CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

July 20, 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 June Library Activities

MELISSA HARTSON, LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Employee Service Recognition

The 66th Annual Employee Service Awards and Appreciation Luncheon was held on June 11. Branch and Youth Services Coordinator Annika Helmuth and Senior Library Clerk Liz McKibbin served on the event planning and implementation committee. This annual event recognizes the contributions of all City staff and those celebrating specific milestone years of service. Please join me in celebrating the following staff recognized at this year's luncheon.

5 Years of Service	10 Years of Service	20 Years of Service	30 Years of Service
Jasmin Avila	Nadia Dallstream	Richard Costa	Melissa Hartson
Noel Chalmers	Christopher Hennigan	Vanessa Magana	Patricia Moon
Melissa Langston	Danielle Yang	Jeremy Rodriguez	

Customer Service Training

As part of a citywide customer service initiative, all full-time Library staff attended one of several *Delivering Platinum-Level Customer Service* training sessions offered by the City Manager's Office. Key takeaways included defining platinum-level service, strengthening communication and emotional intelligence, and applying platinum principles to real situations. Part-time Library staff will attend upcoming sessions in the Fall.

WHEELHOUSE LIST FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES

- Summer Reading Program Ends
  Saturday, August 1
  All Locations
- Concert on the Green: Symphony in the Cities
  Sunday, August 9, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
  Civic Center Green
- Library Live: Tim Grieving,
  John Williams: A Composer's Life
  Thursday, August 13, 7 p.m.
  Witte Hall
- 59th Annual Newport Beach Art Exhibition
  Saturday, August 15, 12 – 5 p.m.
  Civic Center Community Room

WHEELHOUSE LIST FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES *(continued)*

- Board of Library Trustees Meeting
  Monday, August 17, 5 p.m.
  City Council Chambers, Civic Center

REBECCA LIGHTFOOT, LIBRARY SERVICES MANAGER

Literacy
Project Adult Literacy (PAL) staff officially opened the Rochelle Hoffman Educational Grant and are preparing the *In Our Own Words* book of learner essays for International Literacy Day. Part-time Department Assistant Jennifer Ruiseki resigned, and PAL is currently training a temporary Assistant while recruiting for a replacement. Roles & Goals for 2025-2026 have been completed by all learners in the program.

Facilities
The slurry seal was completed in the Loading Dock area at Central Library (Central) on Saturday, June 27. KIT Coffee has adjusted their hours and are now open 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The HVAC condensation system leaked in a staff area at Mariners Branch (Mariners). Municipal Operations came out to assess and called in a contractor to fix the issue.

ANNIKA HELMUTH, BRANCH AND YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

Branch Activities
June marked the beginning of the Summer Reading Program (SRP) at the branches where colorful banners welcomed visitors and marked the start of the Library's signature summer initiative.

June activities at Mariners included strong participation in SRP events, storytimes, and LEGO Wednesdays. The Seed Library also remained highly utilized. City staff completed several technology and facility improvements, including security camera replacement, lighting updates, and self-checkout upgrades.

Balboa Branch (Balboa) remained closed for renovation. Preschool Storytimes continued at Marina Park throughout June. The typical two-week summer break was shifted to July to avoid overlapping Marina Park programming and increased seasonal traffic.

Corona del Mar Branch (CdM) also saw strong attendance at SRP events, storytimes, and children's activities. The transition of SRP programs to Thursday mornings has been popular.

Youth Services
SRP was the highlight of Youth Services in June, launching with exceptional community participation. Early registration proved highly successful, with more than one-third of participants registering during the two-week early enrollment period. By the end of June, more than 1,300 children had logged over 270,000 minutes.

In all, 1,800 readers logged over 475,000 minutes in June, nearly half the community's one-million-minute reading goal, placing the program well on pace for another successful summer.

Across all library locations, weekly children's SRP special events attracted more than 1,000 attendees. Popular programs included Wild Wonders' live animal presentations, comedy puppet shows, and a Summer Craft-O-Rama, offering fun, family-friendly experiences that attracted visitors to the Library and encouraged greater engagement with its collections, programs, and services.

Central's book club for students in grades 4 through 6 welcomed its largest attendance since launching in August 2024, including several first-time participants. The program has evolved into an increasingly participant-led community of young readers, supported by positive family feedback, returning members, and growing enthusiasm for reading.

Outreach
Summer Reading outreach expanded beyond library locations in June with an SRP banner traveling to City community sites throughout the summer. Staff also engaged residents at the Corona del Mar Scenic 5K and welcomed the Woodland Elementary Transitional Kindergarten students to Central.

Books & Badges returned in partnership with the Newport Beach Police Department, welcoming 113 participants, an increase of more than 36% over last year. Several officers joined families for an interactive storytime featuring singing, dancing, bubbles, crafts, and an opportunity to explore a police vehicle. The program fostered positive connections between children and local officers while reinforcing appreciation for their service to the community.

ANDREW KACHATURIAN, ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR

Teen Services
After an extremely busy May, June was a relatively quiet month for Teen Services. Our most well-attended program was the last Teen Spring Finals Snack and Study on June 1, which saw teens using the second-floor Charles Sword Meeting Room as a group study area. The remainder of the Library was also full of teens studying for final exams.

The June 10 Young Adult Advisory Council meeting had limited attendance as many teens were already on summer break and vacations. The participants brainstormed on programming ideas for the next year, created artwork, suggested display books for summer months, and played some games. Librarian Danielle Yang used the opportunity to get more in-depth suggestions for the format of future meetings and received helpful feedback.

The first Teen Summer Reading Book Club session met in June. Participants answered quizzes, discussed what they had been reading, and enjoyed the snacks provided while getting comfortable in a small setting.

Adult Services
Adult Reference held a meeting on June 2, to discuss ongoing projects and areas of growth, and hold a general roundtable discussion. The largest conversation centered on artificial intelligence (AI) models and the staff's ability to share information and learning as a team to assist library patrons with expectations and concerns centered on AI. Suggestions were also made regarding some minor adjustments to our Homebound and Special Delivery services.

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

MIRANDA GENTRY, CIRCULATION COORDINATOR

Staffing
Amy Santa Maria started at Central as a Library Page, and we currently have one candidate working with Human Resources on background and fitness checks to fill a part-time Library Clerk position, also at Central.

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	1417	1885	1248	2196
Newspapers--Current	913	*	*	1000	798	641	618	460	600	471	709	495	671
Newspapers--Historical	3265	*	*	1196	1511	2419	1674	1732	1222	1350	1256	2196	1782
Magazines	47	*	*	1054	31	17	22	26	14	17	21	6	126

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	187	192	295	850	**4356**
Alexander Street	253	682	457	1123	236	574	170	49	302	779	72	34	**4731**
Ancestry	200	205	9	306	521	150	243	334	238	347	180	220	**2953**
AskART	12	17	9	13	31	11	104	41	23	68	74	38	**441**
Brainfuse JobNow/VetNow	107	62	25	3	4	3	**	**	**	**	**	**	**204**
Britannica School Edition	9	0	82	248	75	15	5	0	83	112	8	68	**705**
Ckbk	§	§	§	§	§	§	1111	888	504	244	¥	¥	**2747**
Exploring Race in Society	24	14	4	40	4	18	7	21	14	3	41	4	**194**
Gale Archives Unbound	7	4	16	17	32	29	2	3	15	4	0	2	**131**
Gale Directory Library	45	25	◊	◊	◊	◊	◊	◊	◊	◊	◊	◊	**70**
Gale in Context: Biography	1	8	14	81	13	2	23	51	47	22	6	3	**271**
Gale in Context: Elementary	2	0	6	6	7	2	3	2	1	14	3	3	**49**
Gale in Context: Environmental	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	**12**
Gale in Context: Opposing View	17	10	10	216	21	58	61	9	41	21	1	1	**466**
Gale Interactive: Science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Gale Literature Resource Center	16	17	6	116	9	3	9	22	106	64	17	38	**423**
Gale eBooks	52	15	15	60	172	10	12	31	68	82	22	17	**556**
HeritageQuest	405	325	180	90	587	173	1	109	252	81	193	74	**2470**
Legal Information Ref Center	64	57	22	130	59	70	129	86	42	89	76	43	**867**
National Geographic	12	26	20	46	24	16	33	36	10	26	58	18	**325**
National Geographic Kids	6	34	10	26	12	43	7	20	120	13	35	68	**394**
NewsBank †	1239	1166	1318	1367	978	985	1644	1261	1176	1190	1186	1175	**14685**
NoveList Plus	48	41	65	81	78	79	46	27	88	55	22	38	**668**
NoveList K-8 Plus	12	146	33	55	53	90	27	14	26	49	15	14	**534**
ProQuest	4466	*	*	31725	2443	2182	2685	1973	2632	2095	2872	1869	**54942**
Proquest eLibrary	0	33	23	4	1	1	4	0	1	1	0	1	**69**
Reference Solutions Business	322	609	392	412	105	319	493	169	435	266	246	163	**3931**
Reference Solutions Residential	12	29	14	19	25	17	8	30	12	53	22	10	**251**
SIRS Discoverer	4	12	53	13	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	**87**
SIRS Issues Researcher	267	659	1881	379	1	0	1	0	1	0	18	1	**3208**
StatsUSA (formerly State Statistics)	5	6	5	47	20	2	6	7	2	0	8	21	**129**
World Book Online	9	39	53	33	13	84	53	43	73	10	26	1	**437**
Tracked by #page views													
Artist Works	3	2	6	3	3	1	5	1	3	3	5	2	**37**
Consumer Reports	2475	2156	1853	1934	1981	1558	1117	1401	1537	1545	1583	2182	**21322**
CultureGrams	68	36	4	49	115	23	130	26	85	15	124	7	**682**
Morningstar	3697	7618	4826	3483	3080	3973	4356	4371	3993	3602	2929	682	**46610**
RealQuest	8	14	121	36	3	10	14	59	Ω	4	1	0	**270**
Tumblebooks	35	33	11	33	25	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	**137**
Value Line	9891	8507	10381	11564	9057	8620	10684	9517	10608	8711	7905	7218	**112663**
Wall Street Journal	3393	3469	1439	4086	3856	4452	4545	3350	5341	4866	5583	5255	**49635**
Tracked by courses													
LinkedIn Learning	254	262	209	484	431	210	138	183	251	206	246	194	**3068**
Tracked by books logged													
Beanstack	7403	2832	1877	2334	1662	1097	2045	2215	1813	4630	5190	9547	**42645**
Tracked by Hours Used													
ABC Mouse †	127.02	130.58	81.07	97.93	125.65	109.97	107.66	73.00	81.55	75.78	84.00	77.31	**1171.52**
Beanstack	7738	1554	385	266	360	270	240	228	140	238	433	8110	**19962**
Rosetta Stone	28.82	33.70	57.47	85.32	57.01	50.27	70.66	56.08	64.76	58.87	49.07	27.83	**639.86**

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 and Newsbank added.

¥ Data unavailable at the time of posting

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	100961	37061	43034	37349	448191
New Users	14608	15467	14189	23841	15006	13147	19502	18281	15702	21329	27926	35123	19510	234121
Sessions	47805	50528	45583	55929	43442	41915	51715	47232	48103	118400	60605	68696	56663	679953
Pageviews	122016	123728	105782	122541	103499	101665	122042	107786	115463	121591	128551	146827	118458	1421491
Sessions Per User	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	--
Pages Per Session	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	--
Avg. Session Dur. (min)	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	4	4	2	3	3	5	--
Bounce Rate (%)	64	62	63	66	64	64	66	67	65	85	71	73	67	--

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	414	407	349	394	4733
Mariners	2240	2200	2460	2340	1910	1570	1860	1610	2770	2150	2300	2310	2143	25720
Central *	14120	16200	6960	11000	12450	12190	15070	13910	15500	14730	19430	20660	14352	172220
Total	16951	19189	10197	13903	14773	14211	17462	16089	18764	17294	22137	23319	17024	204290

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	423	426	443	452	5422
Mariners	1454	1432	2038	1749	1376	1292	1211	1341	1728	1630	1661	1588	1542	18500
Central *	11130	10480	6307	8671	9493	9918	9773	9623	10984	12266	16092	14921	10805	129658
Total	13524	12717	9318	11237	11405	11865	11569	11521	13266	14319	18179	16952	12989	155872

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	26	26	28	338
Mariners	111	109	150	135	108	100	94	102	128	122	121	111	116	1391
Central *	746	672	361	518	566	612	584	644	672	746	871	886	657	7878
Total	919	836	573	704	711	752	719	788	836	897	1018	1023	815	9776

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	1003	977	808	903	10836
Mariners	1580	1570	1230	1370	1420	1250	1570	1230	1640	1350	1420	1490	1427	17120
Central *	1300	1580	1130	1300	1340	1260	1580	1480	1440	1230	1240	1420	1358	16300
Total	4135	5161	4030	3992	4267	3911	5023	4750	4390	3583	3637	3718	4216	50596

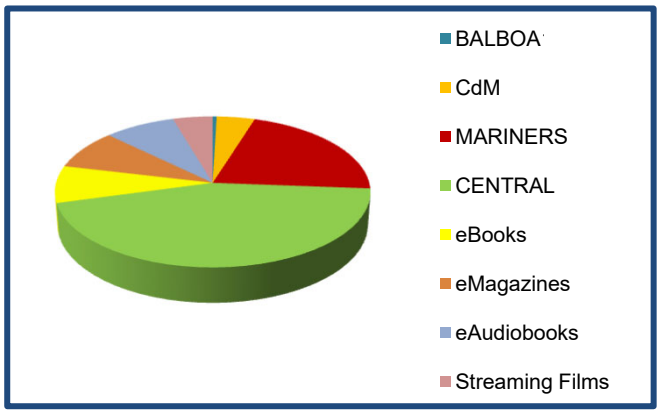
* Central Library Closure: 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

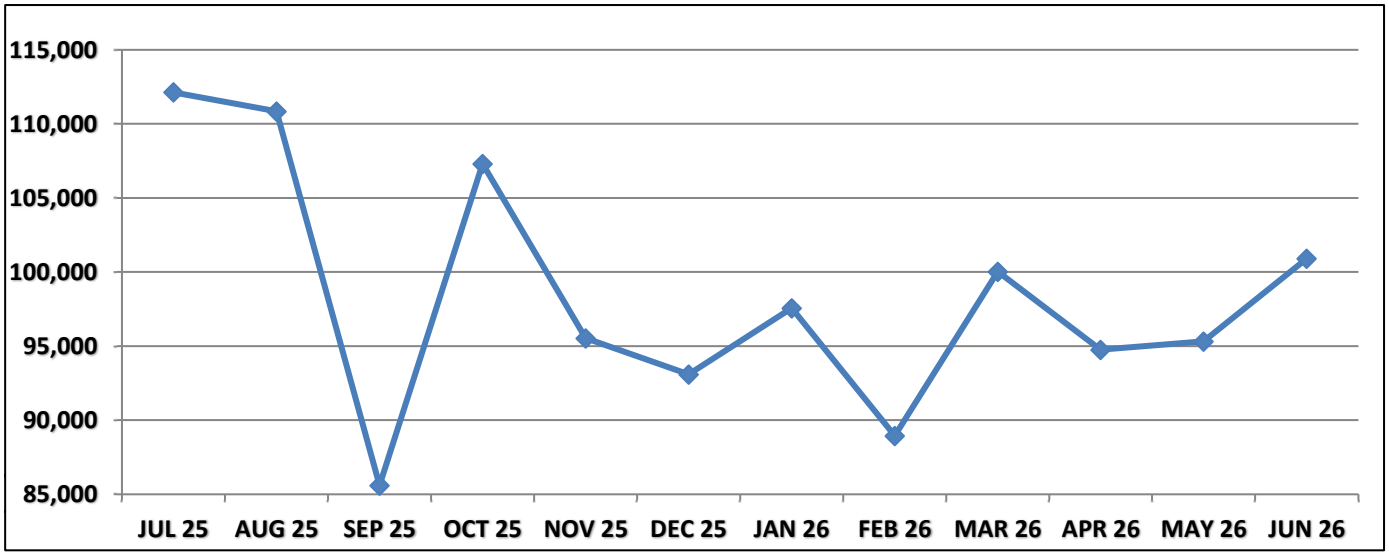
^ Balboa Branch Library Closure: 03/01/2026-06/30/2026

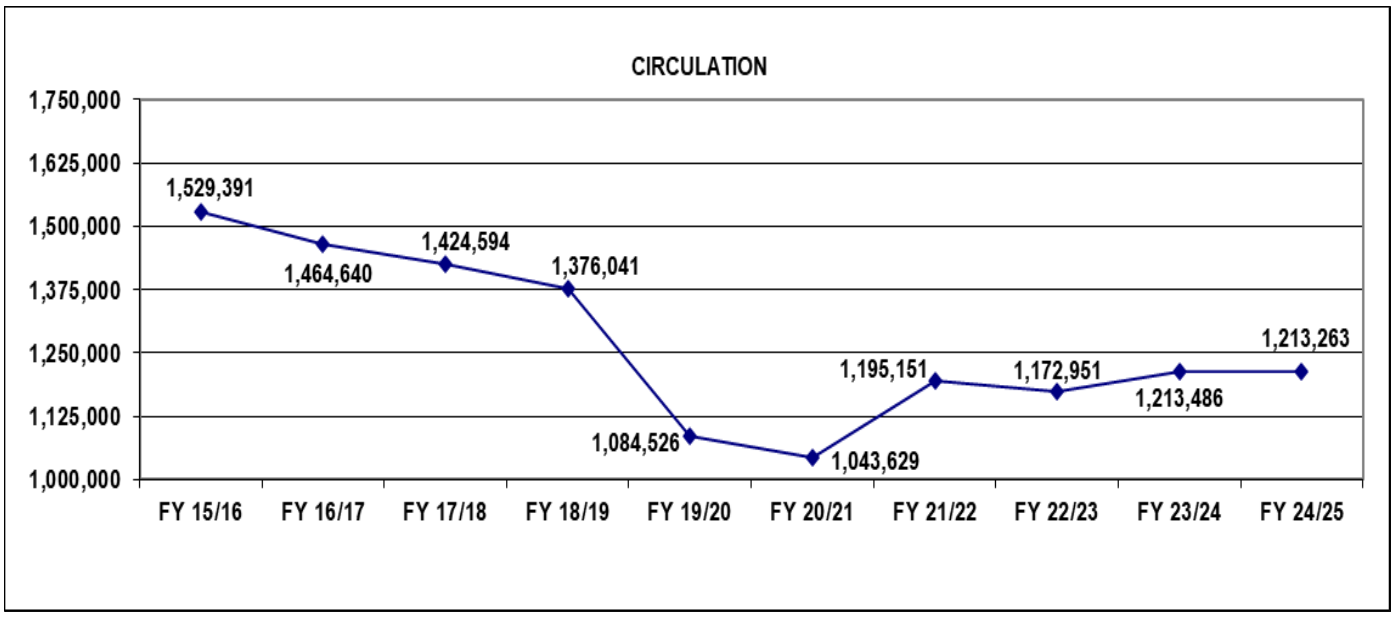
' Library website intermittent maintenance period

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - JUNE 2026
CIRCULATION

	JUN 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA[1]	469	**19,384**	**31,080**
CdM	4,434	**48,972**	**44,154**
MARINERS	21,520	**258,156**	**247,372**
CENTRAL[2]	44,972	**511,612**	**581,226**
eBooks	8,012	**97,024**	**98,690**
eMagazines	8,588	**94,014**	**74,295**
eAudiobooks	8,297	**97,733**	**92,260**
Streaming Films	4,617	**55,133**	**44,231**
TOTAL	**100,909**	**1,182,028**	**1,213,308**



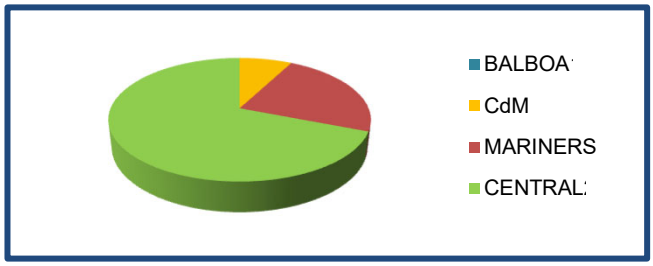


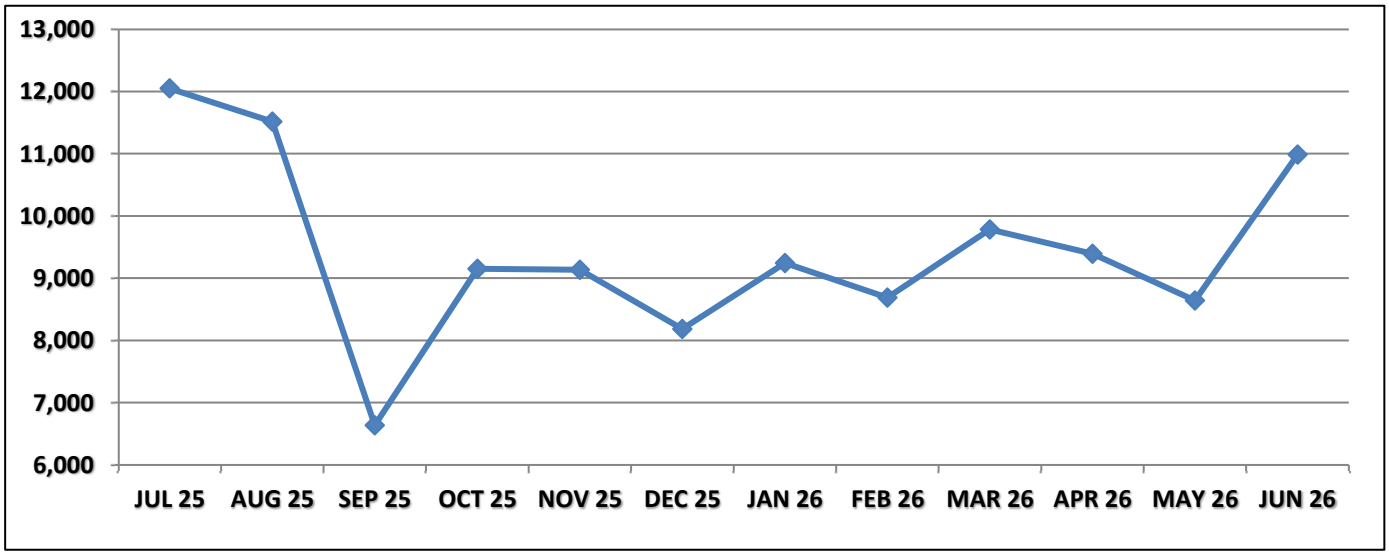


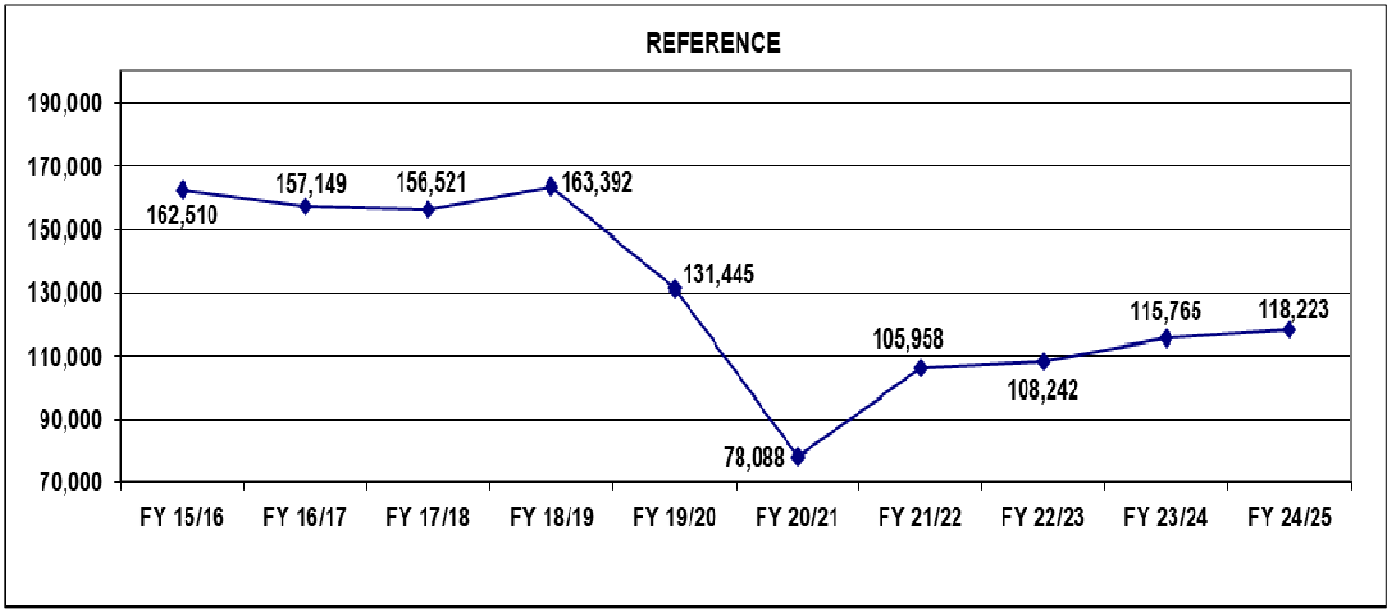
[1] Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026 | [2] Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - JUNE 2026
REFERENCE

	JUN 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA[1]	0	3,180	4,784
CdM	850	8,912	8,840
MARINERS	2,548	23,579	24,423
CENTRAL[2]	7,591	77,738	80,176
TOTAL	10,989	113,409	118,223



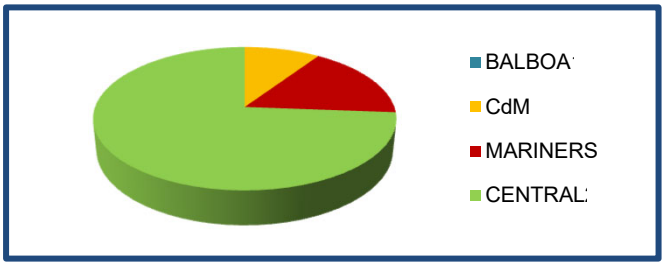


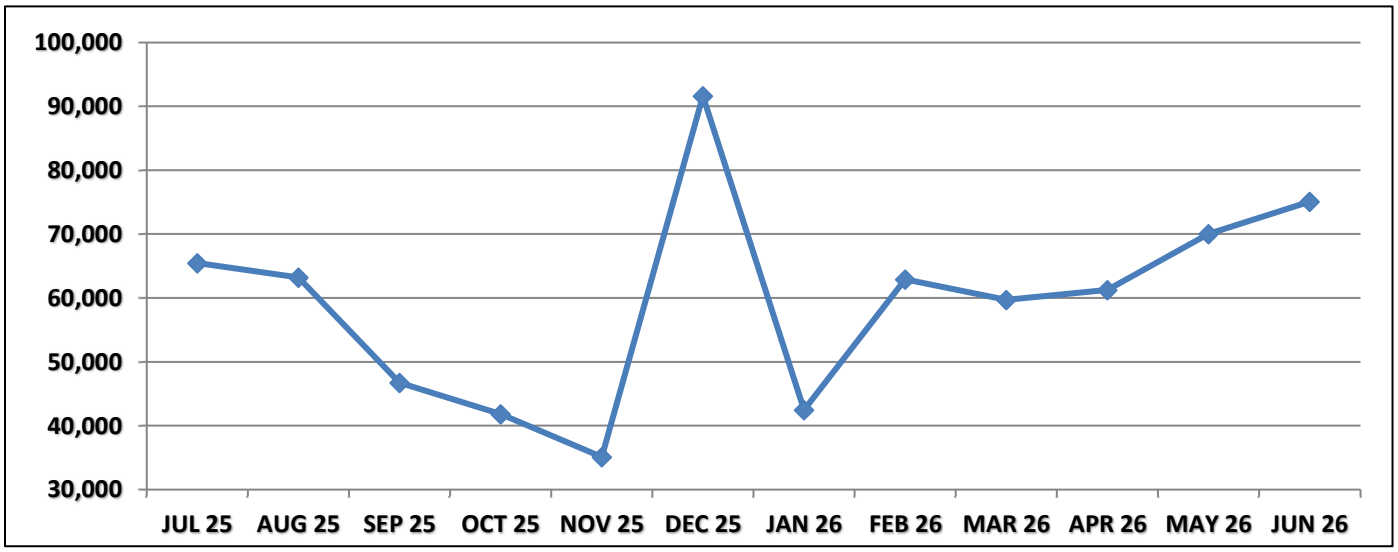


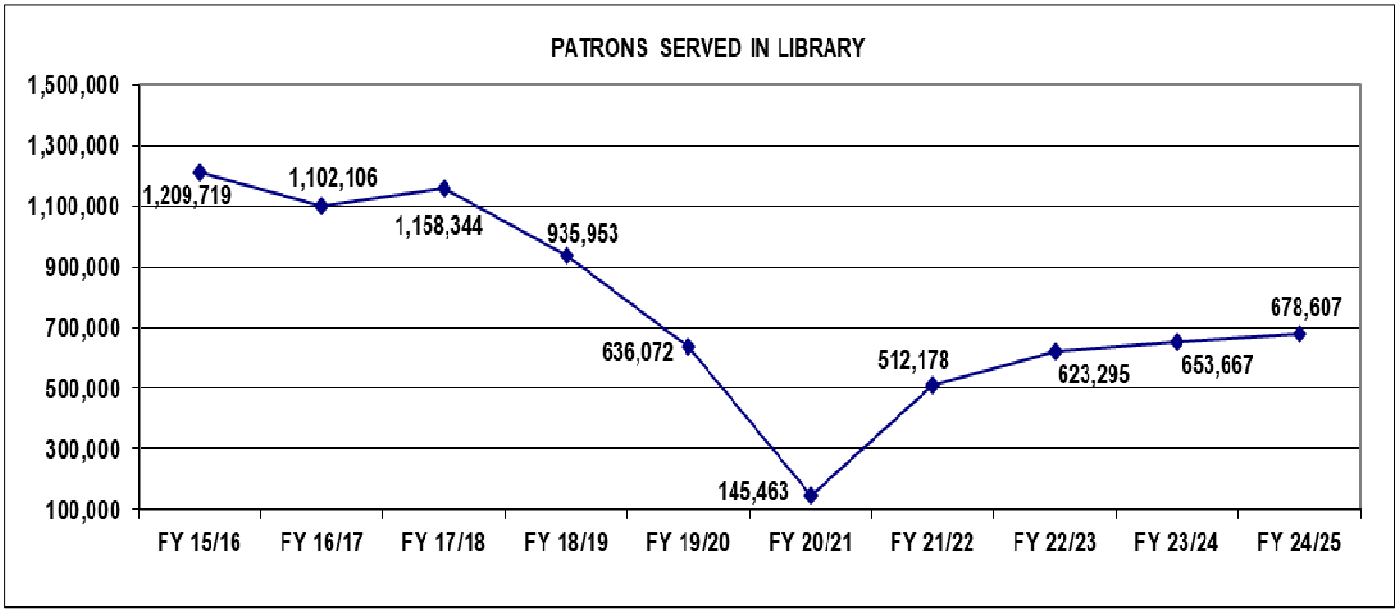
[1] Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026 | [2] Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - JUNE 2026
PATRONS SERVED

	JUN 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA[1]	0	15,509	25,975
CdM	7,088	82,511	45,105
MARINERS	12,574	154,515	148,352
CENTRAL[2]	55,428	462,820	459,175
TOTAL	75,090	715,355	678,607







[1] Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026

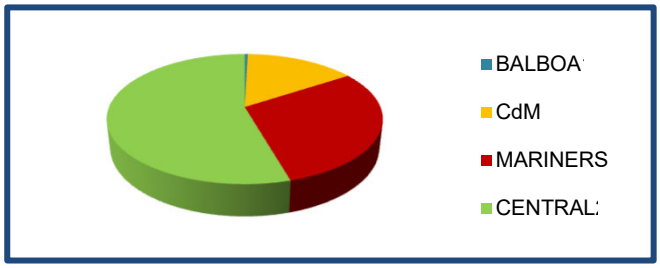
[2] Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

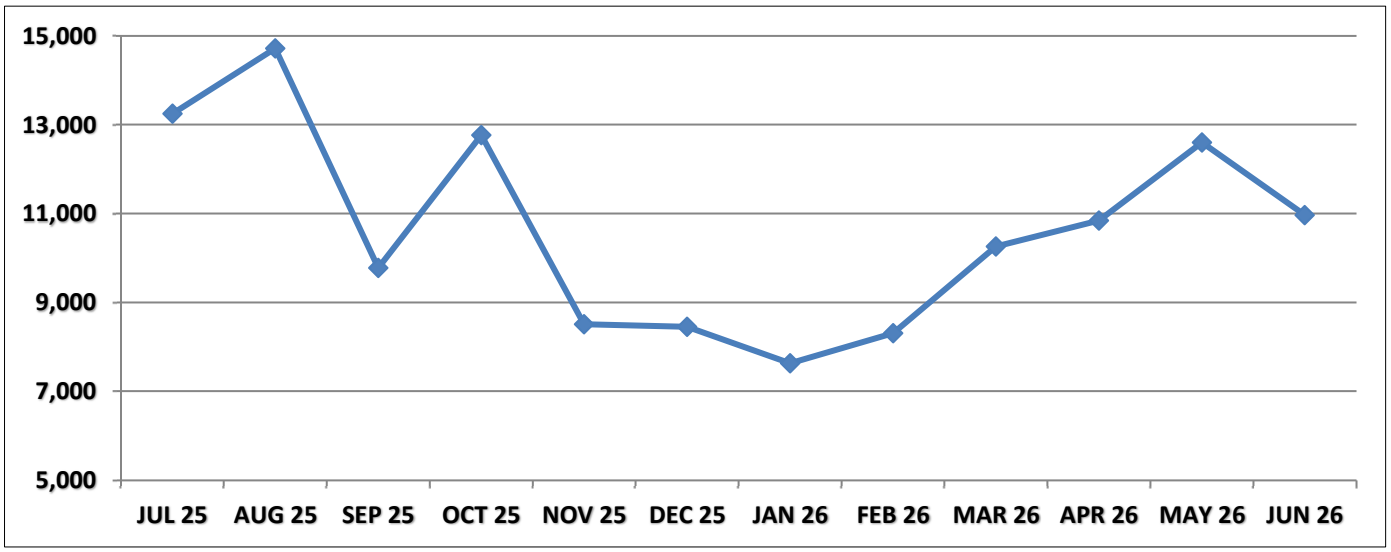
2nd floor entry gate malfunction 09/26/2025-12/9/2025; monthly total for December 2025 includes backlog

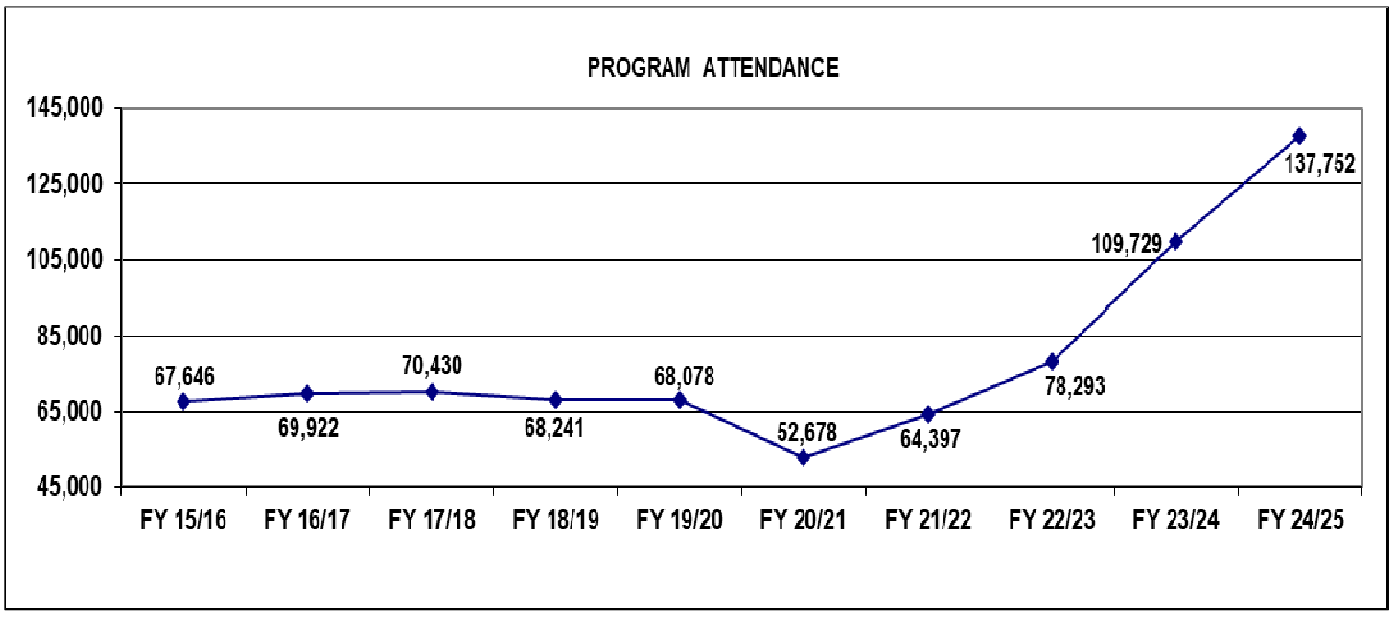
2nd floor entry gate malfunction 01/15/2026-01/31/2026; monthly total for February 2026 includes backlog

NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - JUNE 2026
PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

	JUN 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA[1]	46	**2,698**	**5,697**
CdM	1,686	**19,077**	**17,470**
MARINERS	3,260	**30,048**	**26,063**
CENTRAL[2]	5,973	**76,229**	**88,522**
TOTAL	**10,965**	**128,052**	**137,752**







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