

Two AZ Public Libraries receive 5 star rating

The Parker Public Library & Quartzsite Public Library received 5-star ratings, five Arizona libraries were awarded stars by the Library Journal. This year marks the first time Arizona has achieved a five-star library, let alone two!

Library Journal's national rating of public libraries identifies "star" libraries. Overall, it rates 7,268 public libraries. The top libraries in each group get five, four, or three stars. All included libraries, stars or not, can use their scores to learn from their peers, expand service to their communities, and improve library awareness and funding.

The Library Journal featured the Parker Public Library in a recent article called *Spotlight on Nine Stars*:



Parker Public Library, AZ (five stars)

In 2007, this library launched a variety of “visual and attitude” upgrades, says then-director **Jana White**. New exterior paint took the library from white to a variety of warm Southwestern colors, which helped with marketing and visibility. Inside, the library debuted themed rooms: a Teen Paradise, Kid's Book Jungle, Reading Retreat, and Lifelong Learning Center.

Additional public computers and a self-checkout system were added. How to sustain positive momentum on a tight budget? According to White, get out of the library and into the community. Fairs, football games, any community event is an opportunity.

Four other Arizona Libraries were highly rated; the Pima Public Library also received 5 stars, the Page Public Library and the Quartzsite Public Library received 4 stars while the Larson Memorial Public Library in Pinetop-Lakeside received 3 stars.