



21 August 2017

TO: RAILS Board of Directors

FROM: Dee Brennan

SUBJECT: Executive Director Report – August, 2017

Resource Sharing

Consortial Model Working Group

This working group, which is a subgroup of the Consortia Committee, approved recommendations that will help guide future funding of consortia and achieving the goals of equity, sustainability and stewardship. These recommendations will be presented to the Consortia Committee at its meeting October 16.

Membership Standards

A group of RAILS staff (Dee Brennan, Joe Filapek, Amanda Musacchio, Jane Plass and Veronda Pitchford) met to discuss next steps for implementation of the standards. We are planning site visits to libraries that do not meet some of the proposed standards; identifying libraries to participate in a test of the standards; and developing a checklist which will be the easy mechanism for libraries to report their achievement of specific standards.

Access to Information

Dave Barry, Veronda, Jane and I attended a second discussion on the unserved at the Illinois State Library on August 17. Harriet Zipfel also attended in Galesburg, and several other staff attended at Burr Ridge. Many ideas were discussed including the following:

- The staff at the State Library are preparing an FAQ that will help to explain the different aspects of resident and non resident cards.
- The State Library may offer limited library services to unserved residents.

- A group of libraries in the Effingham area have created a service called “Readers Bridge” which encourages donations to fund library cards at libraries for unserved residents.
- RAILS and IHLS will survey community colleges about services they offer to unserved residents.
- Warren County is interested in being a test site for serving the unserved.
- IHLS will explore the possibility of a low tech bookmobile, using a camper and a hotspot.

ITBOC staff from Burr Ridge and East Peoria met in Burr Ridge on August 11. We had a continental breakfast with them, thanked them again for all their hard work and dedication and then they enjoyed a delicious lunch at Giordano’s.

Member Engagement

I visited the Moline Public Library on August 18 and met with Dee Runnels and library director Bryon Lear. We discussed membership standards, RAILS services, RAILS relationship with LLSAPs, and other system priorities.

Organizational Excellence

As Harriet Zipfel is retiring in October, we put out a call for volunteers to fill the remaining year of Harriet’s term (at large member). We have received an astonishing 24 applications!

Stewardship

Construction in Burr Ridge is pretty much on schedule. There has been a delay in receiving the bathroom tiles so the project will not be completed until after September 1.