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Survey says: Elmhurst library is top-rate

BY CHERYL MOORE

Elmhurst Public Library

For the first time, Elmhurst Public Library has been named one of the top five public libraries nationwide according to the 2008 Hennen's American Public Library Rating Index.

This is the third year in a row the library

has been nationally ranked in the top 10 by the index. The library was compared to 928 other public libraries across the country with similar populations.

In Illinois, the library is the top-rated library of the 67 in its population category of 25,000 to 50,000.

"The citizens of Elmhurst should be proud of this rating because it's a reflection of how

they value the library, use it and support it generously," said Marilyn Boria, director.

The index focuses on 15 factors, including circulation, staffing, materials, reference service and funding levels. It identifies the public libraries in America with the highest input and output measures. The HAPLR Index uses six input and nine output measures. Scores for each library within

a population category are added to develop a weighted score. The HAPLR Index is similar to an ACT or SAT score with a theoretical minimum of one and a maximum of 1,000, although most libraries score between 260 and 730. Elmhurst earned a score of 896.

"This recognizes libraries that do a good job," Boria said. For information, visit www.haplr-index.com.