

## **Auburn Public Library Advisory Board**

Minutes from October 17, 2023

The Auburn Public Library Advisory Board met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, in the Conference Room of the Auburn Public Library. The following individuals were present:

### **Board Members**

Marcia Boosinger, Chair  
Bonnie MacEwan, Vice Chair  
Bernard Anderson  
Karen Herring  
Dan Surry

### **COA Staff**

Tyler W. Whitten, Library Director  
Ashley Brown, Public Services Librarian Manager  
Leslie Johnston, Collection Development Librarian  
Cynthia Ledbetter, Engagement and Outreach Librarian  
Brandon Rowland, Digital Services Librarian  
Daisy Griffin, Library Assistant  
Amanda Queen Campos, Library Assistant  
Keith Williams, Public Services Executive Director

### **Guests**

Paul Clark  
Harriette Huggins  
Debra Beil  
Carrie Hill  
Jim Newton

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Boosinger at 10:04 a.m.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 19, 2023, meeting were distributed to Board members in advance of today's meeting. MacEwan moved to approve the minutes as written and Herring seconded. None opposed.

## **CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS**

Boosinger reviewed the procedures for Citizens' Communications from the Library Board Bylaws and reminded the attendees that visual aids must be submitted prior to the meeting. Whitten reported no materials were received prior to the meeting. Boosinger also reminded attendees that this is the sole opportunity during the meeting for attendees to speak.

The following individuals spoke:

- Debra Beil thanked Library staff for participating in the recent NAACP round table discussion on literacy at Greater Peace Baptist Church and mentioned that Opelika Public Library, Horseshoe Bend Regional Library, and the Lee County Literacy Coalition also participated.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Boosinger proposed that the Board consider not meeting in December 2023. MacEwan moved to cancel the December meeting and move policy review slated for December to the November meeting. Anderson seconded. None opposed.
- Boosinger proposed moving the January 2024 meeting to a date certain of January 23, 2024, as this is the Board's annual meeting for the election of officers for 2024, and all members would not be able to attend on January 16, 2024. Herring moved to set the date of the January meeting as January 23, 2024. Surry seconded. None opposed.
- Boosinger reminded members to submit any interest in serving as an officer to MacEwan at least two weeks prior to the January meeting and that nominations can also be made during the annual meeting.

## **SERVICES PRESENTATION**

- Library staff presented highlights from the FY2024 budget.
  - Rowland and Johnston noted continued investment in and increases received for collections.
    - Staff noted that local community usage statistics and patron requests drive plans for increased investments in specific areas.
  - Brown noted additional funds received for postage to allow expansion of the Borrow-by-mail and Interlibrary Loan programs.
  - Ledbetter noted that the Mobile Library Van, currently being customized by Fleet Services, is a priority for Engagement and Outreach in FY2024.
  - Presentation slides are attached to the minutes.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Boosinger mentioned a letter received from former Library Board member Betty Burgess, who praised the increased and excellent programming offered by the Library.
- Boosinger mentioned a letter received from local resident Jan Newton, who praised the Library for its diverse holdings and services.

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

- Herring mentioned suggesting to a local author who spoke at a recent church meeting that they reach out to the Library about the possibility of a speaking event.
- MacEwan mentioned speaking to fellow residents about current services offered at the Boykin Community Center and the upcoming Boykin campus branch library.
  - MacEwan suggested that the Boykin library subcommittee develop some advocacy points that Board members could share with residents when discussing the upcoming branch library.

- Boosinger mentioned a discussion she had with a resident about Banned Books Week and that a host of organizations were involved in raising awareness about the topic.

## **BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

- Rowland provided an overview of library statistics and outputs for recent years and offered some comparisons with other libraries in Alabama.
- Presentation slides are attached to the minutes.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### September 2023 Statistics

- Whitten reviewed year-to-year, and month-to-month (Aug - Sep 2023) library statistics.
- Boosinger noted that attendance at off-site programs saw a dramatic increase. Ledbetter stated that this was due to resuming outreach to Auburn City Schools, such as Third Grade Reading Dragons.
  - Herring asked about the origin of TGRD, and Brown and Ledbetter stated it was developed based on a library program in Michigan at the time.
- Rowland stated that City staff continue to work our vendor to restore door counts for statistical purposes, with progress having been made.

### Mission Alignment Plan Updates

- Whitten provided updates on projects slated for July – September 2023, with some projects being completed and others continuing into the first quarter of FY2024.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Boosinger noted that the policy review for October 2023 included both the Borrower Privileges and Borrower Responsibilities policies. While no changes were recommended at this time, Boosinger stated that the Borrower Privileges policy already requires applicants under the age of eighteen (18) to have a parent or legal guardian present to get a library card.
  - Herring stated that this is the case in practice, as she had to be present to create accounts for her minor children in years past.
  - Boosinger also noted that this requirement ensures that parents control access for their own minor children and gives parents the opportunity to discuss any special access concerns with library staff before a card is issued.
- Ledbetter mentioned upcoming October programs, including the Haunted House, Southern Ghost Girls, and the Ghoulish Gala.
- MacEwan mentioned that the APL Foundation will have a presence at the Downtown Trick or Treat.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other items of business, Boosinger adjourned the meeting at 11:05 am

Respectfully submitted.

Bonnie MacEwan

FY 24 Budget Update



AUBURN  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

# Library Overall Budget

Note: Despite being the 7<sup>th</sup> largest city by population in that state, we were 10<sup>th</sup> in total operating expenditures, 69<sup>th</sup> in operating expenditures per capita, and 61<sup>st</sup> in personnel expenditures per capita.



2022

Actual

\$2,640,819



2023

Estimated Actuals

\$2,916,459



2024

Budgeted

\$3,152,128

# FY 23 End of Year Purchases



Monitors



Furniture



eBook Patron Requests



Van Modifications



Program Room Flooring

# Digital Services



eBooks	Covers CloudLibrary (CL) Platform Fee, PPU spending, Content Costs
State Aid Materials	Allocated 100% to license purchasing in CL Adjusts based on population size and state per capita rate
Digital Resource Subscriptions	Covers all digital resources not packaged with a print companion i.e. Flipster, Kanopy, Mango, Novelist, Newsbank, NYT, etc.



# Digital Services



## eBooks

FY 23 \$104,405 > FY 24 \$141,450

- Increasing funds available for PPU eBook & Audiobook
- Increase in weekly spending on licensed content



## State Aid

FY23 \$45,846 > FY24 \$52,030.83

- Increase weekly spending on licensed content



## Digital Resource Subscriptions

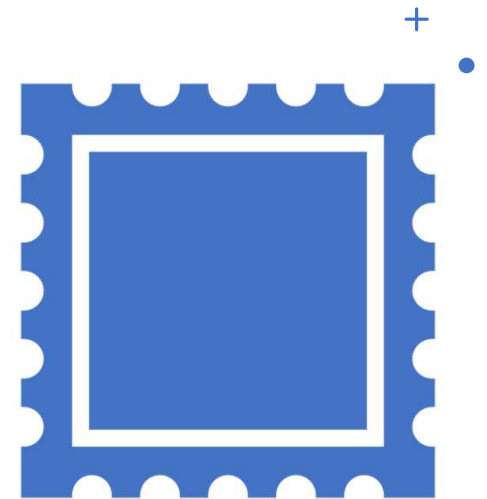
FY23 \$51,050 > FY24 \$55,550

\$9,500 unallocated that will be used to pursue additional resources with possibilities including expanded language learning and business resources

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# Public Services

- Postage
  - FY 22 \$2,500/\$3,155 > FY23 \$8,500/\$6,000 > FY24 \$8,500
    - Books-by-mail
    - Interlibrary Loan





# Engagement & Outreach

## Advertising

- \$25,000

## Library Program Supplies

- \$16,000

## Misc. Cont. Svs Library Programs

- \$14,500

## Priorities:

- October Events
- Summer Learning Challenge
- Third Grade Reading Dragon Events
- Van

# Materials Management

## Adult Print

- \$80,700 > \$85,700
  - Non-Fiction, expand collection focused on Middle East

## Youth Print

- \$81,950 > \$96,900
  - Development of R+, Readers, and Picture Books

## Teen Print

- \$9,500 > \$10,000
  - Popular trends, booktok, and Manga

# Materials Management

## Large Print

- \$12,350 > \$12,800
- Historical Fiction & Bestsellers

## World Languages

- \$4,850 > \$5,300
- Chinese Non-Fiction & Patron Requests

## Audiobooks

- \$7,000
- Vox Books & Patron Requests

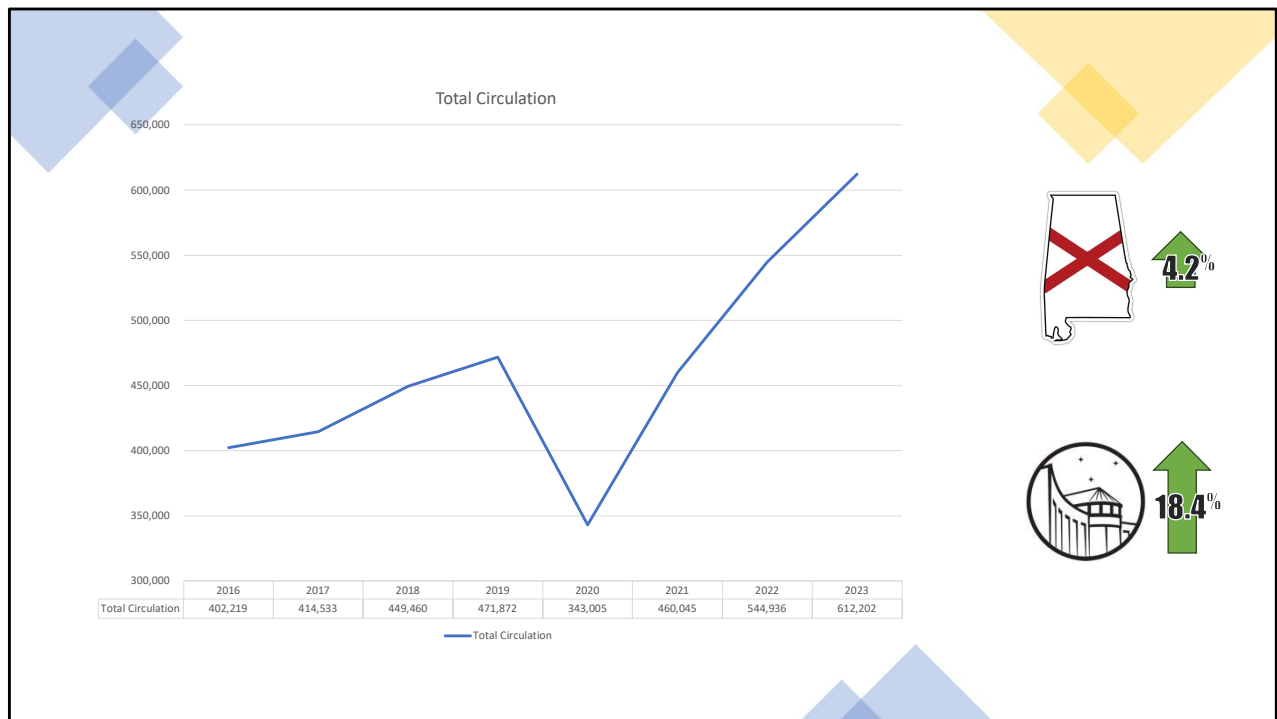
## Video

- \$7,950 > \$8,950
- Award winning films & Patron Requests

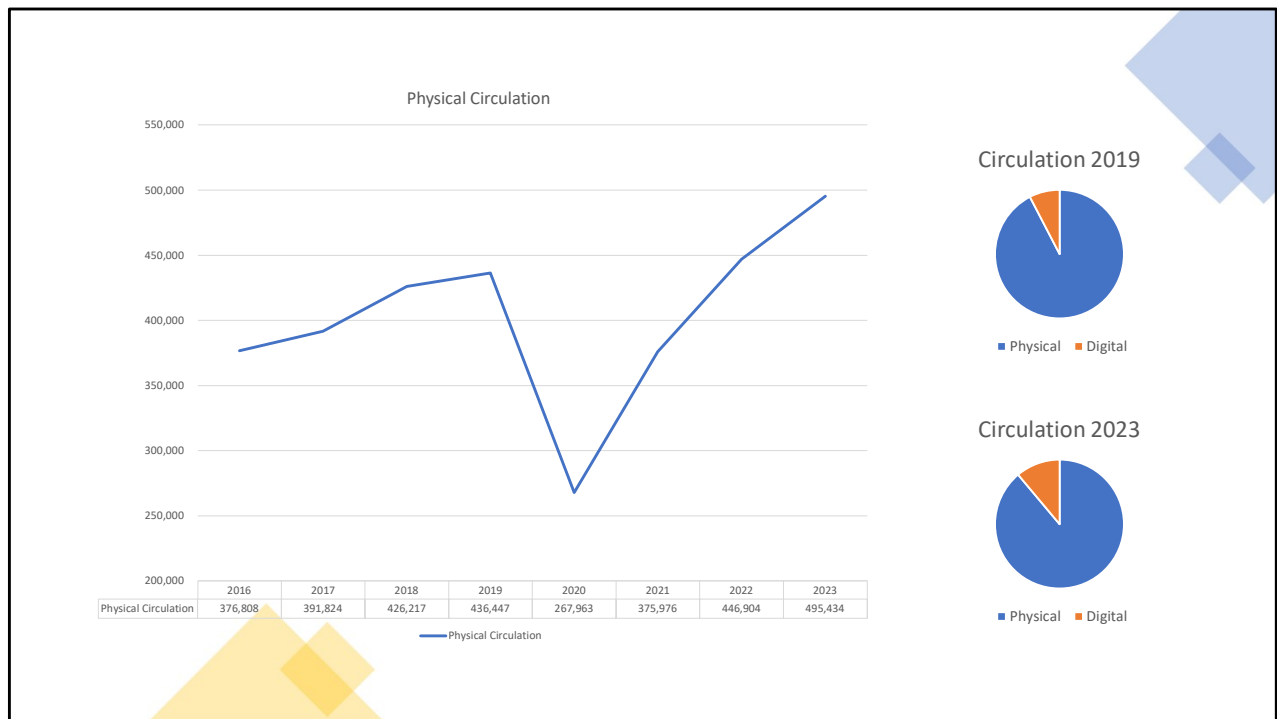


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Statistical Overview

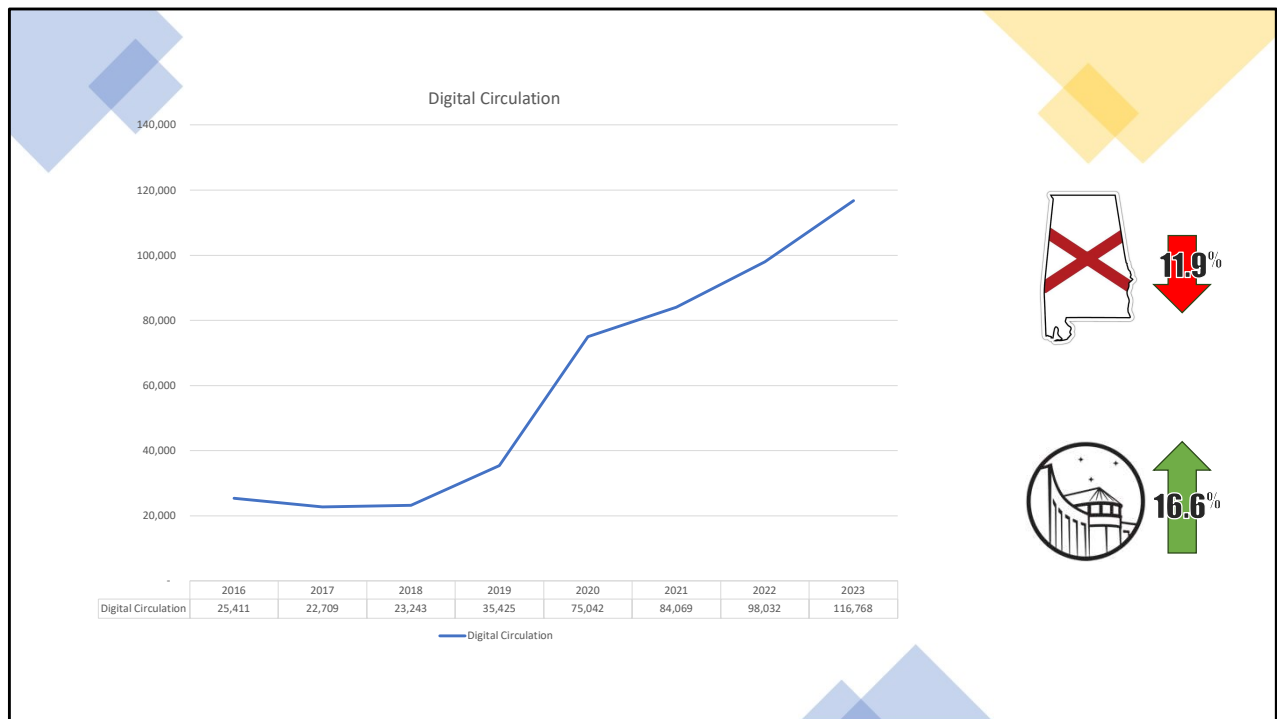


- Increase from last year – 12.3%
- Increase from 2020 – 78.4%
- Increase from 2019 – 29.7%
- 2017-2019 increase was 13.8% or 6.9% per year
- 2021-2023 increase was 33% or 16.5% per year or 9.5% faster
- From 2021 to 2022 Circulation across Alabama libraries rose 4.2% while ours rose 18.4%. Auburn in 2022 was the 7<sup>th</sup> largest city in Alabama and our library was 7<sup>th</sup> in overall circulation we were 21k away from passing Montgomery at number 6, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city by population.

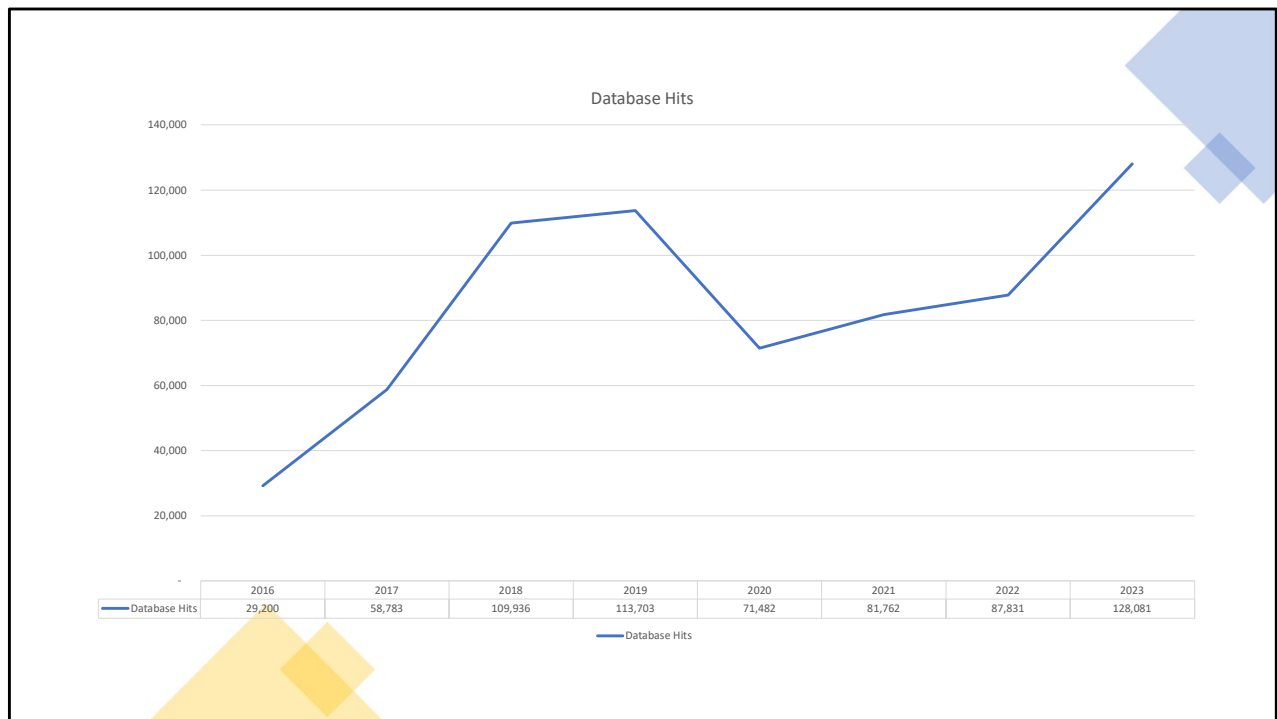


- Increase from last year – 10.8%
- Increase from 2020 – 84.8%
- Increase from 2019 – 13.5%
- 2023 Percent of overall circulation – 80.9%
- 2019 Percent of overall circulation – 92.4%
- From 82% in (2022) of overall circulation to (2023) 80.9% is a 1.1% decrease in percentage of circulation
- Change from 2019 is a 11.5% decrease in percentage of circulation

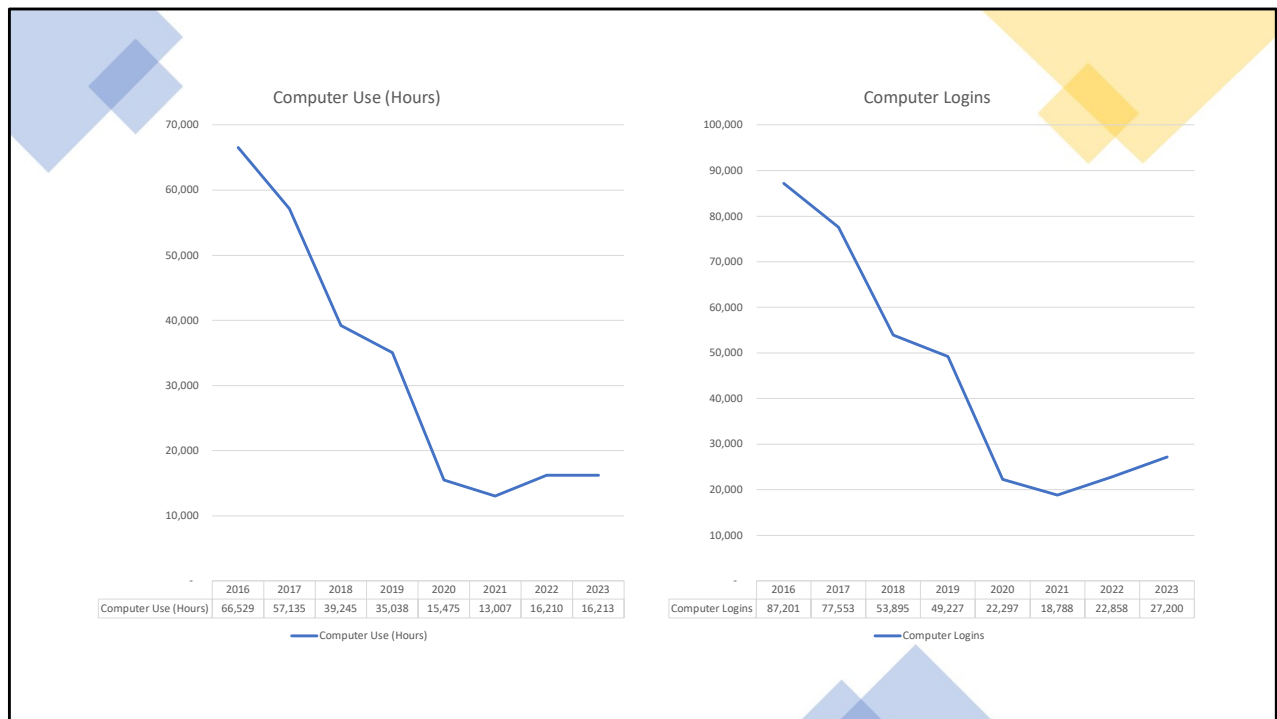




- Increase from last year – 19.1%
- Increase from 2019 – 229.6%
- Increase from 2020 – 55.6%
- 2023 Percent of overall circulation – 19.7%
- 2019 Percent of overall circulation – 5.7%
- Change over last year 17.9% to 19.7% is a 1.8% increase in percentage of circulation
- Change from 2019 is a 14% increase in percentage of circulation
- In 2022 although by the size of our collection we were 142nd in eAudio and 151<sup>st</sup> in eBook holdings out of 225 libraries we were the 19<sup>th</sup> highest circulating library for digital collections. From 2021 to 2022 total digital circulation in the state fell 11.9% while ours grew 16.6%.



- Increase from last year – 45.8%
- Increase from 2020 – 79.1%
- Increase from 2019 – 12.6%
- In 2022 we were 13<sup>th</sup> in the state for database usage.

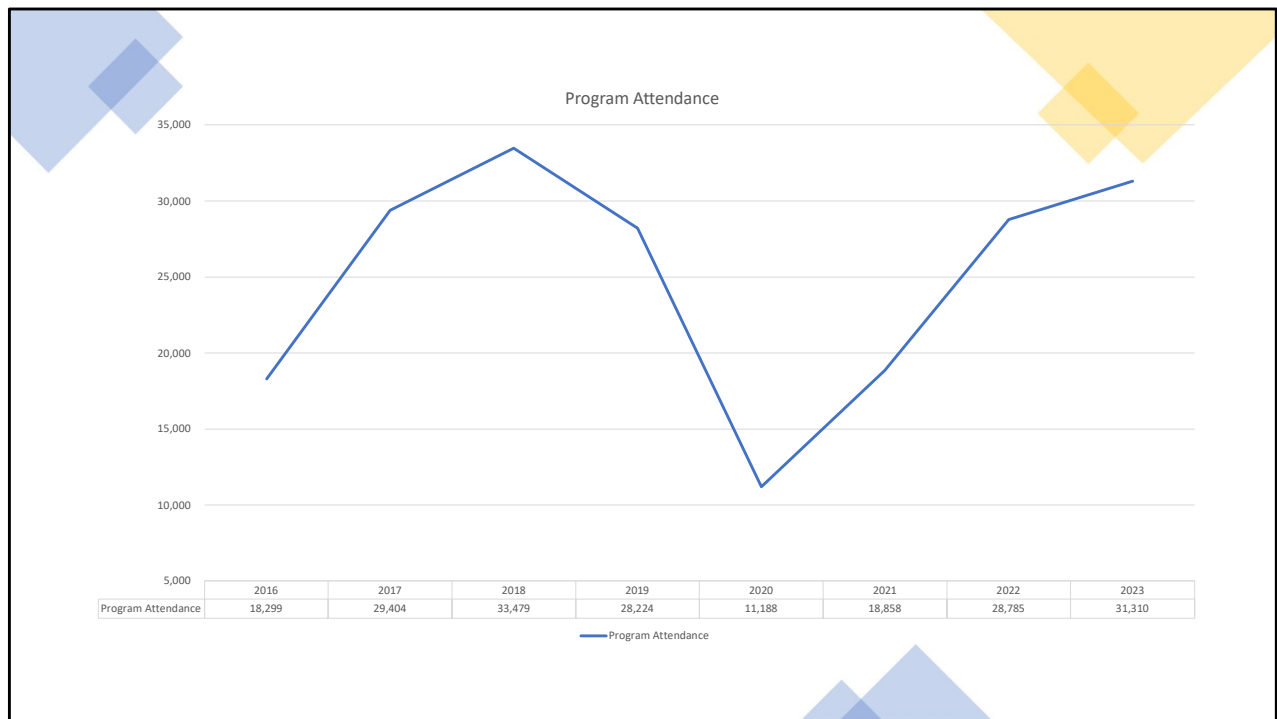


### Hours:

- Increase from last year – .01%
- Increase from 2020 – 4.7%
- Decrease from 2019 – (-53.7%)
- 2017-19 was a 38% decrease
- 2021-2023 was a 21% increase

### Sessions:

- Increase from last year – 18.9%
- Increase from 2020 – 44%
- Decrease from 2019 – (-44.7%)
- 2017-19 was a 36.5% decrease
- 2021-2023 was a 44.7% increase
- We were 12<sup>th</sup> state-wide for computer use in 2022
- From 21 to 22 computer use by logins rose 23.4% across the state compared to 21.6% in Auburn.
- We had the 29<sup>th</sup> highest # of internet workstations.



- Increase from last year – 8.7%
- Increase from 2020 – 179.8%
- Increase from 2019 – 10.9%
- Only 6.7% off from our highest ever program participation
- In 2022 we ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the total number of programs offered
  - 7<sup>th</sup> place for total attendance.
- From 2020-2022 attendance across the state rose 2.27% while in Auburn, our attendance rose 2.51%