

# South Coastal Library FOSCL 2023 Annual Report

September 26, 2023

*What a difference 5 years makes...*

*From this.....*

*to this.....*

*and back again.*



There have been many changes in the last five years. We went from “normal operations” in 2019 to completely closed in 2020 and have since then continuously adapted to changing situations to be able to serve the community again. On that note, see how usage and statistics have changed over this period:

## **Fiscal year annual stats (FY=July 1 to June 30) for past 5 years:**

- FY19—pre-COVID
- FY20—shut down from 3/19/20—6/14/20 (last quarter of year)
- FY21—lobbyside service only from July 2020 to March 2021, then alternating days of lobbyside service/browsing with building access. Reopened all 6 days on 5/24/21, slightly shorter public schedule at 42 hours/week.
- FY22—Open 6 days a week, expanded public hours 9/13/21
- FY23—Kept expanded public schedule of FY22: M, T: 10am-6pm, W, Th: 10am-7pm, F: 10am-5pm, S: 10am-3pm—46 hours/week

<b>FY</b>	<b>Patron Visits</b>	<b>Total Circ</b>	<b>Ebook Circ</b>	<b>Wifi sessions</b>	<b>Programs</b>	<b>Program Att.</b>
<b>2019</b>	153,890	179,464	31,948	N/A	596	14,911
<b>2020</b>	113,843	124,699	41,410	4,737	461	12,316
<b>2021</b>	33,789	88,941	51,299	3,315	239	6,541
<b>2022</b>	93,626	138,725	50,972	6,433	401	9,095
<b>2023</b>	113,446	144,174	53,757	7,941	546	16,985

Points of interest:

- ❖ Most of these daily operating statistics have risen as we climb out of pandemic mode. People are putting the library back into their daily routines and feel more comfortable being in public.

- ❖ Ebook usage declined slightly in 2022 as people flocked back to the library to browse “real” books on the shelves. Purchasing switched to buying multiple copies of new and best-selling titles to meet increased patron demand. However, ebook usage and requests for tech assistance have steadily increased this past year. More people are familiar with this format as the pandemic/lockdown forced usage over to ebooks. Some people now use a combination of both, where they used to only use physical materials.
- ❖ Note that even though the number of events and classes dropped from 2019 to 2023 by 50 events, the number of people attending rose by more than 2,000. People are more than ready to participate in society again—basically, they want “out!”
- ❖ A huge thank-you to our library staff for constantly adapting to changing methods of service, adding new services, and learning and using new technologies to bring the virtual library world to our community. The word “pivot” may be overused, but they pivoted all the time for the past 4 years to keep the library accessible and responsive to the community. And they continue to do so, as the steady increase in statistics prove.
- ❖ FOSCL has been able to help fund the increase in demand for two vital library services—additional copies of new books and the ability to again participate, IN the library, in lectures, musical concerts, arts & crafts classes and much more. The extra funding helps the library to stay responsive to (still) changing community needs and requests.

Susanne Keefe, Director  
South Coastal Library  
9/21/23