

Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world.
 ~Lauren Ward

FY24 continued to bring steady improvement to the decline during the pandemic. This year has shown increases in library visits, library usage, and event attendance. The library’s open hours have remained steady, and we are also fully staffed once again. This gives library staffers the opportunity to try new ideas and services and the community is definitely benefitting from their experiments!

FY	Patron Visits	Total Circ	Ebook Circ	Wifi sessions	Programs	Program Att.
2019	153,890	179,464	31,948	N/A	596	14,911
2020	113,843	124,699	41,410	4,737	461	12,316
2021	33,789	88,941	51,299	3,315	239	6,541
2022	93,626	138,725	50,972	6,433	401	9,095
2023	113,446	144,174	53,757	7,941	546	16,985
2024	120,499	161,952	60,818	6,093	570	22,838

Visit the library’s calendar of events at <https://southcoastal.lib.de.us/> to register for a class, lecture, concert, and more. Very popular additions in the traditional “book club” realm are *Cooking By the Book* and *Did They Do It? True Crime Club*. While the library smells wonderful with all the dishes brought for the Cooking By the Book Club, I am becoming concerned about the number of people deeply interested in murder, but so far all is well.

FOSCL continued its provision of online access to Creativebug and Ancestry.com. Creativebug averages 100 current users during each statistical check. Ancestry.com saw a decline in use, but as their statistics are sometimes lost, we can best judge by seeing people use it inside the library. And people do travel here to use it.

This year, FOSCL added Newspapers.com for use by our patrons. It has been enthusiastically received, by history lovers and genealogy seekers alike. From February to June 2024, 3,046 people had searched the site, finding information on everything from lost family members to original news articles on the Titanic. Users are delighted.

FOSCL is vital to providing services and materials in the library for the community, including extra copies of bestsellers, virtually ALL of the programming costs, donating our library’s portion of e-book funding, stocking BookPage reviews for the patrons, children’s

literacy computers and more. There is not an area in the facility that isn't improved by the "perks" provided by FOSCL for the community's use.

The library is only as good as the people that make it work. We are fortunate to have imaginative and dedicated staffers who try to provide the best service possible to our community. From helping people find their next "read" to creating new events to ensuring children get a good "literary" start in life, these staffers keep the library living and breathing.

And the library did a lot of that this summer—again. The Summer Reading programs kept all ages invested in literacy and libraries. The registration numbers were a bit lower, but the completion rates were higher, showing a more serious interest in reaching their goals. Any book read is a "win" for a library!

Adult Summer Reading	Enrollment	Completions	% Completions
2020 (impacted by COVID)	64	35	55%
2021 SRP	293	200	68%
2022 SRP	216	147	68%
2023 SRP	218	145	66%
2024 SRP	151	101	67%

Teen Summer Reading			
2020 (impacted by COVID)	20	15	75%
2021 SRP	85	67	79%
2022 SRP	75	63	84%
2023 SRP	77	63	82%
2024 SRP	70	62	89%

Kids Summer Reading			
2020 (impacted by COVID)	57	30	53%
2021 SRP	196	107	55%
2022 SRP	207	133	64%
2023 SRP	219	143	65%
2024 SRP	226	175	77%

FOSCL is a large part of the equation, in funding, time and publicity. Congratulations to its members and we look forward to another great year of library-ness!