



Monterey County Free Libraries • Est. 1912

BOOK CLUB TO GO

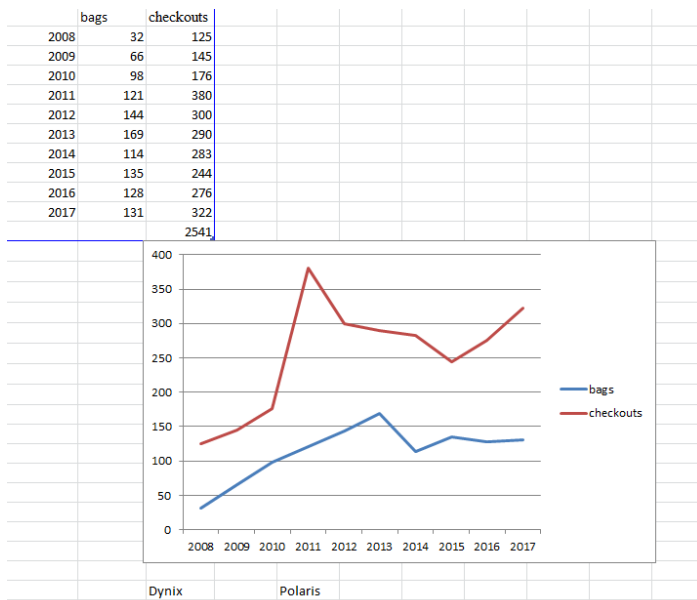
MontereyCountyFreeLibraries.org/bookclubtogo

2018 NEWS - BC2G is Ten Years Old!

Book Club to Go (BC2G) is a program to encourage the development and success of book clubs in Monterey County. We have many bags with ten copies of books and discussion questions. They can be checked out for six weeks and reserved ahead of time, up to one year, in advance, using our website MontereyCountyFreeLibraries.org/BookClubtoGo/

In February 2008 we started with 32 bags. We kept adding new bags each year. Ten years later we have 131 bags. If we were not retiring bags we would have 266. Full archival list can be found on BC2G LibraryThing account <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/bookclubtogo>
A printable list of all titles is always available in PDF on the website. Please remember to print always the most current list from the website.

Between February 2017 and January 2018 our bags circulated 322 times. We also have 90 inactive holds. Below you can see the chart showing our statistics for the last ten years.



Throughout the last ten years our bags circulated 2, 541 times! Keeping in mind that each bag has ten books and each group has an average of ten people, the books from BC2G bags were read more than 25,000 times!

65% of the bags were checked out at Seaside Branch. Second branch with many book clubs using BC2G bags is Carmel Valley, but our bags were checked out at almost all branches, including small, like Big Sur and Aromas.

In October 2016 I made a virtual presentation about BC2G at the Librarians' conference held at the UMCS University in Lublin, Poland. It was met with much interest and the article was published in 2017. We are famous internationally!

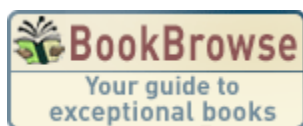
Despite the budget cuts we suffered this fiscal year we were able to add many new bags with the generous help of the Friends of the Seaside Library (FOSL) with the grant from Monterey Peninsula Volunteer Services. Also, one local book club donated enough money to make an additional bag. On top of that we used hardcover surplus copies to make several bags. That is why some bags are much heavier than others.

Last year we started a new series of book presentations provided by the authors of books that we have in BC2G. Three books were featured so far: *Combined Destinies: Whites Sharing Grief about Racism* by Ann Todd Jealous, *Jumping Out of the Mainstream: An American Family's Year in China* by Caroline DePalatis and *Deceit and Other Possibilities: Stories* by Vanessa Hua. Stay tuned for more.

Due to lack of the storage space in a few months we will be removing from our inventory several bags with wonderful books that circulated multiple times. If your group has not read them yet, please reserve them a.s.a.p. Look for red flags on the Title List.

Reminders:

- Please do not renew bags and do not cancel requests in the Library catalog. Please contact us, preferably via BC2G email, or phone 899-2055, to request a renewal or cancellation.
- Groups don't have to use the Request Form for multiple reservations. You can email us a list of BC2G titles you want to read and a list of dates for pick-ups as well as two names of book club members who have MCFL library cards and we will mix and match based on availability.
- Our online form does not work on some versions of some browsers. We ask that you email us directly when you experience problems. We can also process requests by phone.
- While filling up the Request Form please always check the availability first on the Title List. Green notes tell you which bags are **available today**. We update this page daily and you can always see if any bag is available for immediate pickup. Unfortunately, we receive many requests for bags that are not available. If we were to continue maintaining this feature on the website we would kindly ask you to use it.
- We were able to renew our subscription to BookBrowse, the best reader's advisory online tool with direct links to MCFL catalog. Please continue using it. Look for this logo on the Library website:



Thank you all for your help in making BC2G such a success!

BC2G Coordinator Beata A. Obydzinski

February 2018