

## *News Release*

**CONTACT:** Theresa Wiseman

**PHONE:** 410-960-0230

*For Immediate Release*

### **HARFORD COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY NAMED ONE OF AMERICA'S STAR LIBRARIES**

**Belcamp, Md., November 24, 2014** -- For the sixth time, Harford County Public Library was named one of America's Star Libraries, one of only three systems in Maryland to receive the honor in 2014. The recognition was announced in the seventh edition of the *Library Journal* Index of Public Library Service, sponsored by Baker & Taylor's Bibliostat.

The *LJ* Index is a measurement tool that compares U.S. public libraries with their spending peers based on four types of output measures—library visits, circulation, program attendance and public Internet computer use.

The rating system was designed to recognize and promote public libraries, improve the pool of national collected library statistics and encourage library self-evaluation. The ratings are based on annual data reported by public libraries to their state library agencies and compiled by the national Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Joining Harford County Public Library in receiving the honor in Maryland in 2014 were public libraries in Carroll County and Howard County. Approximately 255 libraries across the country were designated as America's Star Libraries.

“What an honor it is to be recognized as a ‘star library’ for the sixth time,” said Mary Hastler, CEO of Harford County Public Library. “We work very hard to provide

the best possible library experience for all our customers, from providing the newest books to engaging classes for children and adults to offering the latest technology.”

For more information about the awards, visit [libraryjournal.com](http://libraryjournal.com).

Harford County Public Library operates 11 branches located throughout the county. The library serves more than 187,000 registered borrowers of all ages and has an annual circulation of more than 4.4 million. Harford County Public Library is committed to connecting people with information and promoting the love of reading within the community. More information may be found at [hcplonline.org](http://hcplonline.org).

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