



THE
PUBLIC
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and
Hamilton County

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Press Release

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Cincinnati's Public Library Ranked Among Best in the Nation

For the third consecutive year, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County has been ranked nationally among the 10 best public libraries in the over 500,000 population category by the Hennen's American Public Library Ratings. There are 79 libraries in the country serving a population of more than 500,000.

Hennen's American Public Library Ratings (HAPLR) are compiled each year by Thomas J. Hennen, Jr., Director of the Waukesha County Federated Library System in Wisconsin. Hennen lists the top ranked 10 libraries in each of 10 population categories. These 100 public libraries are widely considered to be the best libraries in the country. Hennen's recently released ratings are based on fiscal year 2005 data for most of the participating libraries and compares data reported by more than 9,000 libraries across the country.

Hennen's Ratings are based on such statistics as circulation of materials, customer visits per hour, and number of volumes owned per capita. The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is one of the most-used library systems in the country and annually presents more than 14,000 free programs. It includes the Main Library, the Outreach Services Department, and 40 branch libraries located conveniently throughout Hamilton County. In 2007, the Public Library served nearly 4.3 million customers, answered 1.6 million reference questions, and loaned out almost 15 million books as well as other informational, educational, and recreational materials – all at no charge.

“We are delighted to receive this national recognition of our excellence,” said Executive Director Kimber L. Fender. “While this ranking is based on statistical comparisons, our Library is much more than the number of items on the shelves. It is made up of a staff of librarians striving to open doors for everyone by providing a place of opportunity for lifelong learning without limits – from instilling in children a love of reading and providing tutoring help, to directing entrepreneurs to important business information and sharing great reads with seniors. Every day our staff makes a difference in people's lives.”

✓ For more information about your Public Library, including how it is funded, visit <http://www.cincinnatiLibrary.org>.