

# M E M O

Date: January 3, 2012

To: Chairman Stephen Albers and Members of the Board of Trustees

From: Georgia Lomax, Deputy Director

Subject: 2011 Library Journal Star Library statistical report

Attached is the annual *Library Journal* article announcing the 2011 “Star Libraries”. For the past four years the publication has scored public libraries on four measurements that are gathered annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Libraries are divided into categories based on the size of their budget. The top 15 libraries in each category earn three, four or five stars. The 2011 report is based on 2009 data.

This year three libraries in Washington State received stars – Seattle Public (5 stars in the \$30 million+ category), Lopez Island (4 stars in the \$200K-\$399.9K category) and Port Townsend (3 stars in the \$400K-\$999.9K category). PCLS is in the \$30M+ category, along with 48 libraries from around the country. Only one other Washington library was in this category – Seattle Public.

There were a total of 9,221 public libraries in 2009, 7,513 of them provided data, and only those libraries that provided all four measurements were rated. (The report does not indicate the actual number of libraries ranked.) Forty five of Washington’s 64 public libraries were included in the rankings this year.

The Library Journal Stars report is one of a number of reports we follow to assess trends and progress as it provides services to its communities. Much of this year’s article is about the index itself. I think you would find the section that starts on page 30, headed “Year-to-year change”, as the most useful or interesting to read.

In 2009, the Library continued to implement the Levy promises with a focus on computers for the public. 145 Public Internet workstations were added to the existing 239, providing a total of 384 available to the public by the end of the year. PCLS averaged 23 computers per location, well above the national average of 14 per location, and the Washington average of 16. We were right on the norm when evaluating the number of public PCs available per 5,000 persons:

PCLS = 4 per 5,000,

All Washington public libraries = 4 per 5,000,

Public libraries nationally = 3.9 per 5,000.

In addition to the article, I've also attached a summary chart of the 16 libraries in our budget category that earned stars, as well as six Washington libraries in the \$5M-\$9.9M category that were listed (but did not earn stars).

Here is a quick summary of how we stacked up against the average scores in our \$30M+ stars category, all public libraries nationwide, and all Washington public libraries:

	<b>Circ Per Capita</b>	<b>Visits Per Capita</b>	<b>Program Attendance Per Capita</b>	<b>PC Use Per Capita</b>
Stars \$30M+ Category Average	11	6	0.28	1.33
PCLS	14.1	4.8	0.19	1.2
All Public Libraries Average	8.1	5.4	*	1.2
All Washington Libraries	12.9	6.7	*	1.4

\*Not provided as per capita  
 Institute of Museums and Libraries *Public Libraries Survey Fiscal Year 2009* (June 2011)

**Library Journal Index of Public Library Service 2011 (Star Libraries)**  
(Based on 2009 Data)

Expenditure	Stars	Library	State	Circ *	Visits*	Program Attendance*	PC Use*	Score
\$30M+	5	Cuyahoga County Public Library, Parma	OH	33.4	13.4	0.6	3.4	1808
\$30M+	5	Multnomah County Library, Portland	OR	30	7.2	0.5	1.2	1052
\$30M+	4	Santa Clara County Library, Los Gatos	CA	26.6	8.4	0.3	1.1	935
\$30M+	5	Columbus Metropolitan Library	OH	19.6	9.7	0.5	2.6	1189
\$30M+	4	Public Library of Cincinnati And Hamilton County	OH	19.2	7.2	0.4	2.6	921
\$30M+	4	Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library	IN	20.6	7.2	0.4	2.5	1067
\$30M+	5	Seattle Public Library	WA	19.8	12.1	0.3	2.9	1223
\$30M+	3	Charlotte Mecklenburg Library	NC	8.3	7.2	0.4	1.6	769
\$30M+	3	Denver Public Library	CO	15.8	6.6	0.3	1.9	800
\$30M+	4	San Jose Public Library	CA	15.2	8.1	0.3	2.3	928
\$30M+	4	Toledo-Lucas County Public Library	OH	15.9	8.2	0.3	2.6	921
\$30M+	5	Cleveland Public Library	OH	15.4	9.3	0.4	2.5	1067
\$30M+	3	Hennepin County Library	MN	14.9	5	0.2	2.5	713 (tie)
\$30M+	3	San Francisco Public Library	CA	11.4	7.5	0.4	1.7	804
\$30M+	3	Ocean County Library, Toms River	NJ	9.2	7	0.5	1	713 (tie)
\$30M+	3	Consolidated Library District No. 3, Independence	MO	13.8	7	0.5	0.2	675
\$30M+	--	Pierce County Library System	WA	14.1	4.8	0.2	1.2	497
\$5M-\$9.9M	--	Whatcom County	WA	13.4	7.4	0.3	1.1	554
\$5M-\$9.9M	--	Spokane County	WA	9.3	5.3	0.2	1	428
\$5M-\$9.9M	--	Spokane Public	WA	9.8	4.5	0.2	0.9	402
\$5M-\$9.9M	--	North Central Regional	WA	7.6	4	0.2	1.2	401
\$5M-\$9.9M	--	Yakima Valley Regional	WA	3.8	3.6	0.1	0.7	279
\$5M-\$9.9M	--	Mid-Columbia Public	WA	8.5	9.1	0.5	1.1	615

\*Per Capita

Washington Libraries not included in 2011 LJ Stars rankings:

- Fort Vancouver
- Kitsap Regional
- King County
- Tacoma Public
- Sno-Isle Regional
- Bellingham Public
- Puyallup Public
- Timberland Regional