RAILS Consortial Model Working Group Recommendations

Recommendations overview

- PrairieCat, RSA, and SWAN will receive the same funding level in FY2019 as each is getting in FY2018. If desired, they will also receive the same in-kind services from RAILS.
- No RAILS grants for joining LLSAPs in FY2018
- During FY2018, RAILS will develop an annual grant-based program for distributing financial support to consortia that will ensure equity, sustainability, and stewardship of state funds.
- In FY2019, any RAILS shared catalog consortium may apply for a RAILS support grant, including providing information/data about the consortium's and member library resource sharing activities and financial need.
- Beginning in FY2020, RAILS financial support for consortia that wish to receive financial support from RAILS will be an annual grant. An application will be developed that will provide information about consortial resource sharing activities and financial needs of libraries and ability to pay. Financial support will be allocated based on the information received, using criteria that will be developed.

Action steps

We expect that additional action steps will emerge as work progresses.

FY2018

During FY2018, RAILS will work with stakeholders on the following topics:

- Definitions of resource sharing and levels of service
- Pricing guidelines for all consortia
- Geographical boundaries for consortia
- Consortial mergers
- Overlay project
- Minimum levels of funding that libraries should have to sustain membership in a consortium
- Alternatives to OCLC, and to individual library membership in OCLC
- Use of the Cataloging Maintenance Center as alternative
- Application and timeline for annual RAILS support grant
- Future of all in-kind services for FY2020 and beyond

PrairieCat, RSA, and SWAN will be required to develop a financial sustainability plan by June 30, 2018.

FY 2019

Consortia interested in RAILS support for FY2020 will compile required data and submit grant application by August 1, 2018.