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NEWS RELEASE

December 6, 2017

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Elmhurst Public Library Receives Five-Star Status

Elmhurst, IL – Elmhurst Public Library received a five-star rating in a national ranking of *Library Journal's* annual review of public libraries. This year, the Library earned five out of five stars, one of only six libraries to earn that distinction in Illinois. A total of 7,409 public libraries were rated nationwide and only 259 qualified as star libraries.

Previously, Elmhurst Public Library was awarded three- and four-star rankings for seven consecutive years. This is the first year for the Library to receive the coveted five-star rating.

Library Director Mary Beth Harper says, "Receiving this award is especially satisfying because it took the combined efforts of the Elmhurst community, Library Board, and EPL staff to make this possible. Our smart, flexible, and efficient staff, coupled with the support of our community is what makes the Library fantastic."

Library Journal reviews public library data reported to the government—visits, checkouts, program attendance, digital materials, and public computer use per capita—and ranks the best performing libraries within budget categories. Elmhurst Public Library placed in the top ten nationwide and 1st in Illinois in the \$5-9.9M category, with notably high visits and checkouts per capita.

In an article published with the rankings, *Library Journal* explores the star libraries across the nation. For top libraries like Elmhurst Public Library, the two longest established per capita measures—circulation and visits—continue to establish libraries with star ratings. The best libraries also have welcoming

facilities with well-targeted programs, and collections with range and depth. Technology is also an important factor affecting scores.

For more information about Elmhurst Public Library's five-star status and the full article from *Library Journal*, visit elmlib.org/stars.

Elmhurst Public Library enriches life in Elmhurst by providing opportunities to connect, create, and explore. EPL provides the support, resources, and environment for Elmhurst patrons to: pursue a love of reading; access information; explore interests; engage with technology; connect with others; and create and innovate. Elmhurst Public Library is the place for discovery at the heart of the community.