the Library to reach their community volunteering goals. Staff had a great time chatting with the teens, highlighting the volunteer opportunities, the upcoming Summer Reading Program, and general library services.

Adult Services

The Adult Reference department continues to perform collection maintenance in their respective areas, incorporating some items from Balboa that have been in circulation and beginning to be returned. As staff withdraw worn or outdated materials, they are organizing their collections and updating signage

throughout. Some shifting upstairs has occurred, with paperback books being relocated in order to expand shelving in the Fiction section.

Staffing

Part-time Library Clerk Lucero Tamayo was promoted to part-time Library Assistant to fill one of two vacancies. She will join the Adult Reference department in April. Another candidate has been in background for some time and is anticipated to begin April as well.

MIRANDA GENTRY, CIRCULATION COORDINATOR

Staffing

Michale Martinez was promoted to full-time Library Clerk I at Central.

There are currently two Library Page candidates and one Support Services Aide candidate working with HR on background and fitness checks. We are in the recruitment process to fill the additional Support Services Aide position and the vacant part-time Library Clerk I position at Central as well.

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				2488
Newspapers--Current	913	*	*	1000	798	641	618	460	600				719
Newspapers--Historical	3265	*	*	1196	1511	2419	1674	1732	1222				1860
Magazines	47	*	*	1054	31	17	22	26	14				173

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
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Tracked by #searches													
A to Z Databases	481	438	234	182	339	581	347	230	187				3019
Alexander Street	253	682	457	1123	236	574	170	49	302				3846
Ancestry	200	205	9	306	521	150	243	334	238				2206
AskART	12	17	9	13	31	11	104	41	23				261
Brainfuse JobNow/VetNow	107	62	25	3	4	3	**	**	**				204
Britannica School Edition	9	0	82	248	75	15	5	0	83				517
Ckbk	§	§	§	§	§	§	1111	888	504				2503
Exploring Race in Society	24	14	4	40	4	18	7	21	14				146
Gale Archives Unbound	7	4	16	17	32	29	2	3	15				125
Gale Directory Library	45	25	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇				70
Gale in Context: Biography	1	8	14	81	13	2	23	51	47				240
Gale in Context: Elementary	2	0	6	6	7	2	3	2	1				29
Gale in Context: Environmental	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				2
Gale in Context: Opposing View	17	10	10	216	21	58	61	9	41				443
Gale Interactive: Science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
Gale Literature Resource Center	16	17	6	116	9	3	9	22	106				304
Gale eBooks	52	15	15	60	172	10	12	31	68				435
HeritageQuest	405	325	180	90	587	173	1	109	252				2122
Legal Information Ref Center	64	57	22	130	59	70	129	86	42				659
National Geographic	12	26	20	46	24	16	33	36	10				223
National Geographic Kids	6	34	10	26	12	43	7	20	120				278
NewsBank	4794	4741	4505	4846	4260	4156	5216	3736	4098				40352
NovelList Plus	48	41	65	81	78	79	46	27	88				553
NovelList K-8 Plus	12	146	33	55	53	90	27	14	26				456
ProQuest	4466	*	*	31725	2443	2182	2685	1973	2632				48106
Proquest eLibrary	0	33	23	4	1	1	4	0	1				67
Reference Solutions Business	322	609	392	412	105	319	493	169	435				3256
Reference Solutions Residential	12	29	14	19	25	17	8	30	12				166
SIRS Discoverer	4	12	53	13	1	0	0	0	0				83
SIRS Issues Researcher	267	659	1881	379	1	0	1	0	1				3189
StatsUSA (formerly State Statistics)	5	6	5	47	20	2	6	7	2				100
World Book Online	9	39	53	33	13	84	53	43	73				400

Tracked by #page views													
Artist Works	3	2	6	3	3	1	5	1	3				27
Consumer Reports	2475	2156	1853	1934	1981	1558	1117	1401	1537				16012
CultureGrams	68	36	4	49	115	23	130	26	85				536
Morningstar	3697	7618	4826	3483	3080	3973	4356	4371	3993				39397
RealQuest	8	14	121	36	3	10	14	59	Ω				265
Tumblebooks	35	33	11	33	25	‡	‡	‡	‡				137
Value Line	9891	8507	10381	11564	9057	8620	10684	9517	10608				88829
Wall Street Journal	3393	3469	1439	4086	3856	4452	4545	3350	5341				33931

Tracked by courses													
LinkedIn Learning	254	262	209	484	431	210	138	183	251				2422

Tracked by books logged													
Beanstack	7403	2832	1877	2334	1662	1097	2045	2215	1813				23278

Tracked by Hours Used													
ABC Mouse †	127.02	130.58	81.07	97.93	125.65	109.97	107.66	73.00	81.55				934.43
Beanstack	7738	1554	385	266	360	270	240	228	140				11181
Rosetta Stone	28.82	33.70	57.47	85.32	57.01	50.27	70.66	56.08	64.76				504.09

Notes:

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

** Brainfuse subscription cancelled January 2026

§ Ckbk subscription added January 2026

◇ 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

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				29682	267135
New Users	14608	15467	14189	23841	15006	13147	19502	18281	15702				16638	149743
Sessions	47805	50528	45583	55929	43442	41915	51715	47232	48103				48028	432252
Pageviews	122016	123728	105782	122541	103499	101665	122042	107786	115463				113836	1024522
Sessions Per User	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				2	--
Pages Per Session	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2				2	--
Avg. Session Dur. (min)	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	4	4				6	--
Bounce Rate (%)	64	62	63	66	64	64	66	67	65				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	22				180	1617
CdM	391	514	540	420	292	287	317	331	472				396	3562
Mariners	2240	2200	2460	2340	1910	1570	1860	1610	2770				2107	18960
Central *	14120	16200	6960	11000	12450	12190	15070	13910	15500				13044	117400
Total	16951	19189	10197	13903	14773	14211	17462	16089	18764				15727	141539

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				459	4130
Mariners	1454	1432	2038	1749	1376	1292	1211	1341	1728				1513	13621
Central *	11130	10480	6307	8671	9493	9918	9773	9623	10984				9598	86379
Total	13524	12717	9318	11237	11405	11865	11569	11521	13266				11825	106422

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	257
Mariners	111	109	150	135	108	100	94	102	128				115	1037
Central *	746	672	361	518	566	612	584	644	672				597	5375
Total	919	836	573	704	711	752	719	788	836				760	6838

Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Average Usage Per Patron (MB) 2025-2026

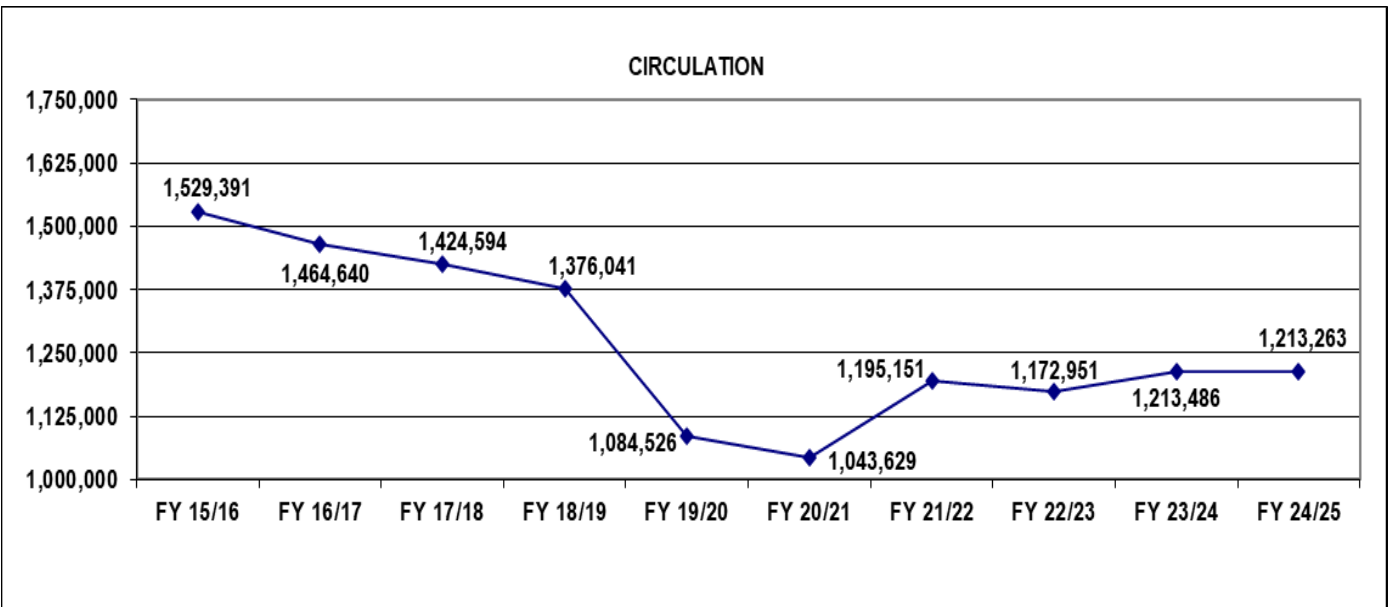
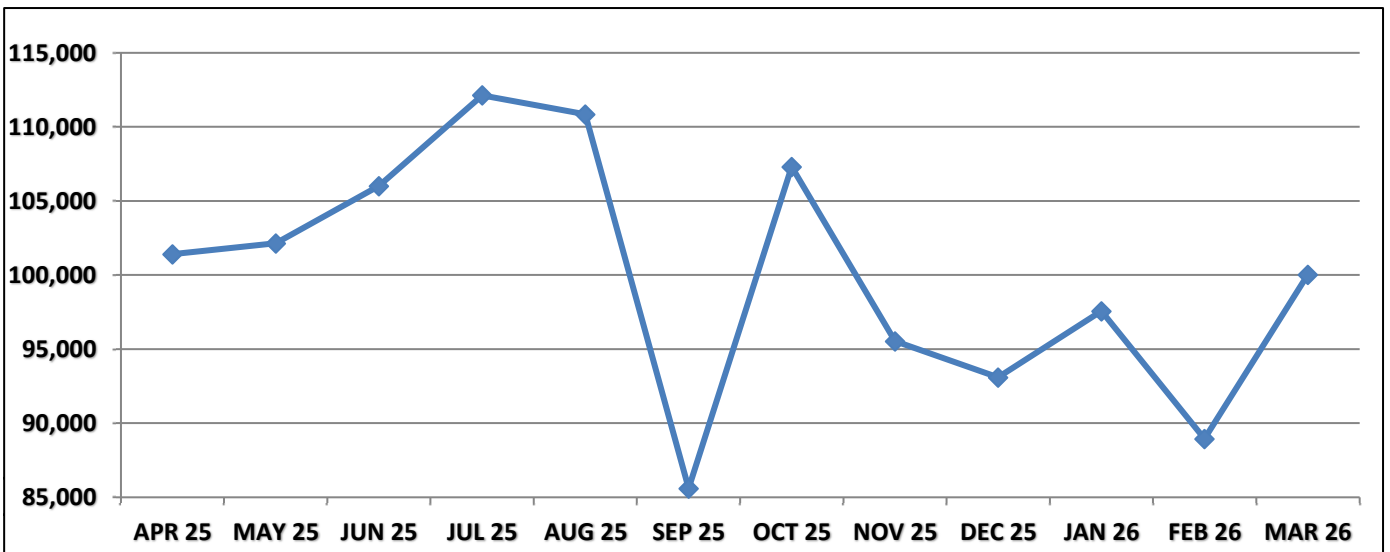
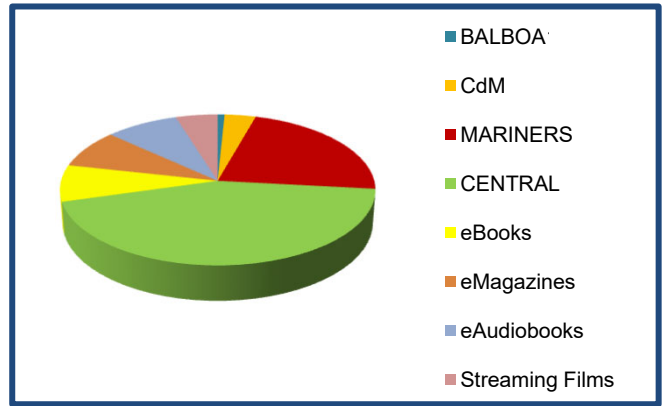
Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa ^	536	1012	874	505	602	680	961	1010	160				704	6340
CdM	718	999	795	818	905	721	912	1030	1150				894	8048
Mariners	1580	1570	1230	1370	1420	1250	1570	1230	1640				1429	12860
Central *	1300	1580	1130	1300	1340	1260	1580	1480	1440				1379	12410
Total	4135	5161	4030	3992	4267	3911	5023	4750	4390				4406	39658

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

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

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - MARCH 2026 CIRCULATION

	MAR 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA ¹	795	17,952	23,558
CdM	3,587	37,180	32,862
MARINERS	22,319	195,038	186,540
CENTRAL ²	43,917	384,389	435,447
eBooks	7,848	73,332	72,978
eMagazines	8,290	69,297	52,150
eAudiobooks	8,452	73,059	68,359
Streaming Films	4,829	40,798	31,815
TOTAL	100,037	891,045	903,709



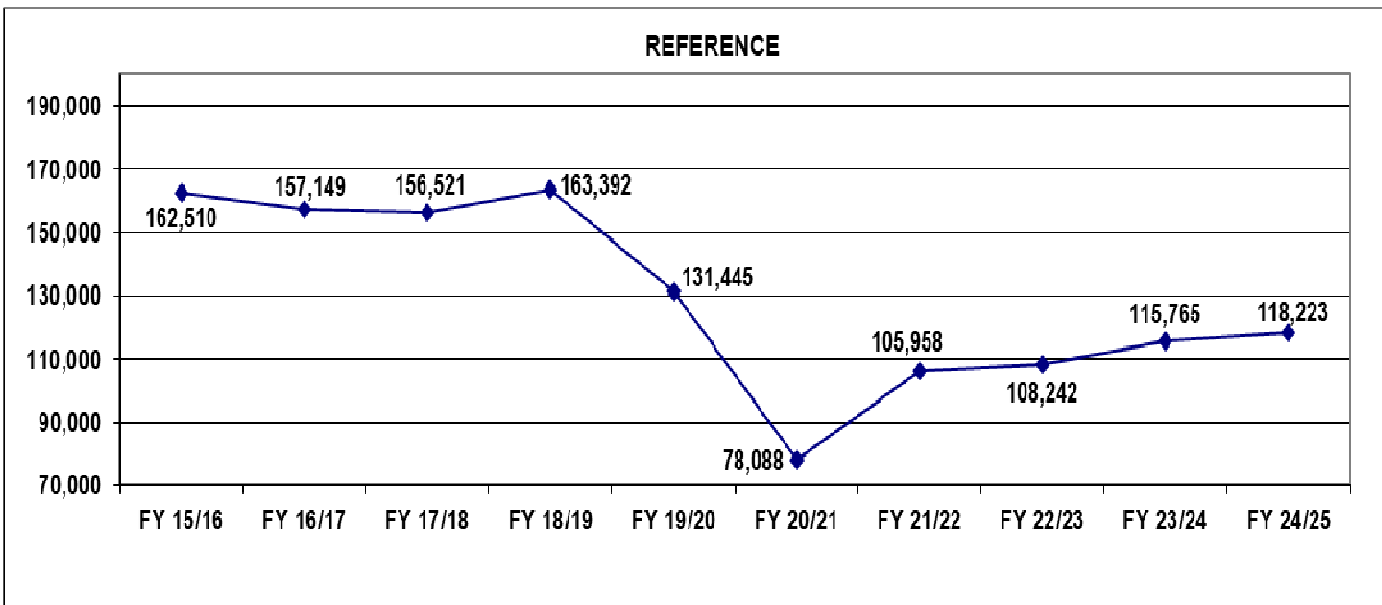
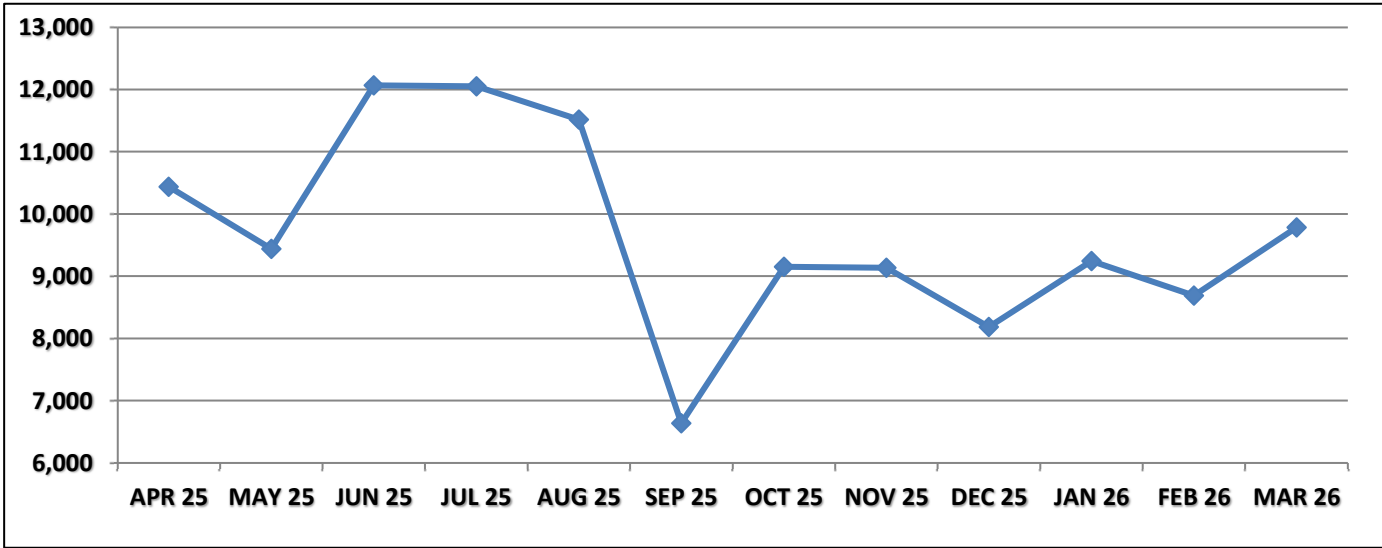
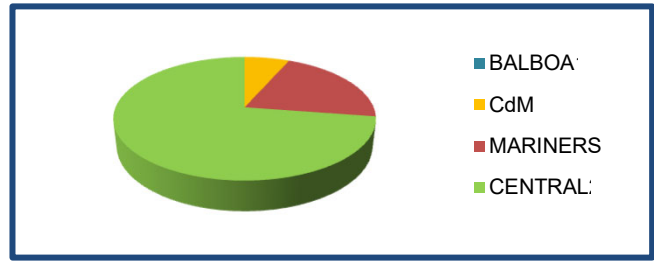
¹ Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026 | ² Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - MARCH 2026 REFERENCE

BALBOA¹
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL²

TOTAL

MAR 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
0	3,180	3,479
647	6,954	6,414
2,031	17,234	17,771
7,107	57,018	58,612
9,785	84,386	86,276



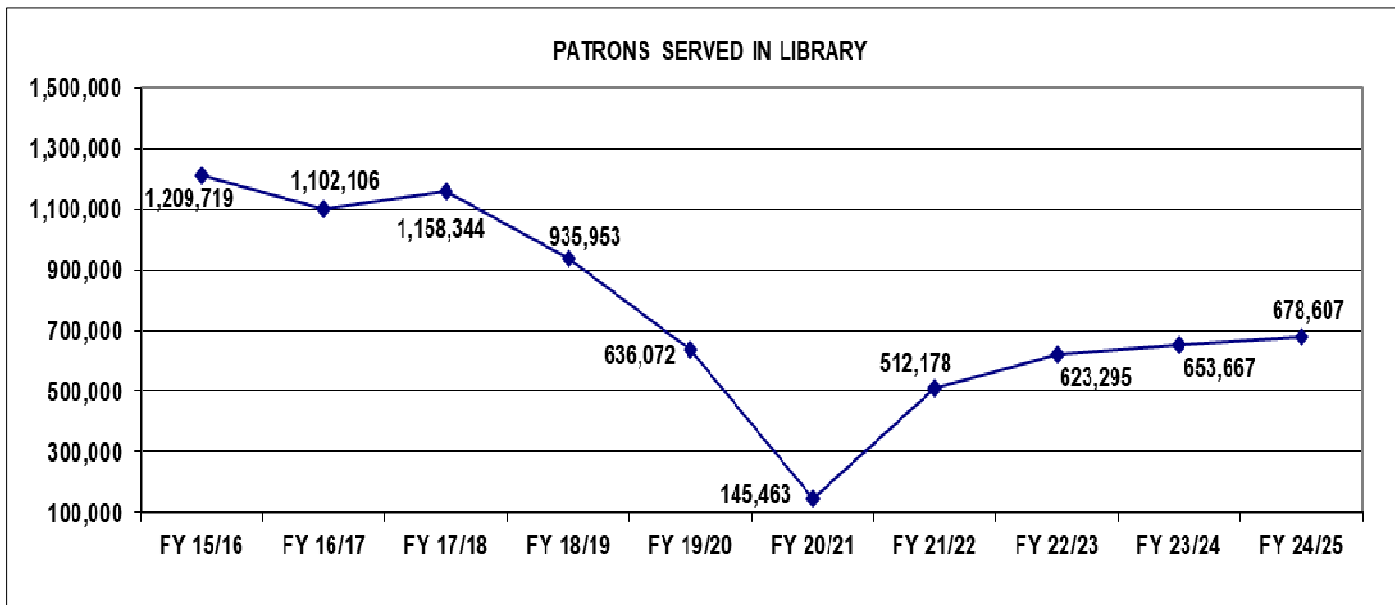
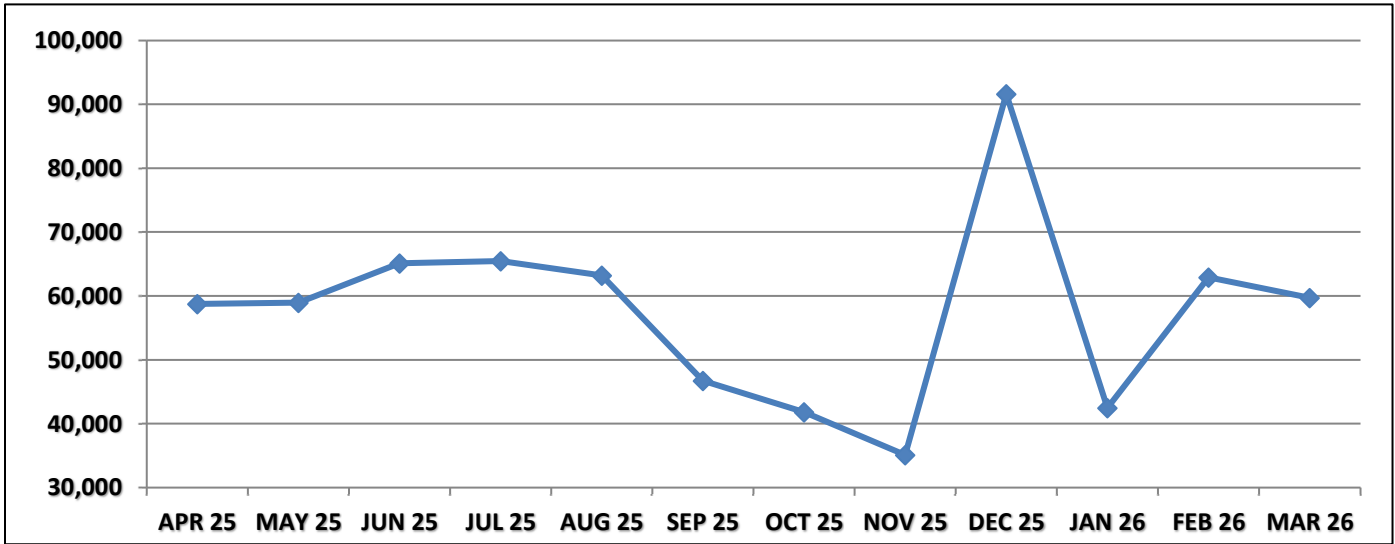
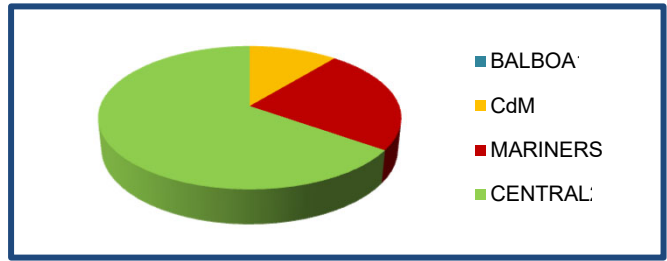
¹ Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026 | ² Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - MARCH 2026 PATRONS SERVED

BALBOA¹
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL²

TOTAL

MAR 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
0	15,509	19,485
6,575	62,575	29,160
14,162	116,148	111,409
38,934	314,792	335,730
59,671	509,024	495,784



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

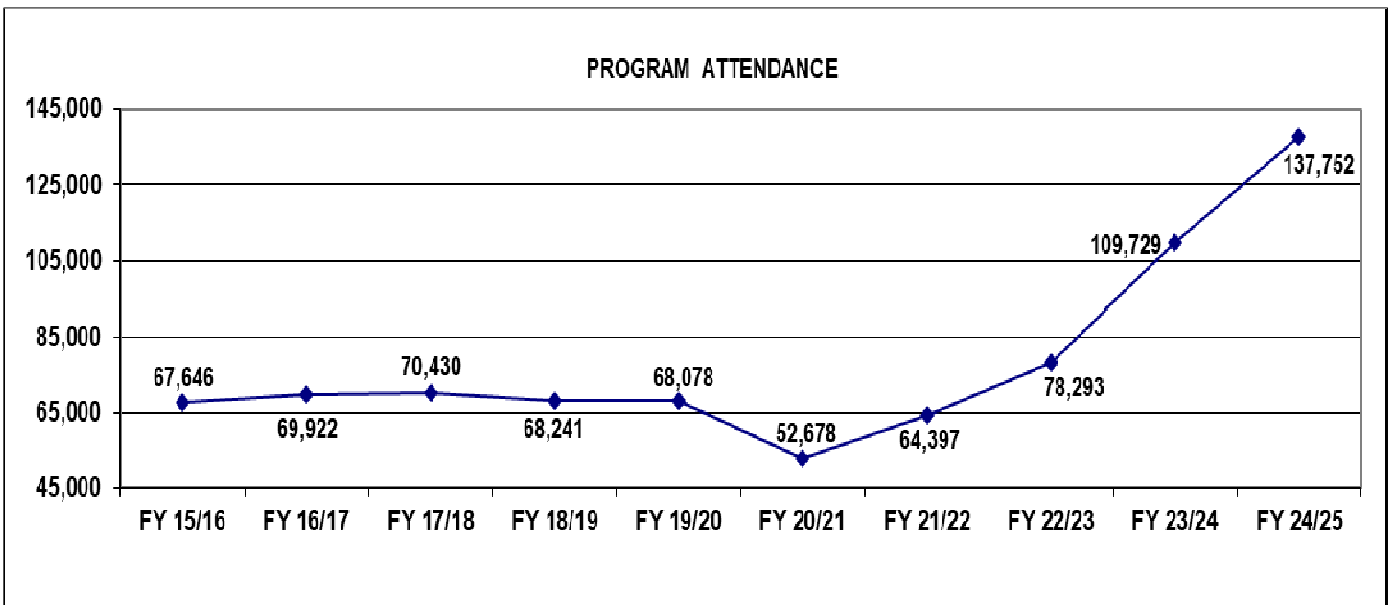
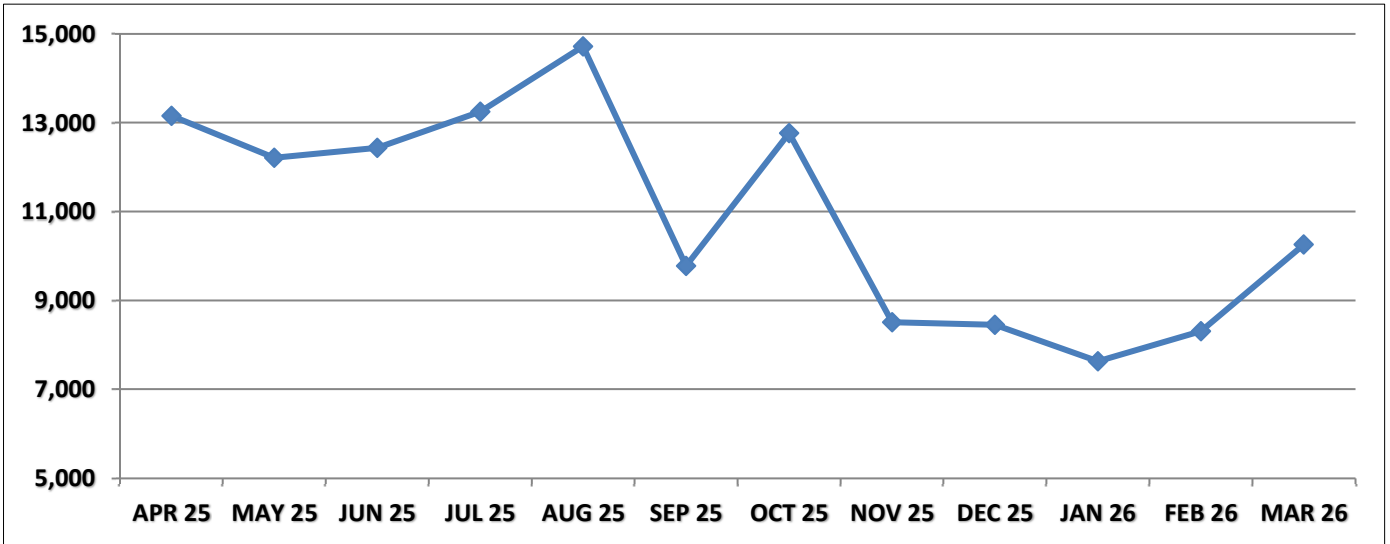
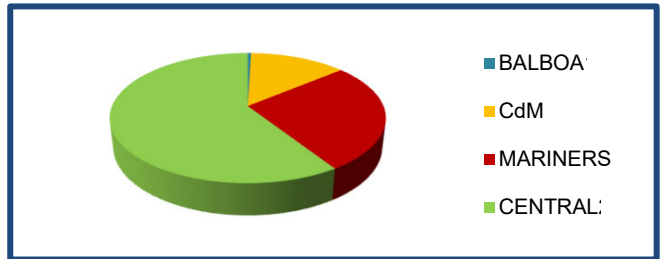
2nd floor entry gate malfunction 01/15/2026-01/31/2026; monthly total for February 2026 includes backlog

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - MARCH 2026 PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

BALBOA¹
CdM
MARINERS
CENTRAL²

TOTAL

MAR 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
48	2,468	3,852
1,383	14,112	12,189
2,763	20,322	18,371
6,063	56,747	65,550
10,257	93,649	99,962



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