



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office
201 East Colfax Ave.
Room 103
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-866-3898
Fax: 303-866-6938

Feb. 19, 2009

News Release

Seven Colorado Public Libraries Recognized as “Star Libraries”

The Library Journal Index of Public Library Service this week recognized seven Colorado public libraries on its 2009 list of “America’s Star Libraries.”

The seven are Boulder Public Library, Douglas County Libraries, Fleming Community Library, La Veta Regional Library District, Pitkin County Library, San Miguel Library District #1/Telluride and Vail Public Library.

“Libraries throughout the state are important partners in helping residents cope with economic, employment and education interests. It is an honor to have these libraries recognized in this new national rating system,” said Eugene Hainer, executive director of the State Library. “The State Library commends the boards, directors and staff for their ongoing efforts to bring exemplary library services to each of these communities.”

The LJ Index of Public Library Service is a new public library national rating system. The data used for the index is taken from the Colorado Public Library Annual Report collected by the Library Research Service at the State Library. All 50 state library agencies do similar collections and send the data to the Institute of Museum and Library Services where it is incorporated into the national public library data collection.

The LJ Index rates U.S. public libraries with total expenditures of \$10,000 or more and that serve populations of at least 1,000. Ratings are based on four per-capita service indicators: library visits,

circulation, program attendance and public Internet computer uses. Libraries must report all four statistical indicators to receive an LJ Index score.

LJ Index ratings divide libraries into nine peer comparison groups based on total operating expenditures. Within each group the highest scoring libraries are recognized using five-star, four-star, and three-star designations. Each star-rating group contains 10 libraries, except for the \$30 million and above group for which each star-rating contains five libraries. Star ratings are based on index scores.

Libraries are evaluated on each service indicator relative to the performance of other libraries in their peer group. The scoring compares each library's four indicators to the peer group average for that indicator. The four indicators all receive equal weighting.

The LJ Index is offered as an overall indication of a library's service performance relative to peer libraries. The statistical data LJ Index uses do not report the quality of services provided. Libraries should use LJ Index ratings in tandem with locally developed performance data.

All U.S. public libraries meeting the criteria outlined above have earned LJ Index scores. These scores and related information can be found on the LJ Web site at <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6629180.html>.

If you have questions regarding "America's Star Libraries" or would like more information on the State Library, contact Eugene Hainer at 303-866-6733 or e-mail hainer_e@cde.state.co.us.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

#