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***Library Journal* Names 2011 America's Star Libraries
A Record Number of Libraries Rated and Starred in the Latest Round of the *LJ* Index of
Public Library Service**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York, NY, October 31, 2011—*Library Journal* has named the newest group of America's Star Libraries, as rated by the *LJ* Index of Public Library Service, a national rating of public libraries. The *LJ* Index, sponsored by Baker & Taylor's Bibliostat, ranks libraries against peer libraries based on four measures of what they deliver to their communities. It also provides guidance on how all public libraries can better assess and improve service to their users. America's Star Libraries 2011 identifies a record-setting 262 libraries—due to seven instances of ties—that are delivering exceptional levels of service despite economic hardships. Overall, the *LJ* Index 2011 scores not just the Star Libraries but 7,513 public libraries—up from 7,407 in the last round—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 uses. The top libraries are assigned five, four, or three Michelin Guide–like stars.

There are Star Libraries in 39 states, including two not represented in the 2010 round: North Carolina and Idaho. The *LJ* Index groups libraries by yearly operating expenditures. That's why not every state is represented every year, and states that include fewer libraries, fewer and smaller metropolitan areas, and more and smaller rural communities may appear less frequently. This year's Index assigns stars to 67 new or returning libraries that did not make the list last year, including Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, NC; Oneida County District Library, ID; Boyden PL, IA; Tri-Community Library, TX; Sand Point Community/School Library, AK; Lamont Memorial Free Library, NY; Cordova District Library, IL; Grand Valley PL, OH; Southwest Harbor PL, ME; Wagnalls Memorial Library, OH; Shelter Island PL, NY; Vail PL, CO; North Kansas City PL, MO; Mattituck-Laurel Library, NY; Kansas City, Kansas PL, KS; Cleveland Heights-University Heights PL, OH; Salt Lake City PL; UT; and Howard County Library, MD.

This fourth edition of the *LJ* Index is based on 2009 data released by the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) in July. Collected during the last official year of the Great Recession, which began in December 2007, it shows that, while nationwide branch closures and reduced hours and staffing have hit libraries hard, they continue to provide and even expand services to their communities. In fact, per capita statistics for circulation and visits have increased steadily from year to year, while those for public Internet use and program attendance have increased only modestly or remained static.

For a more detailed discussion of these issues, highlights of some star libraries, factors that made a difference for the libraries that achieved star status, a state-by-state view of the stars, and

ratings for all 7,513 public libraries included in the *LJ* Index, go to the full coverage of America's Star Libraries and the entire *LJ* Index at [Library Journal Index](#)

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Founded in 1876, *Library Journal* is one of the oldest and most respected publications covering the library field. Over 100,000 library directors, administrators, and staff in public, academic, and special libraries read *LJ*. *Library Journal* reviews over 8,000 books, audiobooks, videos, databases, and Web sites annually, and provides coverage of technology, management, policy, and other professional concerns. For more information, visit www.libraryjournal.com. *Library Journal* is a publication of Media Source Inc., which also owns *School Library Journal*, *The Horn Book Magazine*, and Junior Library Guild.