



Canton Public Library

1200 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188 | (734) 397-0999 | www.cantonpl.org

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CONTACT: [Laurie Golden](mailto:goldenl@cantonpl.org)

goldenl@cantonpl.org

Marketing and Communications Manager

Canton Public Library

734-397-0999 ext 1078

***LIBRARY JOURNAL* NAMES CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY AS ONE OF AMERICA'S TOP LIBRARIES**

Full article at <http://www.LibraryJournal.com/ljindex2009x>

CANTON, MI— The Canton Public Library has again been identified as one of America's top-rated libraries by *Library Journal*, and was one of only two Michigan libraries to receive a star rating.

The Canton Public Library received a three-star rating for the second straight year. In that time period, the library added more computer terminals, introduced programs for tweens, initiated roving library assistance, introduced the Lucky Day shelf and set a new one-day circulation record.

Library Director Eva Davis was pleased by the rating. "We are a well-used, well-loved library. Our staff works hard to serve our community with excellent services, programs and materials. It's nice to have the recognition of this *Library Journal* rating."

America's Star Libraries, as rated by the *LJ* Index of Public Library Service, a national rating of public libraries and sponsored by Baker & Taylor's Bibliostat, offers an overall indication of how a library's performance stacks up to peer libraries and provides guidance on how all public libraries can better assess and improve what they provide to their users.

The *LJ* Index of Public Library Service is based on 2006-2007 data for circulation transactions per capita, including checkouts and renewals; visits to library buildings per capita; computer sessions per capita; and program attendance per capita, as reported by local libraries to their state library agencies and compiled by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Top libraries are organized into star tiers, much like the Michelin guide, for example, with five, four, or three stars. Libraries are scored in relation to other peer libraries based on total operating expenditures rather than on community population.

Media attention in recent months has focused on the key role libraries are playing during the current economic crisis. America's Star Libraries identifies 258 libraries nationwide that are delivering exceptional service. Overall, the *LJ* Index scores not just the Star Libraries but 7,268 **public libraries** with total expenditures of \$10,000 or more that serve populations of at least 1,000 according to four per capita output measures that indicate public service—circulation, visits, program attendance, and public Internet use. The top libraries in each category, organized by ranges of operating expenditures, are assigned five, four, or three Michelin guide-like stars.

LJ released the first round of the *LJ* Index in February 15, 2009 as a cover story and online. This second round, less than nine months later, is based on 2007 data from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The publication of two rounds of the *LJ* Index in 2009 is due to a dramatic improvement in data timeliness achieved by the IMLS in its annual census of U.S. public libraries. Planned as an annual event, the *LJ* Index will continue to be published as soon as possible after each year's data become available.

For more on how the stars realigned, what makes star libraries tick, and how public libraries across the United States are using the *LJ* Index to improve their services, access full coverage of the new round of America's Star Libraries and the entire *LJ* Index at www.LibraryJournal.com/ljindex2009x and in the November 15 issue of *LJ*.

About *Library Journal*

In its 133rd year of publication, *Library Journal* is the oldest and most respected publication covering the library field, read by over 100,000 library directors, administrators, and staff. *LJ* is published by Reed Business Information (www.reedbusiness.com/us), North America's largest business-to-business information provider and part of Reed Elsevier (NYSE: RUK and ENL).

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