Baker County Library District

Executive Report

State Library statistical reports for 2023 through 2026

Updated through June 30, 2026 | Prepared October 29, 2026

Executive assessment

Baker County Library District (BCLD) recorded broader growth in public use in the year ending June 30, 2026. Visits reached the highest level in the four-report series, digital borrowing continued to expand, and registered users increased after declines in 2024 and 2025. Physical circulation nearly stabilized, although fewer first-time loans and lower children's borrowing remain concerns. Revenue declined while expenditures rose, making financial monitoring a more immediate priority.

Latest year indicator	2026 result	Change from 2025
Library visits	113,807	+27.8%
Combined physical and digital circulation	109,356	+3.0%
Physical circulation including renewals	84,336	-0.3%
Digital circulation	25,020	+16.3%
Registered users	7,127	+1.6%
Live program attendance	3,994	+1.0%
Volunteer hours	4,225	+18.1%
Operating revenue	$1,667,641	-2.3%
Operating expenditures	$1,658,648	+7.1%

What the latest year changes

Public use accelerated. Visits rose by 24,781, computer sessions increased 15.8%, and new registrations increased 17.6%. This broader growth replaces the previous picture of relatively stable visits and declining registration.

Digital borrowing now produces net circulation growth. Its increase of 3,507 transactions more than offset the physical decline of 282. Digital materials represented 22.9% of combined circulation, compared with 14.5% in 2023.

More programming produced little additional attendance. Live sessions rose 20.3%, but attendance rose only 1.0%. Volunteer participation and service hours both increased, providing additional community capacity.

The reported financial margin narrowed due to obstructions of tax revenue disbursements while legal challenges to property assessment value continue. Operating revenue exceeded operating costs by $8,993, compared with $158,720 in 2025. Including reported capital spending produces a $33,048 excess of expenditures over revenue.

Report years covers data through June 30, 2026. All trend comparisons use only the 2023-2026 reports.

Borrowing and public access

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026
Physical circulation	92,568	88,401	84,618	84,336
Digital circulation	15,673	17,857	21,513	25,020
Combined circulation	108,241	106,258	106,131	109,356
Digital share	14.5%	16.8%	20.3%	22.9%
Registered users	7,290	7,154	7,012	7,127
New registrations	628	618	527	620

Circulation returned to growth

Combined circulation reached its highest level in the 2023-2026 series. Physical circulation declined just 0.3% in 2026, compared with declines of 4.5% in 2024 and 4.3% in 2025. However, first-time physical loans fell 2.3%, from 69,986 to 68,353; renewals rose 9.2%, from 14,632 to 15,983. Increased renewals masked part of the decline in new borrowing.

Adult materials circulation including renewals rose 2.4% and young adult materials rose 3.7%, reversing their previous declines. Children's circulation fell 2.9%, while first-time children's loans fell 6.6%. Physical circulation remains 8.9% below 2023, making branch and collection analysis more useful than an assumption of full recovery.

Digital circulation rose 16.3% in 2026 and 59.6% since 2023. Across the four years, digital growth more than offset an 8.9% decline in physical circulation, leaving combined circulation 1.0% above 2023.

E-audio supplied 1,951 of the latest 3,507 additional uses and remained the largest digital format at 58.8% of digital circulation. E-video rose from 410 to 1,432 uses, e-serials from 1,525 to 2,025, and e-books from 6,806 to 6,840. More detailed reporting and analysis of platform usage will be conducted to identify usage preferences and trends.

Visits and registration strengthened

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026
Library visits	92,228	87,363	89,026	113,807
Public computer sessions	9,203	10,519	9,837	11,393
Annual main-library open hours	2,942	2,944	2,949	2,961

Visits were 23.4% above the previous high in 2023. Main-library annual open hours have remained unchanged. Public computer sessions reached their highest level in the series.

Registered users increased by 115, or 1.6%, and new registrations rose to 620. This reverses the declines in 2024 and 2025, but total registration remains 2.2% below 2023. Account maintenance and recent active use should be reviewed together to distinguish database changes from participation.

Resource sharing remained a net contribution to other libraries: total items lent rose from 9,242 to 9,493, and items borrowed rose from 5,542 to 5,727. The lending-to-borrowing ratio was 1.66, nearly unchanged from 1.67. These transactions are not added again to circulation totals.

Sources: 2023-2026 reports, Q118-119, Q610-619, Q630-631 or Q641-644, Q650-654, Q801 and Q815-817. Circulation totals include renewals.

Programs and workforce capacity

Live program audience	2025 sessions	2026 sessions	2025 attendance	2026 attendance
Children ages 0 to 5	53	79	2,108	2,156
Children ages 6 to 11	53	64	1,096	1,206
Young adults ages 12 to 18	68	61	551	492
Adults age 19 or older	2	8	51	105
General interest	1	1	150	35
Total	177	213	3,956	3,994

Program availability expanded faster than attendance

Live attendance was 4,669 in 2023, 3,999 in 2024, 3,956 in 2025 and 3,994 in 2026. The latest gain leaves attendance 14.5% below 2023. In 2026, live sessions increased by 36, or 20.3%, but attendance increased by only 38, or 1.0%. Average attendance fell from 22.4 to 18.8 per session. This warrants a review of audience, timing and capacity; it does not by itself establish lower program value. Small groups still support service goals that aggregate attendance cannot measure.

Preschool sessions rose 49.1%, reversing much of the previous year's reduction, while attendance rose 2.3%. Average attendance declined from 39.8 to 27.3. Elementary-age attendance rose 10.0% alongside a 20.8% increase in sessions. These gains contrast with the continuing decline in children's physical circulation.

Teen attendance fell 10.7%, from 551 to 492, with 10.3% fewer sessions. Average attendance remained about 8.1 per session, suggesting the total decline largely tracked the number of offerings. Attendance remained well above the 200 reported in 2024. Adult attendance doubled to 105, but remained a small portion of overall program use.

Self-directed activity participation rose 29.0%, from 753 to 971, despite a reduction from 21 activities to seven.

Volunteer service reached a new high

Measure	2023	2024	2025	2026
Volunteer individuals	79	87	77	87
Volunteer hours	3,480	3,390	3,576	4,225

Volunteer hours increased 21.4% from 2023 to 2026. Volunteers contributed 649 additional hours in 2026, an 18.1% gain. The number of volunteers rose 13.0%, returning to the 2024 level. Average annual hours per volunteer increased from 46.4 to 48.6. Retention and coordination can help sustain this additional capacity.

Sources: Q201-214, Q751-760 and Q780-781.

Finances and collections

Reported measure	2023	2024	2025	2026
District revenue	$1,444,783	$1,465,695	$1,620,809	$1,597,332
Total operating revenue	**$1,502,272**	**$1,583,566**	**$1,707,571**	**$1,667,641**
Personnel expenditures	$930,902	$1,005,107	$1,057,854	$1,113,785
Collection expenditures	$158,617	$141,174	$147,993	$193,723
Other operating costs	$317,185	$304,609	$343,004	$351,140
Total operating costs	**$1,406,704**	**$1,450,890**	**$1,548,851**	**$1,658,648**
Capital expenditures	$6,835	$17,907	$24,925	$42,041

The reported operating margin narrowed substantially

Operating revenue declined $39,930, or 2.3%, in 2026. District revenue fell $23,477 and other operating revenue fell $26,442, partly offset by $10,194 in federal E-Rate revenue. District revenue supplied 95.8% of operating revenue. Its note includes current-year, prior-year and miscellaneous tax revenue; the decline does not establish a change in tax rates or recurring collections.

From 2023 to 2026, operating costs rose 17.9%, exceeding revenue growth of 11.0%. In the latest year, operating costs increased $109,797, or 7.1%. Personnel costs accounted for $55,931 of that increase and collections for $45,730. Benefits rose 9.5%, faster than salaries at 3.3%. Personnel represented 67.1% of operating expenditures, slightly below 68.3% in 2025 because collection spending grew faster.

Operating revenue exceeded operating expenditures by $8,993, or about 0.5% of revenue, down from $158,720 in 2025. After $42,041 in capital spending, reported expenditures exceeded revenue by $33,048. Capital spending included $35,966 in construction and $6,075 in equipment; the primary construction projects were Haines roof and siding repairs. Capital project resources came from both General Fund allocations and the Investment Reserve Fund.

Collection investment increased across formats

Collection spending rose 30.9% to $193,723, the highest amount in four years. Electronic materials spending increased 47.3% to $79,899 and print spending increased 24.0% to $93,064. Electronic resources represented 41.2% of collection spending, compared with 35.5% in 2023.

Despite increased print spending, print additions fell 6.4%, from 4,526 to 4,238. Physical holdings remained nearly flat at 137,753 items, with print holdings falling by 284.

Physical Spanish-language holdings were also stable at 1,245, compared with 1,250 in 2025.

Sources: Q301-310, Q401-410a, Q412-415, Q501-508 and Q533a. Operating costs exclude capital; total operating revenue sums reported source categories.

Management priorities

Priority	Next step	Reason
Monitor financial capacity	Keep revenue, benefit and capital forecasts current and closely monitored.	Revenue -2.3%; operating costs +7.1%; reported operating margin $8,993.
Respond to increased public use	Review service coverage, computer assistance, space demand and branch visit counts.	Visits +27.8%; computer sessions +15.8%; volunteer hours +18.1%.
Review borrowing and collection investment	Examine first loans by branch and format, children's use, digital wait times and platform costs.	First physical loans -2.3%; digital use +16.3%; collection spending +30.9%.
Assess program reach	Compare attendance, repeat participation, accessibility and staff time by offering.	Sessions +20.3%; attendance +1.0%; average attendance per session declined.

AI disclosure: This report was produced with the assistance of an AI-based language tool to support accuracy, clarity and professionalism. Substantive content, determinations, figures, and priorities are subject to review and approval by library staff.