



PAOLI LIBRARY

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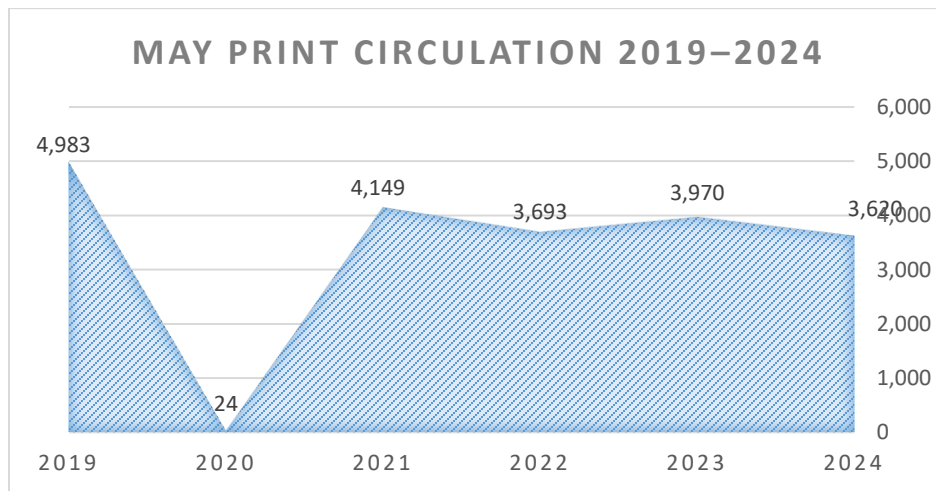
June 2024 Branch Manager's Report

Upcoming Anniversary of Paoli Library

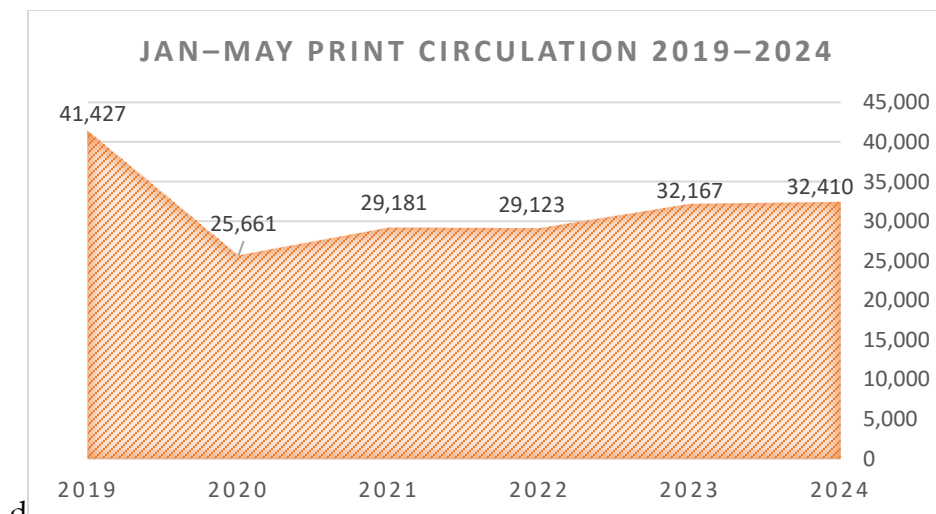
In 2025, Paoli Library will have its 115th birthday. A great excuse for a party! The library's centennial celebration in 2010 included a series of high-profile author talks at various venues around Paoli and an ice cream social on the grounds of Paoli Presbyterian Church (now home to the original Paoli Library building). Since its founding as a private organization in 1910, Paoli Library has served as a community center. The centennial celebration really brought the wider Paoli community together and would be well worth repeating!

Circulation

May print circulation was down 9% from May 2023 and 27% lower than May 2019. However, year-to-date print circulation counters the slight dip in May, and remains the same as in 2023.



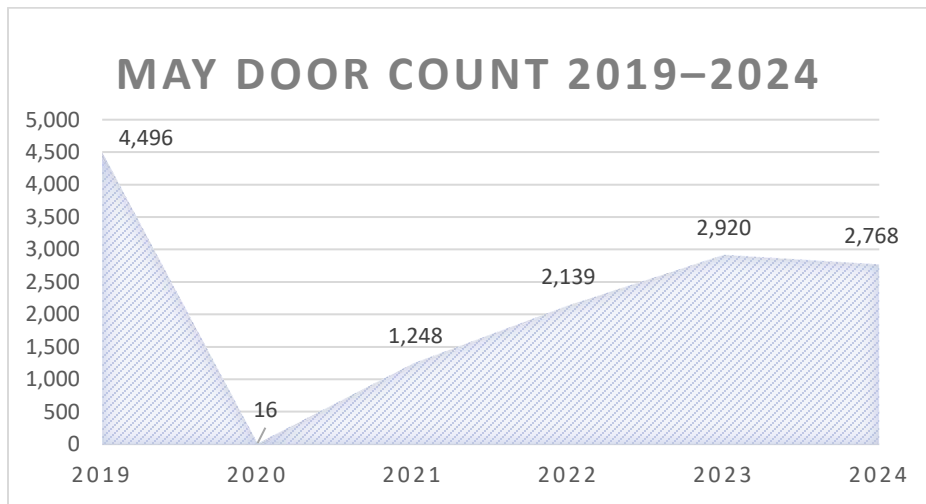
Year-to-date circulation has increased 20% since 2020; it remains 22% below 2019.



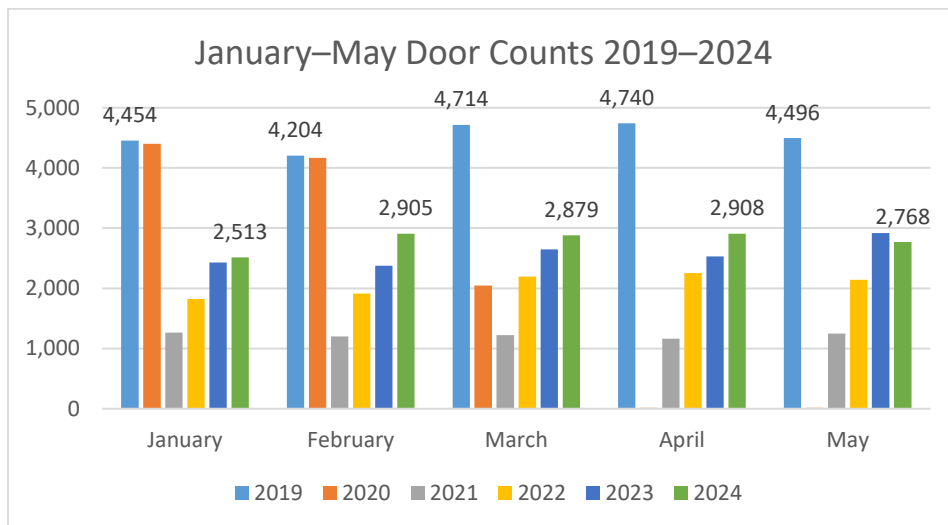
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Visitor Count

Library visits declined slightly in May, down 5% from May 2023. The door count is 38% below 2019 numbers.



Overall, attendance has been increasing every year since the library closure in April and May of 2020 (shown by the missing orange bars for April and May in the chart below). It still has not rebounded from 2020 as well as circulation has, primarily because library use patterns have changed. People are much less dependent on the library now for access to computers and wi-fi.



Summer Reading

Paoli's summer reading program kicked off with Willistown's "School's Out—Let's GO WilMa!" party at Greentree Park. Participants will use their World Reader Passports to track minutes read and challenges completed, earning raffle tickets for end-of-summer prizes. The GO WilMa! outdoor adventure runs concurrently, and invites families to get outside and explore area parks and nature preserves.

Fan Mail
for the Library
from a patron:

Hello – I just want to say thanks! I stopped in the other day to get some work done on my laptop, and I really appreciated seeing the pride month display you had out. It would have put me absolutely over the moon to see that kind of support when I was younger, but honestly it probably means more to me now, knowing how hard some people are pushing for censorship. So, thank you for maintaining a welcoming space, I genuinely appreciate it.

...and for me

Thank you to Rachel Kramer for the email to donors announcing my retirement. I have received some lovely notes through the link in that email from patrons and friends. The excerpts below underline the tremendous impact libraries can have in people's lives.

Respectfully submitted by
Beverly Michaels
Branch Manager
June 27, 2024

From messages received on my retirement

I want to thank-you for the 10 years of support and encouragement that you gave me in carrying on with the Paoli Library Art Book Club. It was a fine idea to start it, and perhaps a quite ambitious undertaking.... CCLS will be losing a thoughtful crusader for the art in books along with the contemplation of books on art among many other things. You made the "little library that could" a marvelous success.

Thank you...for your excellent and continued support of our writers' group meetings. In being able to meet, exchange views and review each other's work, we continue to grow in our literary efforts. We are better at our chosen craft because of you.

...in the 1990s-2000s our daughter...was a patron of many programs. She learned a love of reading through them and today is...[an attorney].... We attribute her success today to library programs! Thank you!