



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

PRESS RELEASE

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Public Library jumps three spots to become second busiest in U.S.

Hamilton County is now home to the second busiest public library in the United States.

The 2017 Public Library Data Service (PLDS) statistical report shows cardholders of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County checked out more than 21.2 million items in 2016, making the Library the second busiest system in the United States,* second only to the New York Public Library. Hamilton County residents checked out 2.5 million more items in 2016 than in 2015, when the Library was the fifth busiest in the country.

The report is published each year by the Public Library Association, the largest division of the American Library Association. The 2017 PLDS report is based on survey responses collected from more than 2800 public libraries in the United States and Canada for fiscal year 2016.

The increase in circulation is due in part to new convenience-focused services. Hot Authors lets a cardholder add their name automatically to a holds list for new print and digital books from their favorite authors. Hot Tickets lets a cardholder add their name to the holds list for new release DVDs. Book Hookup sends three personalized reading recommendations to cardholders based on their reading interests. The CD of the Month Club sends personal music recommendation. The Library was named as a Top Innovator of 2016 by the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) for these services.

“Our goal was to make it easier than ever for our cardholders to check out the items they want when they want them,” said Kimber L. Fender, the Eva Jane Romaine Coombe Director of the Library. “Clearly, demand for Library use continues to rise and our staff will work every day to meet it.”

**The PLDS does not rank libraries. Rankings were calculated locally based on data from the survey.*

About The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County is one of the oldest, largest, and busiest libraries in the United States, serving a population of over 800,000 with a collection of more than 9 million items. In support of its mission of connecting people with the world of ideas and information, the Library also offers a wide variety of services and more than 20,000 free programs each year. For more information, visit CincinnatiLibrary.org.