



The Atlanta Public Library

YEARLY REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023
OCTOBER 2022-SEPTEMBER 2023

33,943

Patron Visits

35,188

Checkouts

3,282

Program attendance

2,779

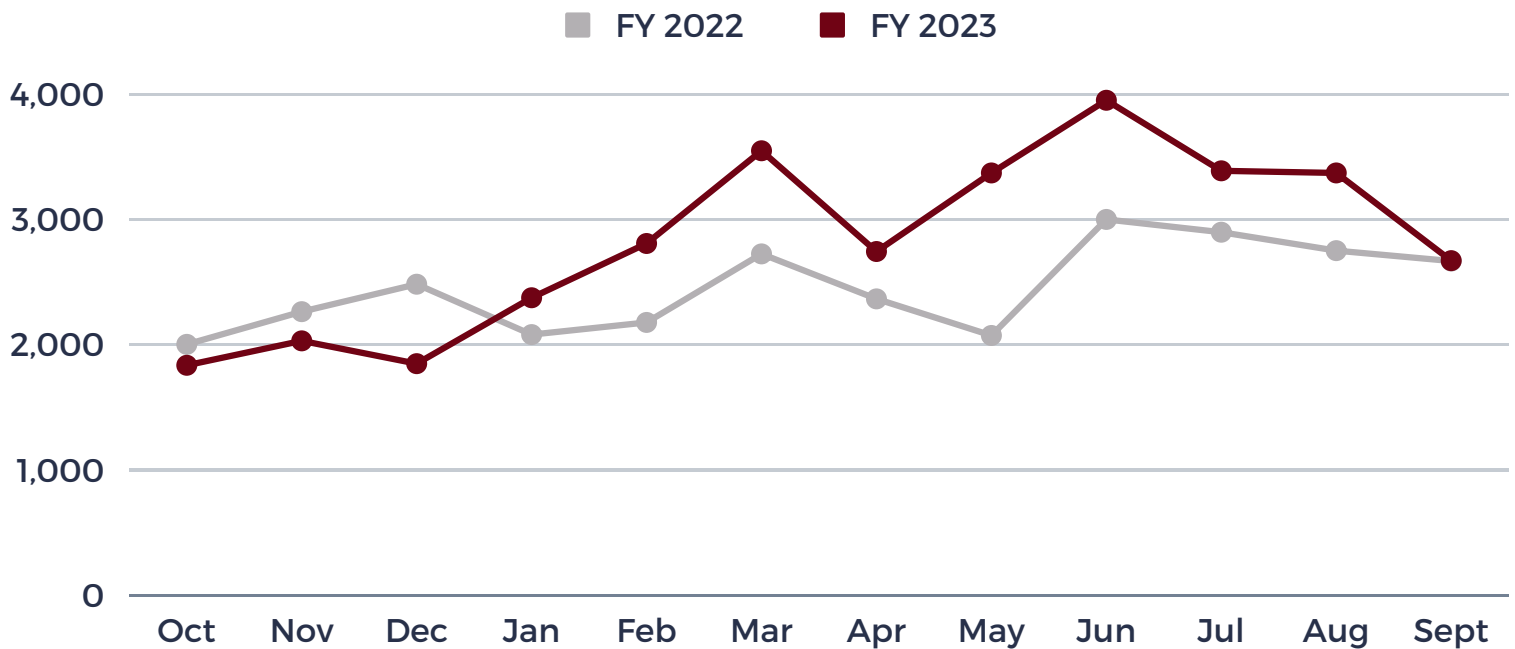
Public computer
sessions

553

New library cards



LIBRARY VISITS



PATRON NUMBERS

In the fiscal year 2023, our library experienced a surge of patron visits, totaling **33,943**, a notable increase from the 29,491 recorded in FY2022. Our visitation pattern mirrored the preceding year, with attendance dropping in the autumn and peaking during the spring and summer. However, the highs and lows were more pronounced than earlier. We attribute this growth to our innovative programs and new services, such as the recently re-launched seed library and community garden, which have contributed to the upswing in patronage.

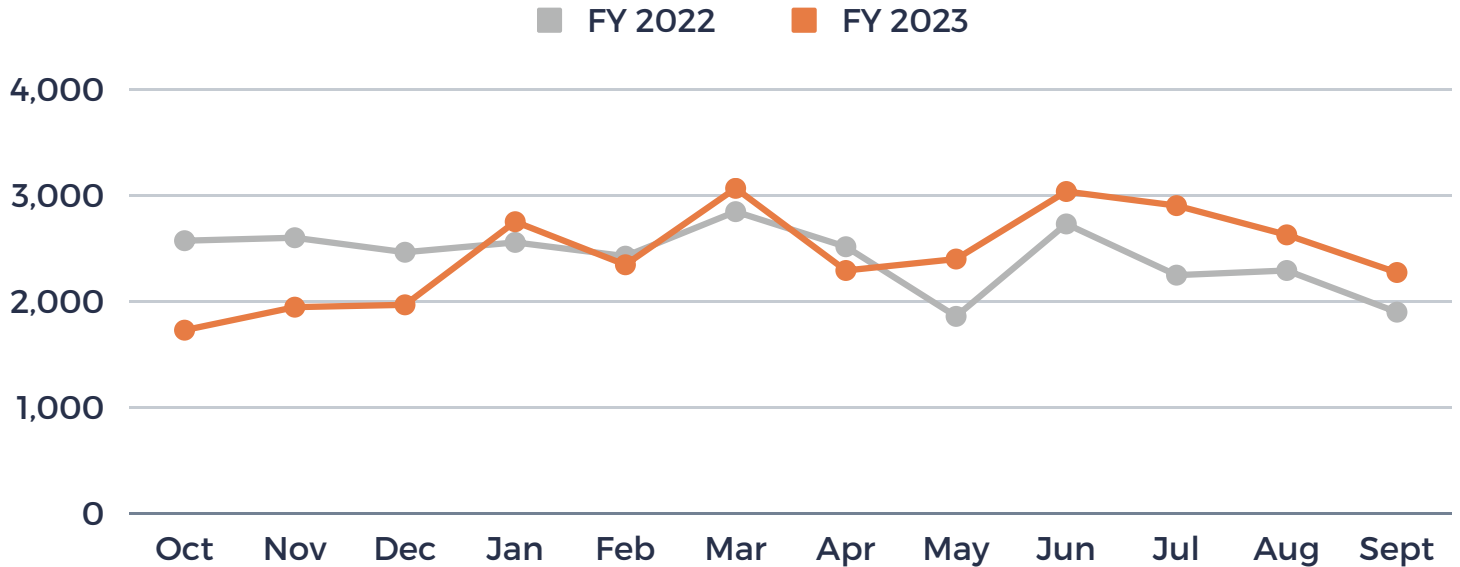
We are immensely pleased to observe a rise in traffic, which underscores our efforts to provide needed and wanted services that have a positive impact on our community. The success of the seed library and community garden is a source of pride for us. These services have not only allowed patrons access to fresh produce but also created a sense of belonging and camaraderie. They have sparked many an excited conversation over the past year.

SERVICES

In FY 2023, public computer usage rose to **2,779** from 2,649 in FY 2022. This increase in public computer usage can be attributed to the growing reliance on technology in our daily lives. With more people working remotely and attending online classes, access to public computers becomes crucial for those who may not have access to their own devices. Additionally, public libraries have been working to provide safe and accessible spaces for people to use computers, especially in underserved communities. The rise in public computer usage is a positive trend, as it indicates that more people are able to access the resources they need to succeed in today's digital world.

CHECKOUTS

Physical items only; includes checkouts, renewals, and in-house use



We had **29,330** print checkouts, renewals, & in-house uses in FY 2023, up slightly from 29,002 in FY 2022. E-Media usage for FY 2023 was **5,858**, up from FY 2022's 4,643. All combined, this puts FY 2023 circulation at **35,188**, up from a total FY 2022 circulation of 33,645. This is not a dramatic increase, but it is a positive trend.

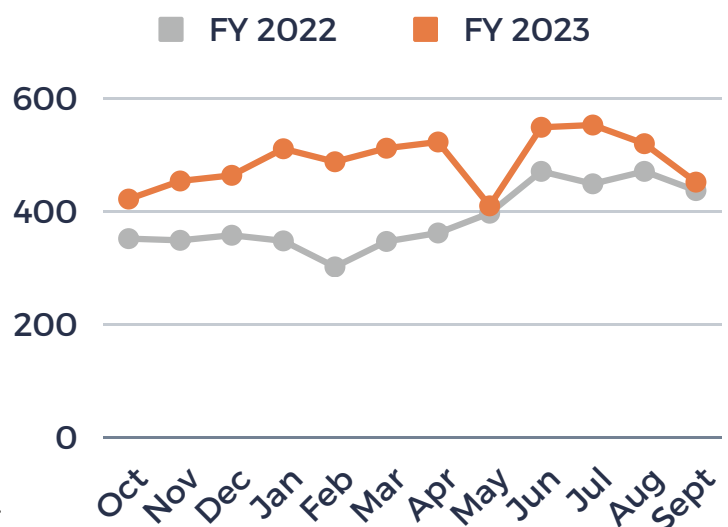
The increase in e-media usage is not surprising considering the shift towards digital media in recent years. However, it is important to note that print circulation is still holding strong. The library continues to invest in both physical and digital collections to meet the needs and preferences of our patrons.

In June, we added Kanopy to our digital collection, a streaming media service that gives our patrons unlimited access to children's programming, as well as limited access to the Great Courses collection and many other films. New titles are constantly added to our print collection as well, with 2,087 new items added in FY 2023, bringing our total physical collection to 25,438 items.

One strategy that counterintuitively helps improve circulation is weeding -- the careful process of removing old, obsolete, and damaged items from our collection. Our children's nonfiction and adult nonfiction have been extensively weeded over the past year, and we will be updating those collections gradually over the next year. Our hope is to see an increase in circulation in those areas, and overall, in FY 2024.

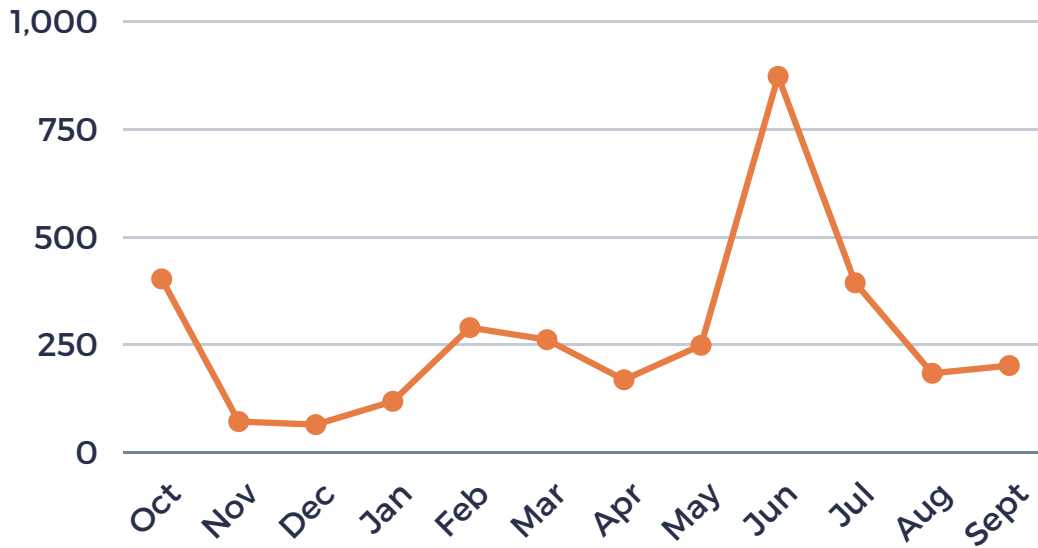
E-MEDIA

EBOOKS
E-AUDIOBOOKS
STREAMING VIDEO



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

■ FY 2023



In Fiscal Year 2023 we held **222** programs, with **3,282** attendees. FY 2022 data was not collected with fine enough granularity for a monthly comparison, however the total programs offered in FY 2022 were 157, with total attendance at 1,796.

Regular programs in FY 2023 included Next Chapter Book Club, Quilting Club, Storytime, Crochet Club, 2nd Tuesday Book Club, 4th Tuesday Book Club, 3rd Saturday class, and the 903 Artisans art class. Our high attendance in October was due to a large turnout at a Halloween Trunk or Treat, and good attendance at our annual library pumpkin carving program. Our fall 3rd Saturday classes had the theme of “Homemade Holidays,” and included a wood-burned Santa tray and cookie decorating.

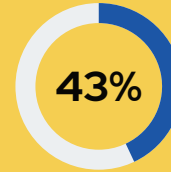
Our Summer Reading Program is traditionally the peak of our programming engagement, with children out of school and parents looking for free activities. Our summer theme was “Exploring Your World.” We had 7 weeks of activity packets, 2 visits from Zoofari with exotic animals in the library, and one visit from Ms. Maria, a children’s performer that gets kids involved in the show. Our Friends of the Library group and the local Rotary Club sponsored our summer performers and book prizes for program participants.

The overall programming theme for 2023 was “Year of the Garden,” in order to promote the new community garden, newly re-launched seed library, and special classes offered by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension at the library. In April, the local art group 903 Artisans began doing monthly art classes at the library as well, with artwork sticking to the gardening theme. The gardening classes and art classes have been very popular, and we have had to require registration and create waitlists for these classes. Because of our limited staffing, the best opportunities we have to create a wide range of engaging programming for our patrons is to collaborate with local outreach groups, like the AgriLife Extension and 903 Artisans. We have plans to continue these collaborations into the next year.

ATLANTA PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2023

Total minutes read

25,820



10 out of the 23 kids (43%) that participated in our summer reading program finished at least 6 of the 7 weeks, qualifying for a certificate.



Our summer programs had a total of **1,259** attendees.