



Reaching Across Illinois Library System

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TO: RAILS Consortia Committee

FROM: Jane Plass

ABOUT: Consortia Committee Charge

Kate Hall, RAILS Board President, has asked all chairpersons of RAILS committees to review committee charges with RAILS staff. After reviewing the Consortia Committee charge, we've identified several issues that should be addressed. These include:

- Specific consortia are listed. These will change in 2018 when LINC and MAGIC consolidate with SWAN. Should the list of consortia be omitted entirely?
- Voting procedures and the quorum definition are not spelled out. Should these be per person or per consortium?
- Turnover has been a problem in the last year or two. Some of this is unavoidable due to people changing jobs, but a lot is due to new officers in the consortia even though we don't require that the representatives be officers. It would be better to have specific terms—ideally staggered terms to provide more continuity.
- The charge states that the director of the Illinois State Library is an ex officio member, but this position has been vacant since July 2016. It would be better to have more flexibility in ISL's representation.
- Several bullet points in the charge address resource sharing in general, which is broader than resource sharing within and among consortia. RAILS currently has no formal structure for engaging other stakeholders in discussions about resource sharing.

We'll discuss the charge at the October 16 meeting and look forward to your feedback and suggestions on these issues and the charge in general.

RAILS Consortia Committee

Membership

The RAILS Consortia Committee is comprised of two members of the RAILS board and up to two representatives from each shared catalog or interlibrary loan consortium within RAILS that chooses to participate. Consortia invited to participate include:

- Cooperative Computer Services (CCS)
- I-Share
- Library Integrated Network Consortium (LINC)
- LINKin
- Multitype Automation Group in Cooperation (MAGIC)
- Northern Illinois Cooperative (NIC)
- Pinnacle Library Cooperative (PLC)
- PrairieCat
- Resource Sharing Alliance NFP (RSA-NFP)
- Rock River Library Consortium (RRLC)
- System Wide Automated Network (SWAN)

The RAILS Board President shall annually appoint the two members from the RAILS board, one of whom shall serve as the committee's chair. Each consortium shall annually designate one or two representatives to the committee. Each consortium may also designate an alternate representative, but the alternate may only vote when one of the primary representatives is absent. New representatives are seated at the first meeting after the beginning of the RAILS fiscal year in July. Interim appointments may be made when necessary to fill vacant seats.

Ex officio members include the RAILS Board President; RAILS Executive Director; RAILS Associate Executive Director; RAILS Director, Technology Services; Director of the Illinois State Library; and Executive Director of the Illinois Heartland Library System.

Charge

The committee will investigate and recommend ways to improve and increase consortial resource sharing in Illinois, particularly among member libraries in RAILS, to provide the best library services to Illinois residents and optimize the use of tax dollars. This includes:

- Serving as a means of communication among RAILS and its consortia
- Establishing a shared understanding of the benefits of resource sharing for Illinois libraries and residents
- Investigating best practices in resource sharing in Illinois and other states and developing core philosophies and practices that will facilitate resource sharing

- Identifying current barriers to resource sharing and developing a plan to overcome them
- Making recommendations on how RAILS can support consortia to ensure continuity of services, enhance services to consortial members, make membership more affordable, promote the advantages of consortial membership, and foster cost-effective resource sharing among Illinois libraries
- Creating and overseeing working groups as needed on specific topics. These may include, but are not limited to:
 - The RAILS discovery and fulfillment overlay project
 - Collaborative approaches to shared needs, such as cataloging, training, and documentation
 - Costs and benefits of multiple integrated library system platforms
 - Governance models for collaborative projects
 - Financial models for collaborative projects and for RAILS allocation of support to LLSAPs
 - Methods of meeting the diverse resource sharing needs of different types of libraries

Working Groups

After the Consortia Committee determines the need for a working group, the committee shall develop and approve a charge for the working group that includes guidelines for membership and the time period. Working group membership need not be limited to Consortia Committee members and need not include representatives from all consortia. Representatives from libraries with standalone integrated library systems may be included when needed based on the working group's charge. RAILS will be represented by at least one ex officio member.

The Consortia Committee chairperson will appoint working group members and designate the group's chairperson. Members serve for the entire period of the working group.