



Milton Public Library

State of Library Services 2025

September 9, 2025

What are we going to cover?

- A look at statewide numbers from FY24
- A review of FY25
 - Usage
 - Digital vs. Physical
 - Programming
 - Highlights/Improvements
- FY26 Preview
 - FY25 Budget review
 - Priorities
 - Initiatives



FY24 Usage - A Snapshot

Rank	Town	Population	Total Circ Activity	Circ Per FTE	Circ Per Capita	Total Municipal Operating	Appropriation per capita
1	Arlington	45,522	1,088,903	31,201	23.92	\$2,778,638	72.96
10	Amherst	40,059	475,971	13,726	11.88	\$2,213,530	77.06
20	Milton	28,364	330,235	16,524	11.64	\$1,822,380	70.35
25	Leominster	43,646	291,493	13,805	6.68	\$1,808,457	43.61
40	Dracut	32,060	186,693	13,335	5.82	\$874,078	30.67
51	Chelsea	38,637	35,987	4,959	0.93	\$444,000	14.60
	AVERAGE	34,037	335.568	14,732	10.05	\$1,616,821	54.70

Shifting Gears: FY25 In Review

Total collection usage is up (441,000)

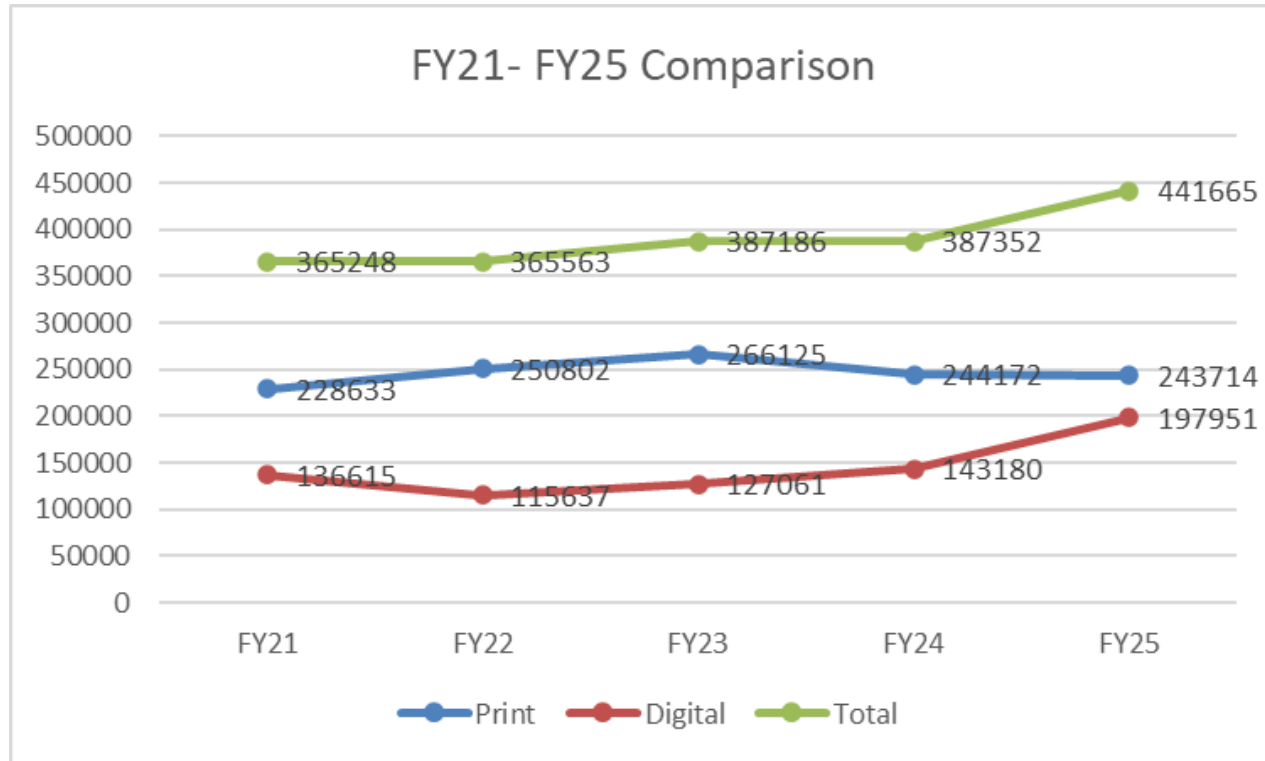
- 14% increase over FY24
- 21% increase over five years

There are fluctuations in usage

- Digital numbers up year over year (198,000)
 - 38% increase over FY24; highest ever numbers
 - Increased spending; new platforms (Mango); expanded offerings
- Physical usage is steady (243,000)
 - Slight decrease over FY24, but above five year average

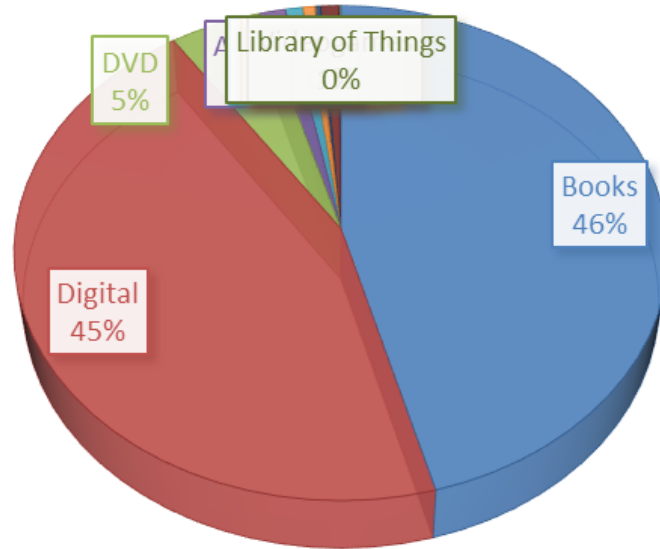


FY25 In Review: Circulation History



FY25 In Review

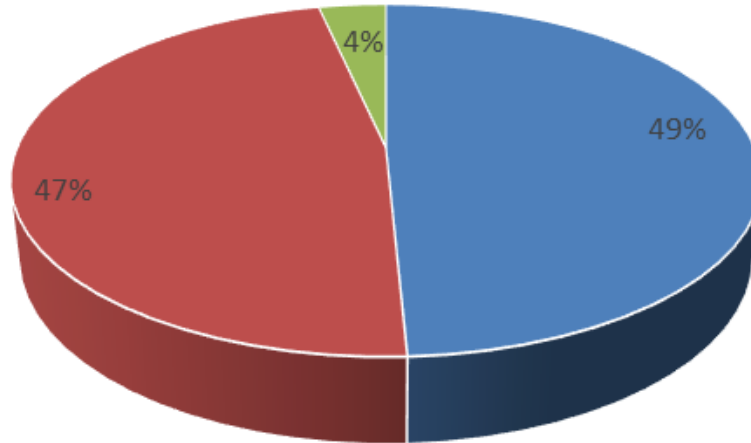
FY25 USAGE BY FORMAT



- Print 52% < 46%
- Digital 37% > 45%

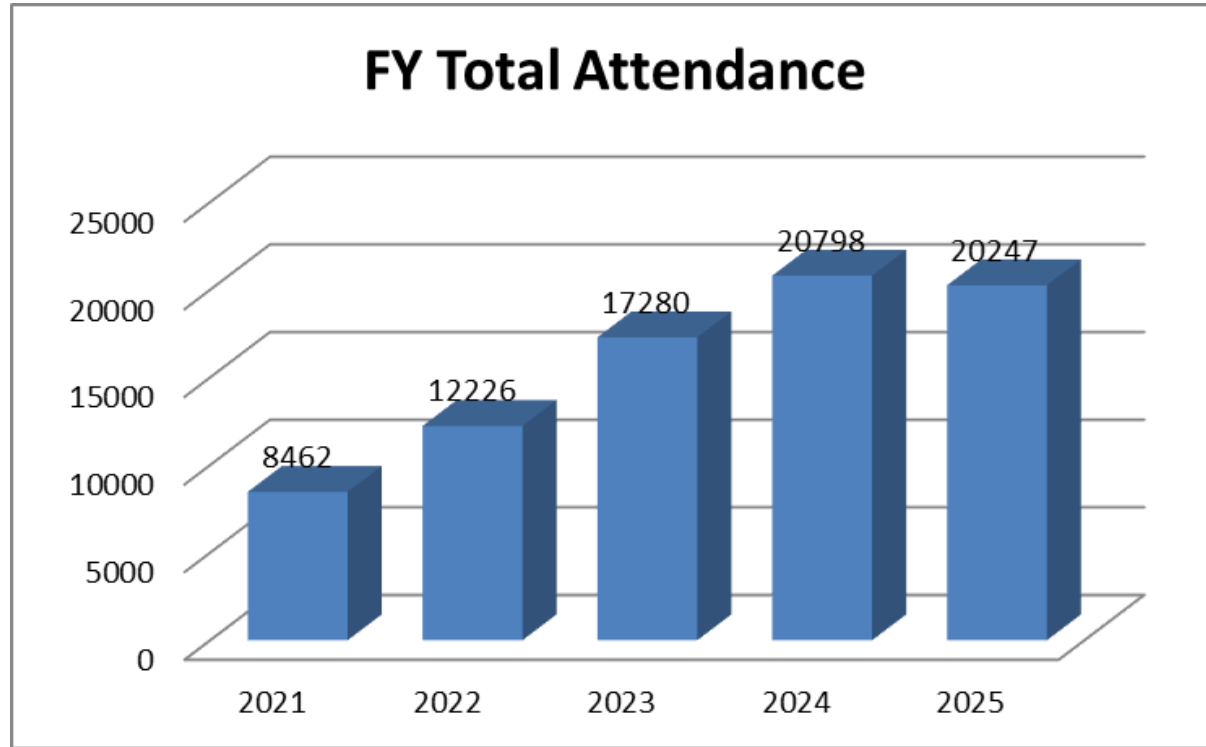
FY25 In Review

FY Usage by Age Group



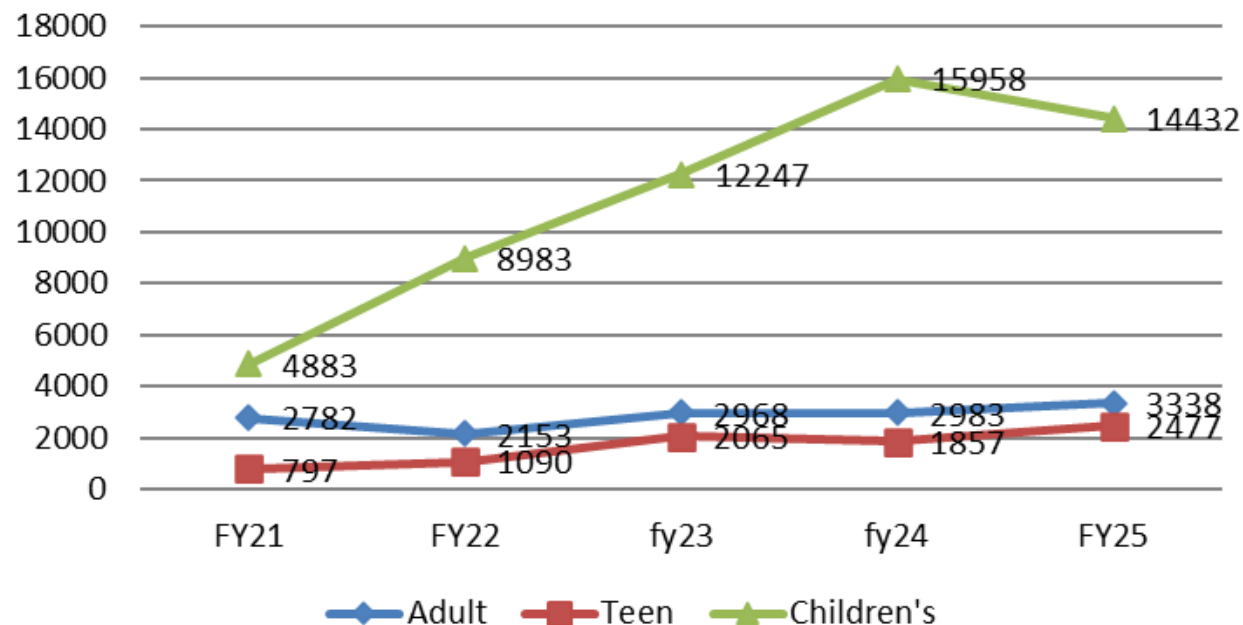
■ Adult ■ Children's ■ Teen

Programming



Programming

FY Program Attendance by Age Group



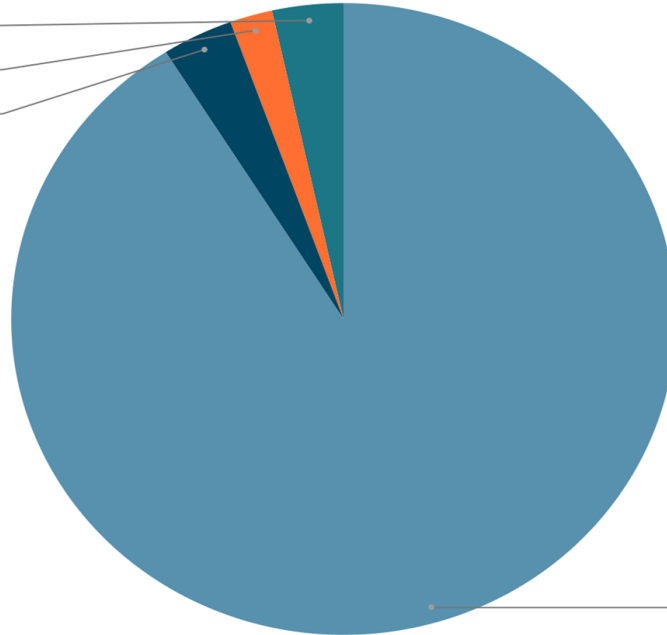
FY24/25 Highlights/Improvements

- Writer in Residence - 3rd term
- Story Hour Room 2.0 completed
- Two Nook Study Pods installed
- Outreach - 3rd annual open house
- Upgraded online calendar & museum pass system



Looking Forward: FY26 Budget

Trustees
3.5%
Friends
2.1%
Foundation
3.5%



Town Appropriations
91.0%

Town Budget:


~\$1.9M

Additional Support:

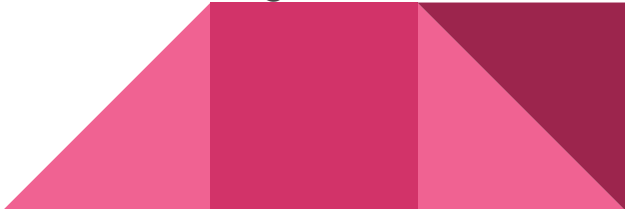
~\$200,000

Staff Development, Programming,
Print & Digital Collections,
Parking Project, Museum Passes,
Speakers, Writer in Residence

FY26 Town Budget

- Maintains staffing at status quo
 - 1.5 position remain unfunded
 - Completely funds books & materials to the State Minimum Requirement
 - Final year of staff union contract (end June 30, 2025)
 - Inflationary increases to utilities and other maintenance expenses
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MPL's Strategic Priorities

1. The Library is Milton's Community Hub, offering a safe, comfortable, and user-friendly space.
 2. The Library will provide excellent customer service and feature the expertise of its staff.
 3. The Library will offer access to a wide variety of collections and services, while also promoting innovative ideas and initiatives to all members of our community.
 4. The Library will be a destination for residents of all ages to explore programming activities for enjoyment, information, and increasing awareness.
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FY26 Initiatives & Changes

- Speaker Series (MLF)
- 24 Hour Book Lockers (MLF)
- Library Open House events
- Expand Patron Point / Welcome email system
- Staffing Changes
 - Retirements - Jean Hlady & Rita Fontinha
 - Promotions - Regan Mulcahy to Head of Adult Services & Micaela Soucy to Adult Services/Reference Librarian



FY26 Initiatives & Changes

- Parking Conversations & Advocacy
- Staff training & conference attendance
 - Prof. development & certification opportunities
- State Legislation
 - eBook Bill - create fairer terms for public libraries; reduce costs
 - Increase state aid to public libraries (~\$60,000 for Milton)
 - Protection for libraries against book challenges and abuse

