

Auburn Public Library Advisory Board
April 15, 2025
10 a.m.
AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Minutes. March 18, 2025 (action item – approval)
3. Citizens' Communications (3 minutes per speaker)
4. Correspondence, Engagement Stories, Etc.
5. New Business
 - a. New Board Member
6. Library Services Presentation
 - a. Summer Learning Challenge & Events
7. Director's Report
 - a. Statistics Update – March 2025
 - b. Division Updates
 - c. Boykin-Donahue Campus Project Updates
8. Announcements
9. Adjournment

Auburn Public Library Advisory Board
Bonnie MacEwan, Chair | Karen Herring, Vice-Chair
Caitlin Allen | Bernard Anderson | Marcia Boosinger

Auburn Public Library Advisory Board
Minutes from March 18, 2025

The Auburn Public Library Advisory Board met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, in the Conference Room of the Auburn Public Library. The following individuals were present:

Board Members Bonnie MacEwan, Chair
 Karen Herring, Vice Chair
 Bernard Anderson
 Marcia Boosinger

COA Staff Cynthia Ledbetter, Library Director
 Luke Brown, Public Services Librarian Manager
 Leslie Johnston, Collection Development Librarian

Guests Carrie Hill
 Harriette Huggins
 Chloe Livaudais
 Connor Lowry
 Sonny Moreman
 Jim Newton

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair MacEwan at 10:00 a.m. It was noted that all board members were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 2025 meeting were distributed to Board members in advance of today's meeting and there was acknowledgment and appreciation of Anderson for filling in for Herring during her absence. Boosinger moved that the minutes be approved; MacEwan seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without corrections.

CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS

Guidelines for citizens wishing to address the board were read by MacEwan, emphasizing the need for civility and respect. Citizens are allowed to speak for three minutes and must state their name and address. Visual aids must be submitted before the meeting. Ledbetter reported no materials were received. The following individual spoke:

- Chloe Livaudais expressed her support for the library, highlighting its importance for her homeschooling needs and her frequent visits. She is interested in finding other ways to serve and support the library.

MacEwan closed citizens' communications.

CORRESPONDENCE, IMPACT STORIES, ETC.

- The board reviewed correspondence and engagement stories. MacEwan mentioned a thank-you from the Darden Center (a preschool in Opelika). Discussion ensued about this response to a field trip organized for students to visit the library, which was well-received.
- The board discussed the Boykin Center's library services, noting that attendance had decreased, leading to the suspension of weekly site visits. Efforts to promote library services through social media and signage were mentioned. Anderson suggested being able to assist with better outreach to churches and specific organizations, such as the NAACP, to increase awareness of library services.

NEW BUSINESS

- New Member Orientation Discussion: The board discussed the upcoming appointment of a new member and the importance of helping them effectively transition into their board seat. Anderson was asked to share candidly about his recent onboarding experience in an effort to gain insight into what was most and least helpful. The discussion resulted in the following callouts:
 - Provide past meeting agendas and minutes
 - Deep specifics are not needed
 - Convey clearly what the board's scope of work is (advisory)
 - Statistics and future plans are helpful
 - Encourage applicants to attend meetings prior to their appointment
 - Suggest a list of items to review (bylaws, policies, APL website, etc.)
 - Chair, Vice Chair, and Director to meet with new member
 - Other board members invite newly appointed board member to coffee to get to know one another casually

LIBRARY SERVICES PRESENTATION

- The new library logo was introduced, which aligns with the city's branding. The logo is colorful and represents various library services beyond just books.
- Plans for new library cards featuring the logo were discussed, along with merchandise like t-shirts and hoodies.

STATISTICS UPDATE

- The board reviewed statistics, noting an increase in website page views and database usage, particularly linked to LinkedIn Learning and Value Line services. It was noted that the NewsBank issues are ongoing.

- There was a discussion about the fluctuations in program participation and the impact of seasonal changes on library usage.
- Concern was raised again about the Boykin statistics and there was some discussion around possible impact from the MLK street construction.

DIVISION UPDATES

- No additional updates as these were covered during conversations throughout the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MacEwan recognized Connor Lowry, APL Foundation President who provided updates on recruitment efforts and upcoming events, including participation in the summer learning kickoff. She also shared the Foundation's excitement about the new Boykin campus and eagerly anticipates being able to support that branch as well.
- The new board member will be appointed tonight at City Council, and the first meeting they will attend will be April 15th.
- Herring shared that she would be out of town and unable to attend the April 15th meeting; Anderson agreed to take and prepare minutes for the board again.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was officially adjourned by MacEwan at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Herring

From Daisy: "Big props to Andrew for some top-notch customer service! He just had two fiery patrons in a row who were upset over things beyond our control, and he handled them with kindness and caring and they left the interaction in a better headspace than they arrived."

From Daisy: "Just had a mom with a five-year-old and a two-year-old tell me the library is her kids' very favorite place to be. They are always happy to come here and don't want to leave. "

From Daisy: "We had a young patron come up to the help desk at youth after seeing Byron's "Tell Us Your Best Joke" display and she shared this joke..."What did the triangle say to the circle?" "I don't see your point." 🤔🤔🤔 (yay fun display idea from Byron!) "

From Daisy: "Just had an older patron come in and tell me that she is fearful of technology and feels like hyperventilating when she needs to get on a computer. She has friends who offer to let her use a computer, but she says no, I go to the library, they'll help me there. "

From Amber: "I was excited to get to use my ASL skills to assist a patron in understanding how our new bookshelves are arranged because she was confused about an older book being placed on a new display. She loves the library and plans to keep checking out books."

From Cara: "People are always thankful for our services - helping with technology, our resources, etc."

From Byron: "I feel that I receive consistent gratitude from patrons."

From Emily: "I had a patron mention to me that we have the best kids' programs."

From Kim: "One of our ESL tutors expressed to me that she loved the Gratitude table game. She uses it every time she comes in and loves the good positive messages and phrases that she has been able to teach. Her students love it as well and they have purchased a copies for themselves."

Auburn Public Library

749 E Thach Ave, Auburn, AL 36830, United States

[Write a review](#)

4.9 ★★★★★ 140 reviews ⓘ

✓ All children 8 resources 3 computers 3 boy 2 +4

Sort by

Most relevant ✓ Newest Highest rating Lowest rating

 Jackie Colls
3 reviews


★★★★★ a week ago **NEW**





G'Morning Cynthia.....FW: EARTH DAY LITTLES!

From Sharon E. Bradley <sbradley@auburnalabama.org>
Date Thu 2025-04-10 8:46 AM
To Cynthia L. Ledbetter <cledbetter@auburnalabama.org>

 1 attachment (3 MB)
IMG_2798.jpg;

I wanted you to know the impact of our newspaper recycling. It benefits fellow COA departments and teachers in Auburn.

Sharon

From: Emillie Dombrowski <edombrowski@auburnalabama.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 2:40 PM
To: Sharon E. Bradley <sbradley@auburnalabama.org>
Subject: EARTH DAY LITTLES!

Good afternoon Ms. Sharon!

I wanted to send you a little fun newspaper update! This is Emillie, Ashley's Emillie, over at the arts center. You save newspapers for us here in the ceramic's studio, however I didn't know if you knew that I do a lot of art's education programming as well. We're currently in the middle of a three-day Earth Day program. All these little second graders are using the newspaper that you save for us!

THANK YOU!

Emillie!



THANK YOU

for all the books you have in your library. That means such a lot to me. I like all the books that I pick.

Curious George is my favorite book of all and Daniel Tiger is my favorite book of all.

We love you so much that we thought of you and made ~~cookies~~ brownies for you! We're going to bring them right now today.

I love your books. We have a dog named Tumms.

JOANNA MAMA

the cookies burnt :-)

WE LOVE BOOKS



Thanks

for all you do

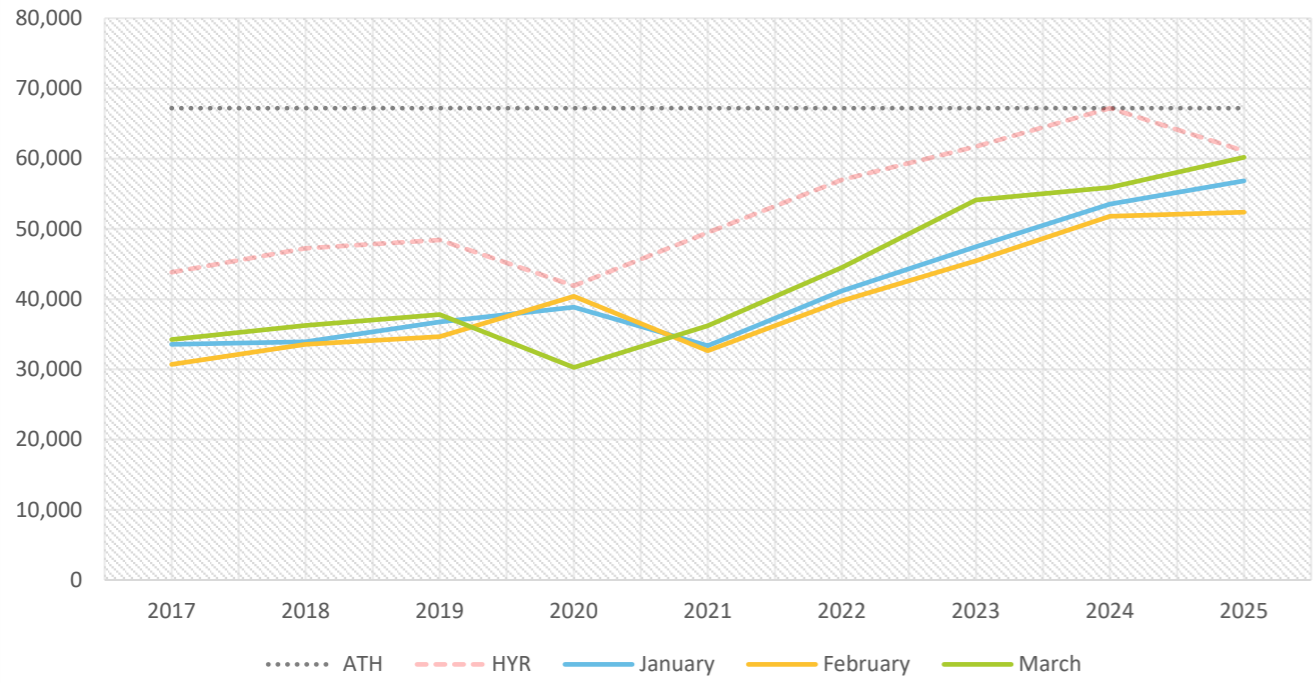
Light Horse Harry Lee chapter,
Daughters of the American
Revolution

dear APL librarians —

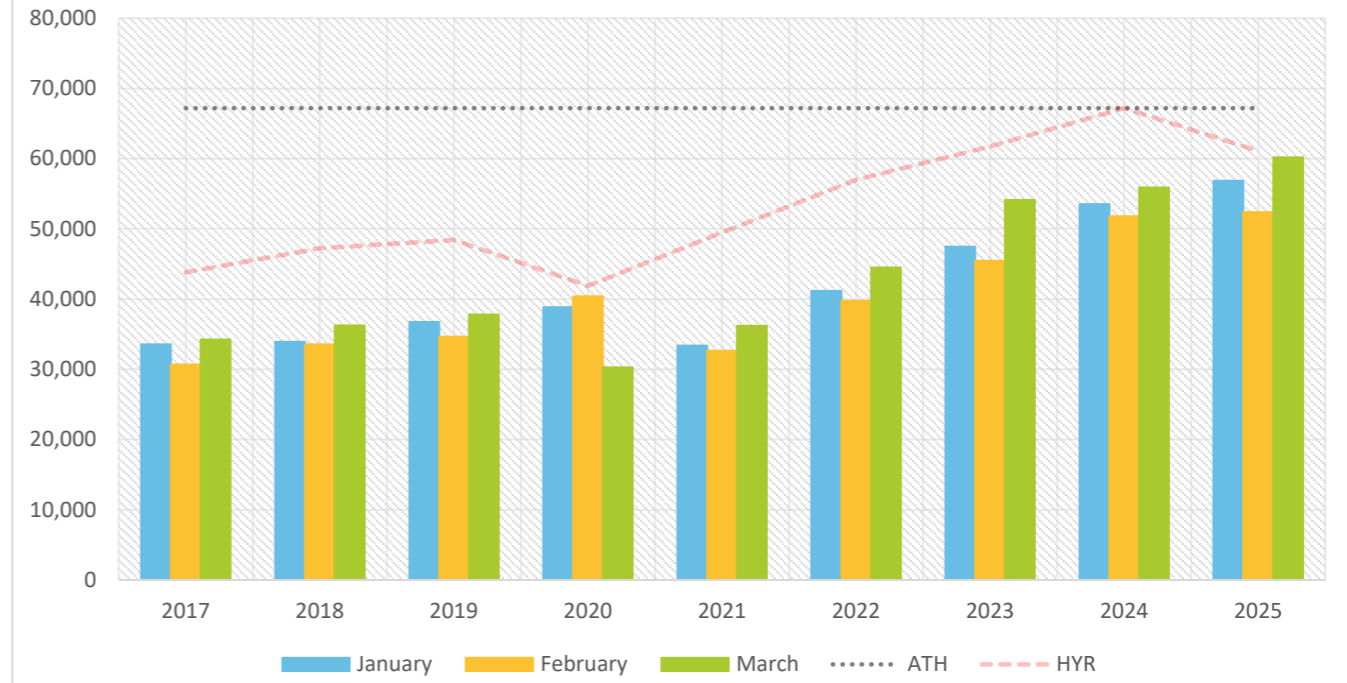
Happy National ^{Public} Libraries Week!
Thank you for all you do for us
(restocking our hundreds of books
every month, answering all the
questions...) and for the community.
APL is our favorite place to visit!
And your work totally matters. Three
cheers for literacy and all the books!
- Jess + family

| One Year Comparative Summary | Mar-24 | Mar-25 | % Change | | Feb-25 | Mar-25 | % Change |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|----------|--|--------|--------|----------|
| Collection | | | | | | | |
| Circulation - Adult Print | 12,771 | 12,810 | 0.31% | | 11,497 | 12,810 | 11.42% |
| Circulation - Adult Audiovisual | 1,751 | 1,865 | 6.51% | | 1,820 | 1,865 | 2.47% |
| Circulation - Teen Print | 2,146 | 2,791 | 30.06% | | 2,239 | 2,791 | 24.65% |
| Circulation - Youth Print | 27,745 | 29,153 | 5.07% | | 25,367 | 29,153 | 14.92% |
| Circulation - Youth Audiovisual | 702 | 753 | 7.26% | | 615 | 753 | 22.44% |
| Circulation - Other | 27 | 52 | 92.59% | | 35 | 52 | 48.57% |
| Total Physical Circulation | 45,142 | 47,424 | 5.06% | | 41,573 | 47,424 | 14.07% |
| Digital - Adult | 9,338 | 11,173 | 19.65% | | 9,524 | 11,173 | 17.31% |
| Digital - Teen | 687 | 765 | 11.35% | | 625 | 765 | 22.40% |
| Digital - Youth | 566 | 695 | 22.79% | | 655 | 695 | 6.11% |
| Total Digital Circulation | 10,778 | 12,772 | 18.50% | | 10,804 | 12,772 | 18.22% |
| Physical Circulation Boykin | 103 | 11 | -89.32% | | 2 | 11 | 450.00% |
| Physical Circulation On Location | - | 1 | #VALUE! | | - | 1 | #VALUE! |
| Total Circulation | 55,920 | 60,196 | 7.65% | | 52,377 | 60,196 | 14.93% |
| Total Checkouts (excludes renewals) | 22,009 | 24,411 | 10.91% | | 20,503 | 24,411 | 19.06% |
| Items Borrowed via Self-Checkout | 16,816 | 18,053 | 7.36% | | 15,218 | 18,053 | 18.63% |
| % of Circulation via Self-Checkout | 89% | 87% | -2.25% | | 88% | 87% | -1.14% |
| Total Database Hits | 12,790 | 14,840 | 16.03% | | 13,703 | 14,840 | 8.30% |
| Requests Filled | 2,393 | 2,756 | 15.17% | | 2,382 | 2,756 | 15.70% |
| | | | | | | | |
| Borrowers | | | | | | | |
| Borrowers Added | 331 | 268 | -23.51% | | 269 | 268 | -0.37% |
| Total Borrowers | 22,846 | 24,727 | 7.61% | | 24,643 | 24,727 | 0.34% |
| Borrowers Active | 4,187 | 4,322 | 3.12% | | 4,155 | 4,322 | 3.86% |
| % of Borrowers Active | 18.33% | 17.48% | -4.86% | | 16.86% | 17.48% | 3.55% |
| Patron Assistance Transactions | 5,179 | 5,144 | -0.68% | | 4,512 | 5,144 | 12.29% |
| Boykin Borrowers | 82 | 86 | 4.65% | | 86 | 86 | 0.00% |
| Active Boykin Borrowers | 9 | 4 | -125.00% | | 1 | 4 | 75.00% |
| % of Boykin Borrowers Active | 10.98% | 4.65% | -136.13% | | 1.16% | 4.65% | 75.05% |
| On Location Borrowers | 0 | 69 | 100.00% | | 69 | 69 | 0.00% |
| Active On Location Borrowers | 0 | 1 | 100.00% | | 1 | 1 | 0.00% |
| % of On Location Borrowers Active | 0 | 1.45% | 100.00% | | 1.45% | 1.45% | 0.00% |
| | | | | | | | |
| Programming | | | | | | | |
| Adult Programs | 2 | 6 | 200.00% | | 5 | 6 | 20.00% |
| Teen Programs | 6 | 4 | -33.33% | | 4 | 4 | 0.00% |
| Elementary Programs | 32 | 33 | 3.13% | | 44 | 33 | -25.00% |
| Early Literacy Programs | 80 | 45 | -43.75% | | 46 | 45 | -2.17% |
| General Audience Programs | 3 | 5 | 66.67% | | 3 | 5 | 66.67% |
| On Site Events | 59 | 65 | 10.17% | | 67 | 65 | -2.99% |
| Off Site Events | 27 | 28 | 3.70% | | 35 | 28 | -20.00% |
| Virtual Events | 37 | 0 | -100.00% | | 0 | 0 | #DIV/o! |
| Total Programs/Outreach Events | 123 | 93 | -24.39% | | 102 | 93 | -8.82% |
| On Site Attendance | 1,677 | 1,451 | -13.48% | | 2,778 | 1,451 | -47.77% |
| Off Site Attendance | 449 | 453 | 0.89% | | 576 | 453 | -21.35% |
| Virtual Attendance | 4 | 0 | -100.00% | | 0 | 0 | |
| Total Attendance/Participation | 2,130 | 1,904 | -10.61% | | 3,354 | 1,904 | -43.23% |
| Total YouTube Channel Views | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Visitors | | | | | | | |
| Visitors | 11,103 | 12,492 | 12.51% | | 12,372 | 12,492 | 0.97% |
| Website Page Views | 8,171 | 17,754 | 117.28% | | 15,481 | 17,754 | 14.68% |
| Unique Website Users | 5,073 | 5,097 | 0.47% | | 5,525 | 5,097 | -7.75% |
| Study Room Bookings | 87 | 101 | 16.09% | | 101 | 101 | 0.00% |
| Study Room Hours | 190 | 242 | 27.37% | | 281 | 242 | -13.88% |
| | | | | | | | |
| Technology | | | | | | | |
| Computer Use (Hours) | 1,176.00 | 1,497 | 27.30% | | 1,548 | 1,497 | -3.29% |
| Computer Use (Logins) | 2,108 | 1,972 | -6.45% | | 1,962 | 1,972 | 0.51% |

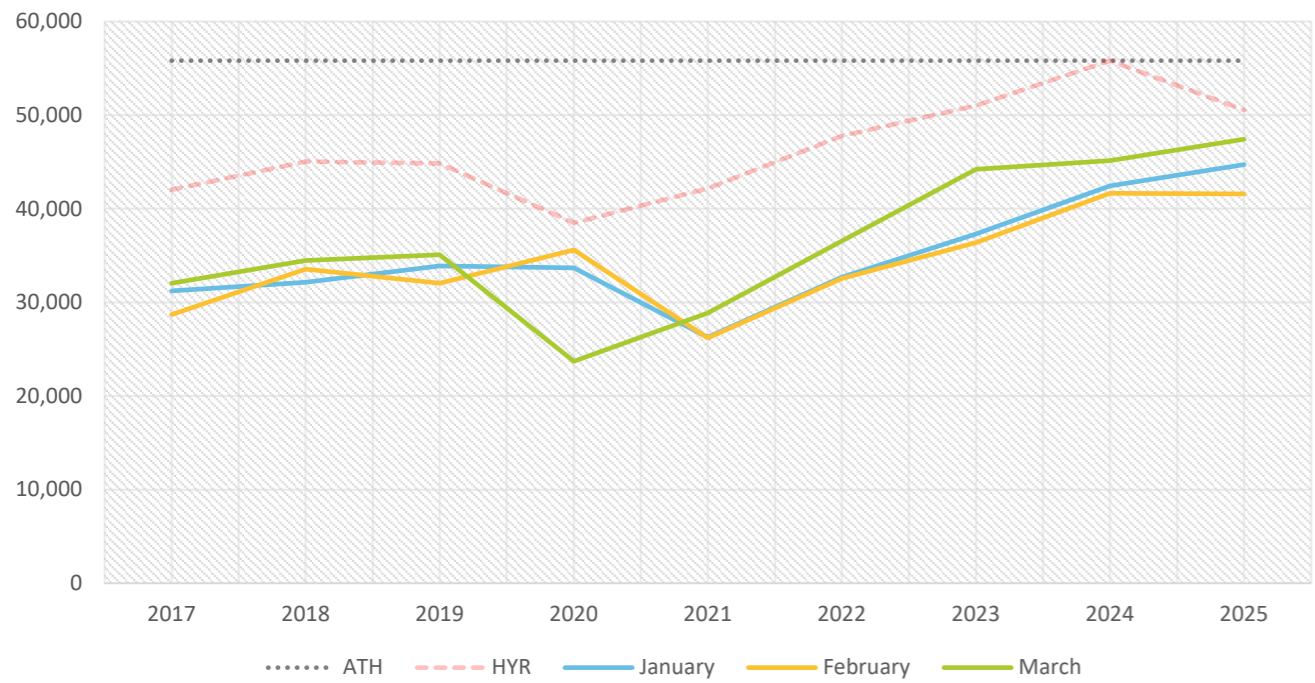
Total Circulation



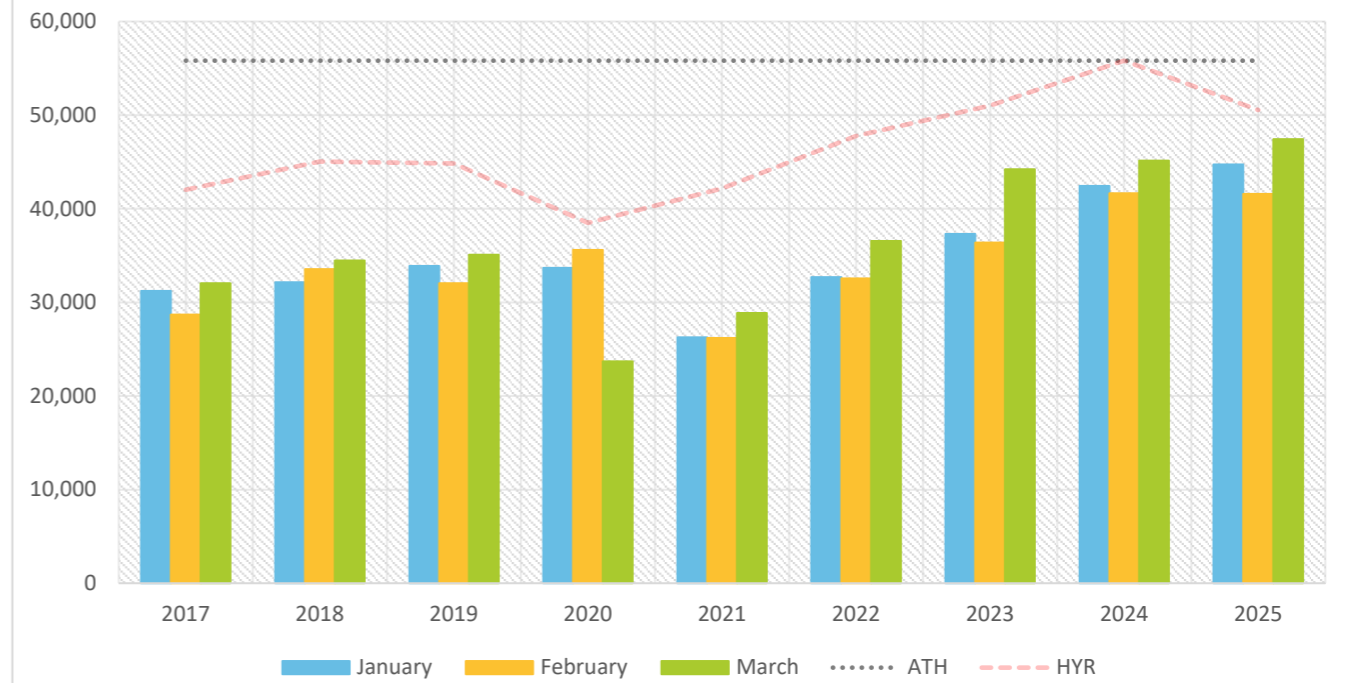
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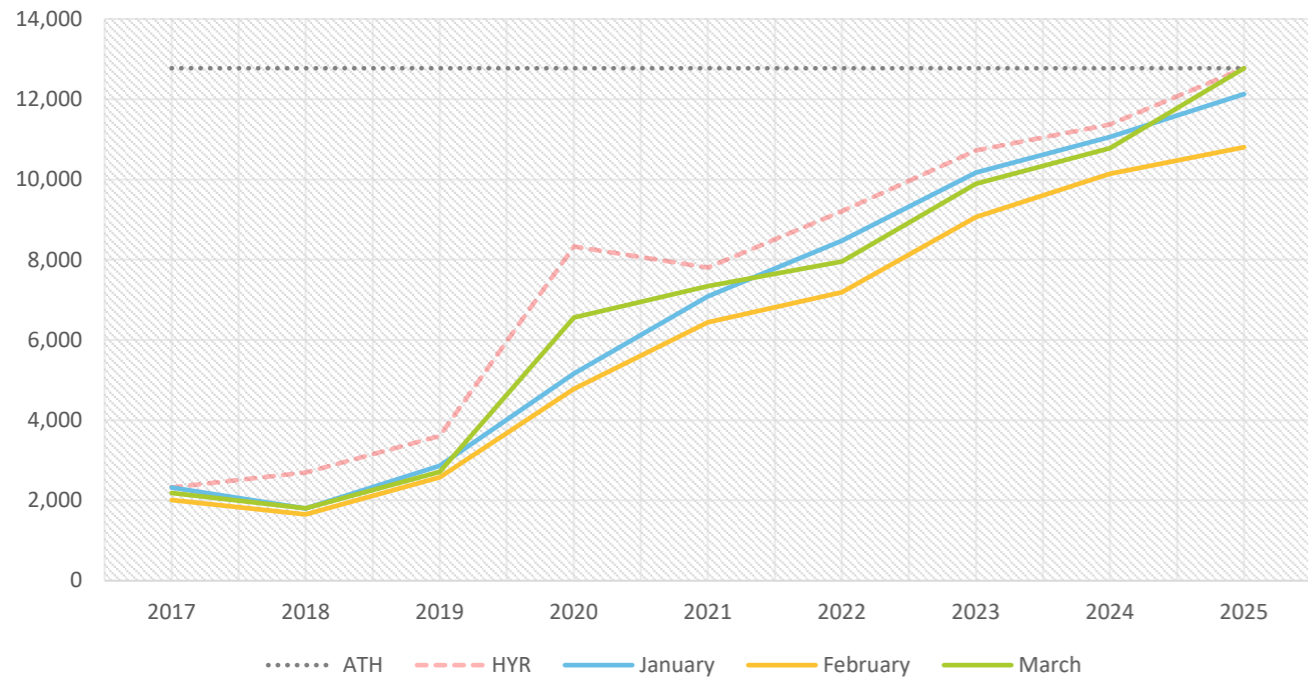
Total Physical Circulation



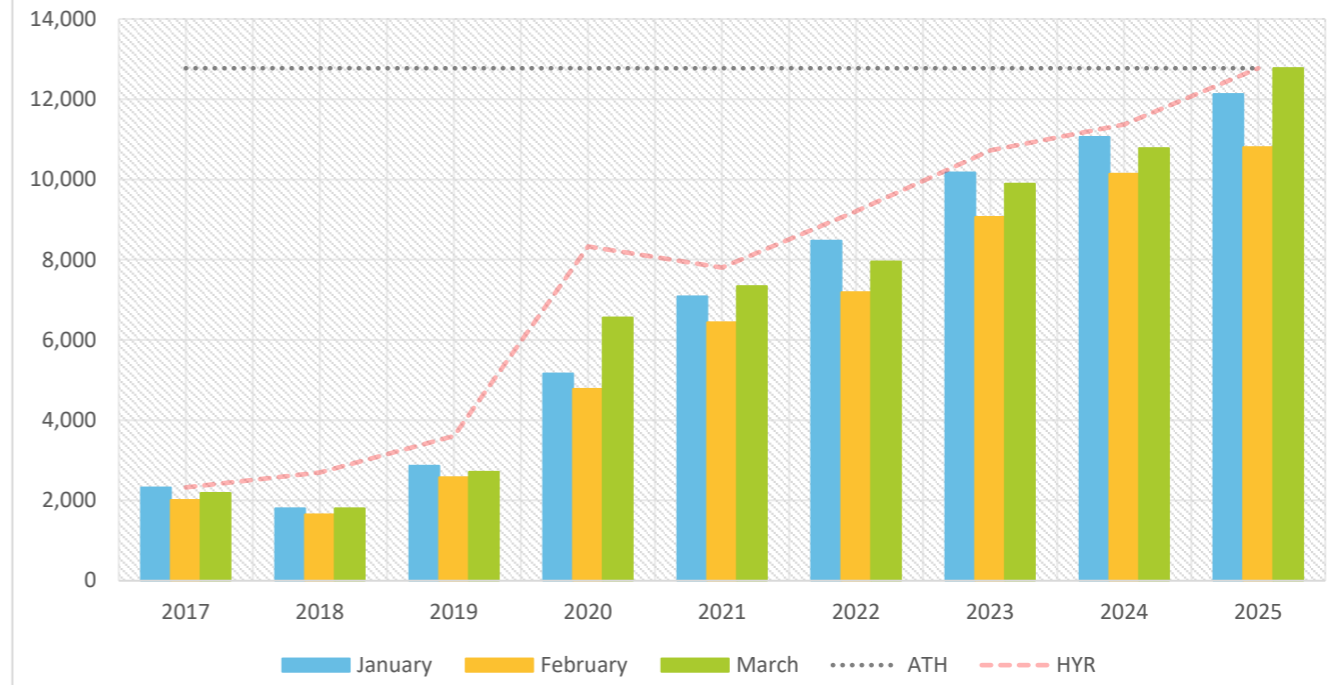
Total Physical Circulation



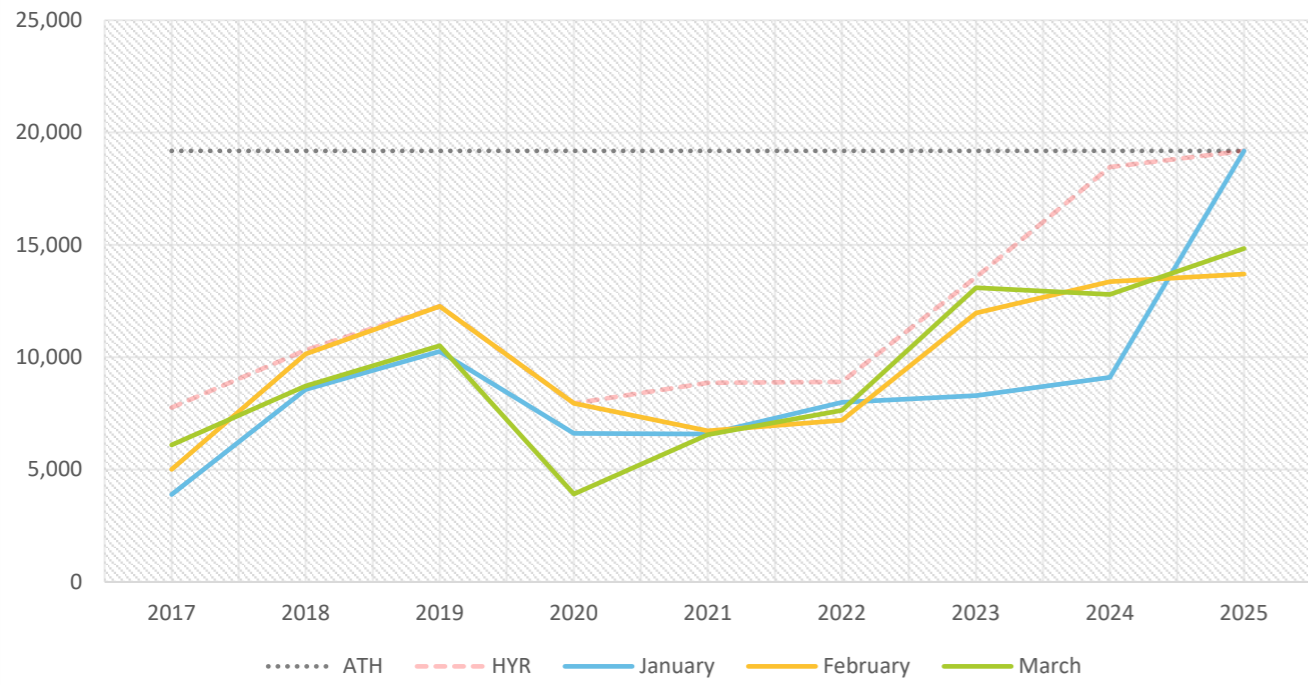
Total Digital Circulation



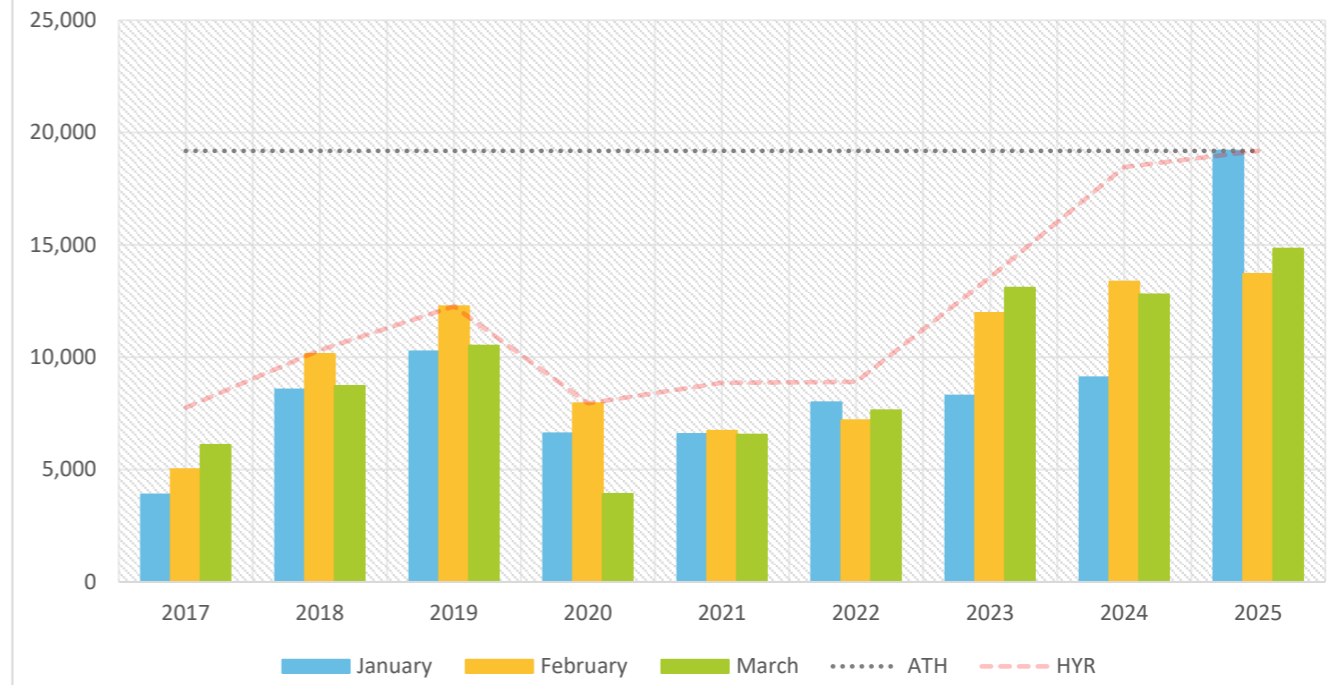
Total Digital Circulation



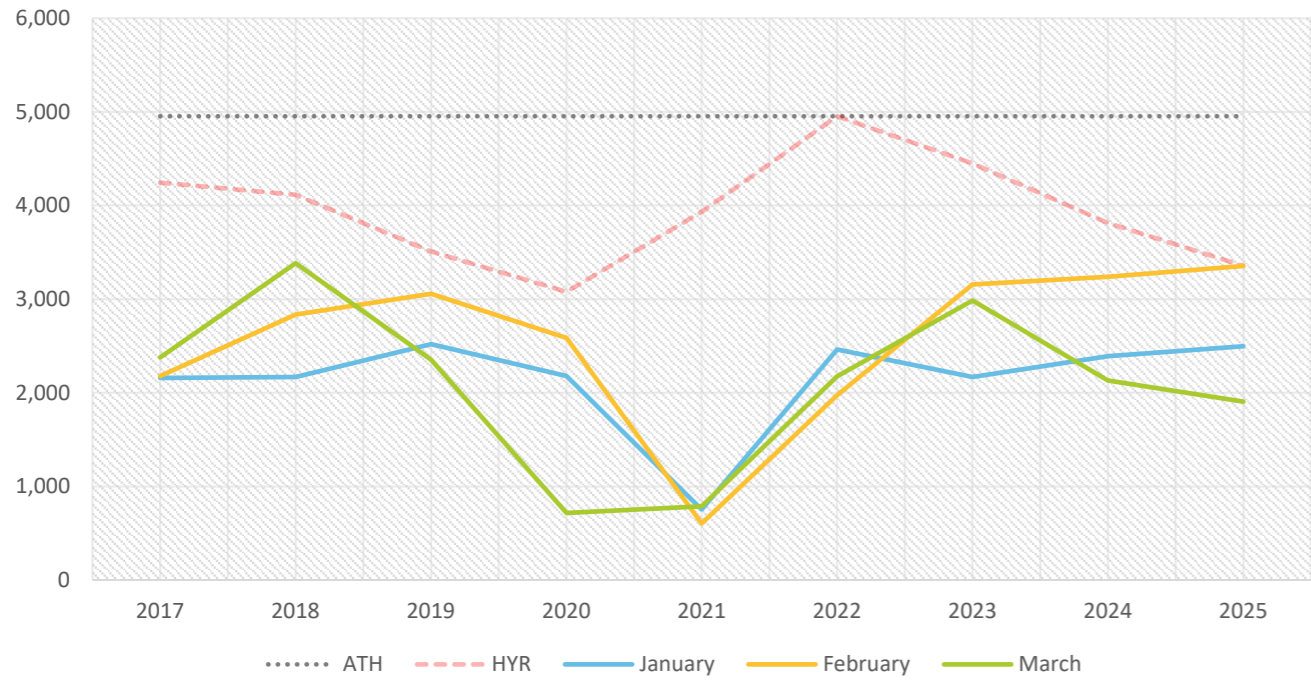
Total Database Usage



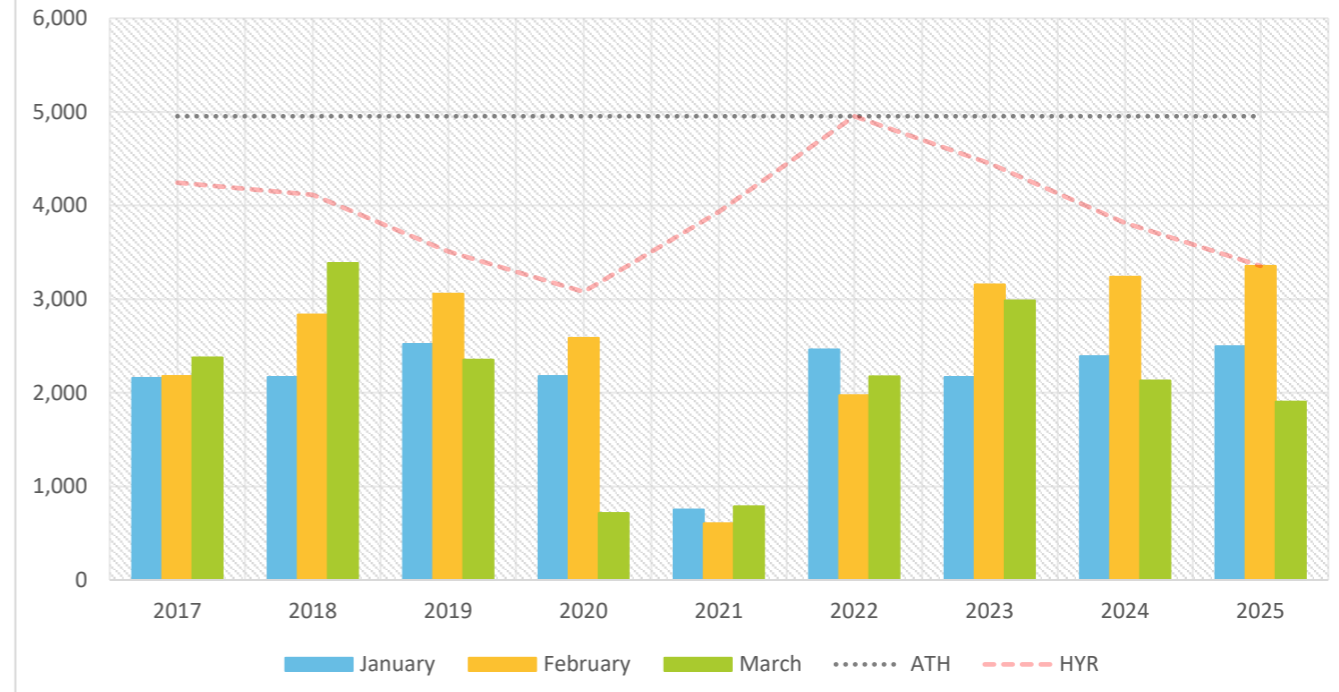
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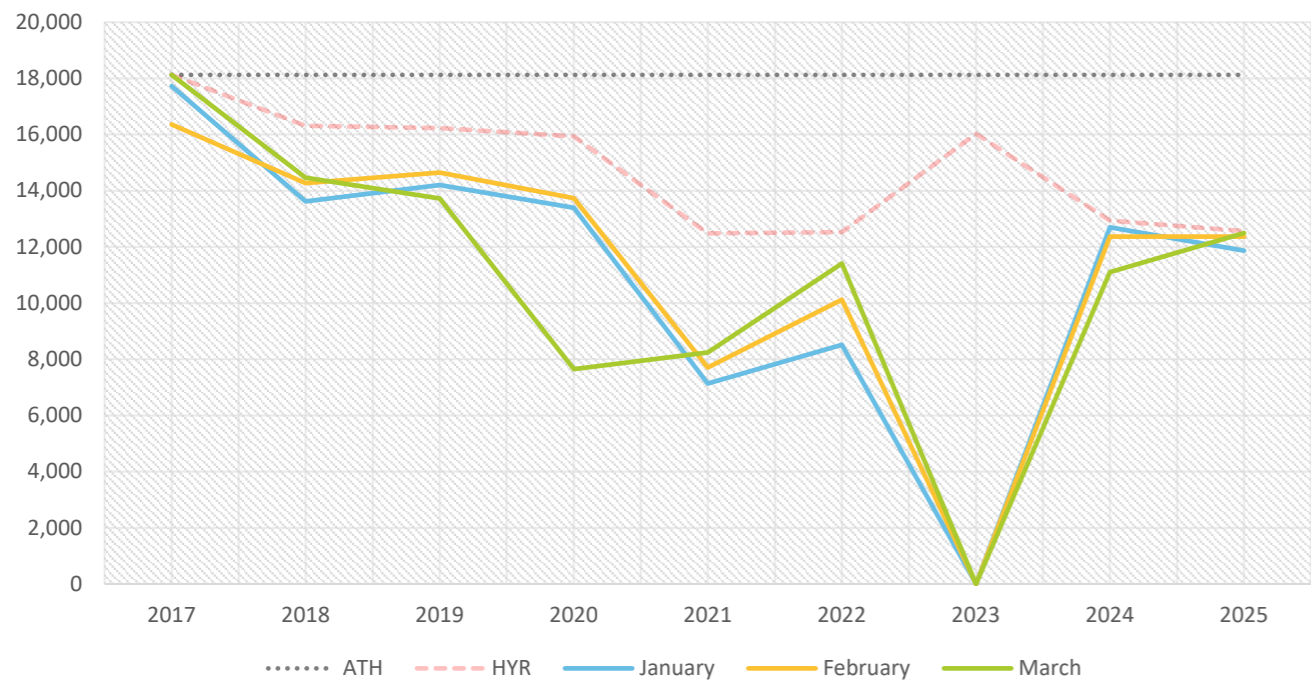
Total Program Participation



Total Program Participation



Total Visitors



Total Visitors

