

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Washington-Centerville Library**

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**DATE:** 12/10/2020

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**Library Once Again Rated 5 Star**

For a fourth year running, Washington-Centerville Public Library has been named a 5-Star Library in Library Journal's Index of Public Library Service. "In a year when it feels like good news is rare, we are delighted to learn our Library has been recognized as one of the best in the nation once again," says Liz Fultz, Library Director.

While this 5-Star rating is based on 2018 data, the hallmarks of what makes a nationally ranked public library were never more tested than in 2020. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Washington-Centerville Public Library implemented safety measures and adapted services to continue to provide value and meet the needs of the community. Digital circulation skyrocketed as citizens staying at home discovered the Library's robust collection of eBooks, eAudios, eZines and eVideo. Popular programs such as Summer Reading Club, storytime and book discussions were redesigned to allow participation virtually. Curbside Hold Pickup was launched to give citizens a safe option for picking up physical materials and HelpNow, an online live tutoring service, helped support remote learners. "Star ratings are nice, but what really makes our Library shine is the commitment of our staff and Board of Trustees to consistently serve our community in an exceptional way, even when faced with big obstacles," comments Ms. Fultz.

The Index of Public Library Service rates libraries based on their performance as compared to their 'spending peers', or libraries with similar operating expenditures. Performance is measured and points are awarded in the areas of physical and digital circulation, library visits, program attendance, public internet use, WiFi sessions and use of online content like research databases. The number of stars a library receives is determined by the total number of points earned in each area.

Over the past 11 years, the Washington-Centerville Public Library has been rated 5-Star on eight occasions. "Consistently high ratings in the LJ Index are a direct result of

the unwavering support of local taxpayers, avid library users, and our committed and creative library staff. Being a 5-Star Library is an accolade we can all take pride in, because it takes the whole community to achieve this honor,” says Ms. Fultz.

Overall, 31 Ohio libraries were recognized as Star Libraries with Washington-Centerville Public Library and Wright Memorial Public Library, the only libraries locally to be named 5 Star. “Earning a 5-star *Library Journal* Index Rating reflects Washington-Centerville Public Library’s steadfast commitment to serving to the Centerville community. The true impact of a library is told in many ways. In two years when we look back at the statistics for 2020, it will be with remembrance of how Washington-Centerville Public Library responded with customer focused resilience to unequalled challenges brought on by the pandemic,” says Wendy Knapp, State Librarian.

For more information on Washington-Centerville Public Library, contact the library at 433-8091 or visit [wclibrary.info](http://wclibrary.info).

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