

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FROM: Library Services Department
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TITLE: NBPL eBranch, Database, and Downloadable Services Review

ABSTRACT:

The eBranch component of the Newport Beach Public Library consists of databases and downloadable eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, and streaming video. Virtual Programming became a component during 2020 as the Library worked to provide online content to the public and has continued to play a role in the services offered to the community. 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:

Online resources continued to remain popular during 2021. Databases remain an essential and well-used resource 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 A-Z, ProQuest, Consumer Reports, Morningstar, and Value Line.

The Library added Comics Plus in March of 2021. Comics Plus has over 20,000 comics, graphic novels, and manga titles for all ages and features unlimited checkouts and simultaneous use, meaning no waits. Another addition this past June was ArtistWorks. ArtistWorks provides world-class instruction for the most popular string and band instruments through self-paced video lessons from professional musicians. Students can also upload videos of themselves performing so the teachers can critique their efforts.

Staff is always on the lookout for ways to improve database selections, evaluating new databases 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	OverDrive and Kanopy

Downloadable eBooks and audiobooks: The Library has seen exponential growth with OverDrive. In 2021, combined checkouts totaled over 165,000. The year 2020's numbers were slightly higher (over 170,000) due to the pandemic. 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.

Streaming Video: The Library introduced Kanopy, a streaming video service, in December 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.

Downloadable Magazines: RB Digital, a downloadable magazine service, was bought by OverDrive and the content merged with OverDrive in early 2021. Magazine content is now 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).