

Analysis of RAILS Library Consortia

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Purpose

This overview examines the composition and activity of the 9 consortia in RAILS. This analysis will assist the RAILS Board Consortia Committee to better understand resource sharing entities within RAILS.

What are the Library Consortium in RAILS?

The library consortium in RAILS began forming in the mid-1970s. The growth of these groups was spurred by regional library systems and the Illinois State Library through dedicated personnel, equipment, operating facilities, and participation grants.

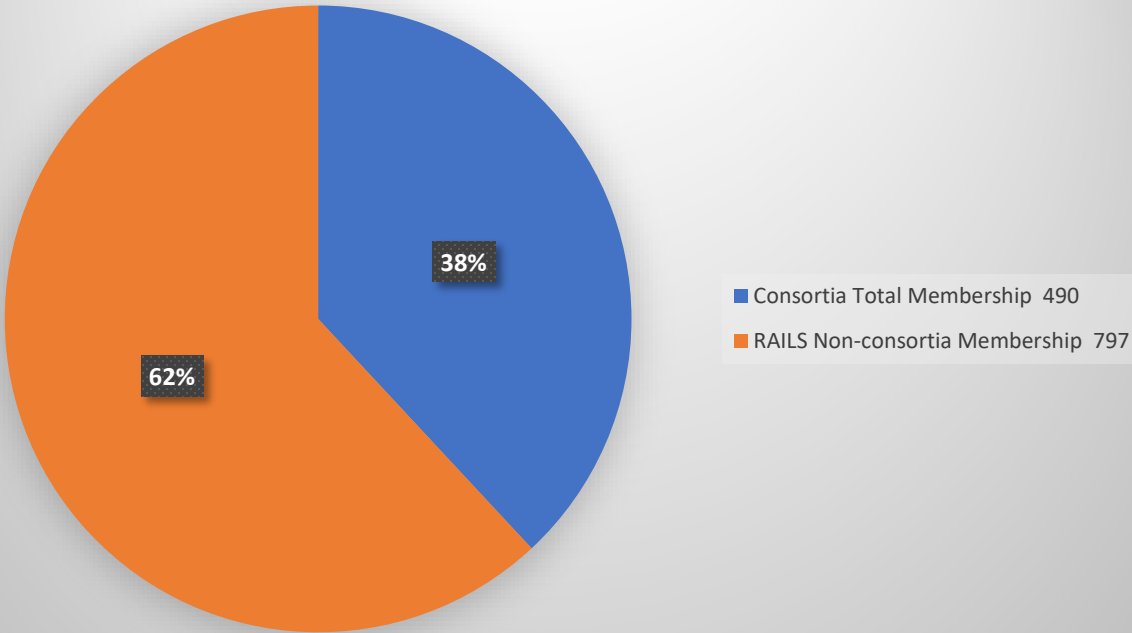
Consortia Breakdown ¹	Institutions	Academic	Public	Schools	Special
CCS	24		24		
ISHARE CARLI	66	66			
LINC	8		8		
MAGIC	11	1	8	1	1
NIC	9	9			
Pinnacle	6		6		
PrairieCat	136	1	93	40	2
Rock River Library Consortia	7		3	4	
RSA	145	4	93	46	2
SWAN	78	1	75		2
Total	490	82	310	91	7
RAILS Population Served²				7,857,307	
RAILS Population Served by Consortia³				4,997,002	63%
RAILS Unserved Population				1,000,000	13%
RAILS Population Served by Non-Consortia Libraries				2,860,305	24%
RAILS Consortia Population Breakdown					
CCS				889,665	11%
ISHARE				-	0%
LINC				222,104	3%
MAGIC				128,346	2%
NIC				241,553	3%
Pinnacle Library Cooperative				409,266	5%
PrairieCat				871,923	11%
Rock River Library Consortia				42,474	1%
RSA				696,448	9%
SWAN				1,495,223	19%

¹ Gathered from RAILS member directory <https://www.railslibraries.info/membership/member-directory>

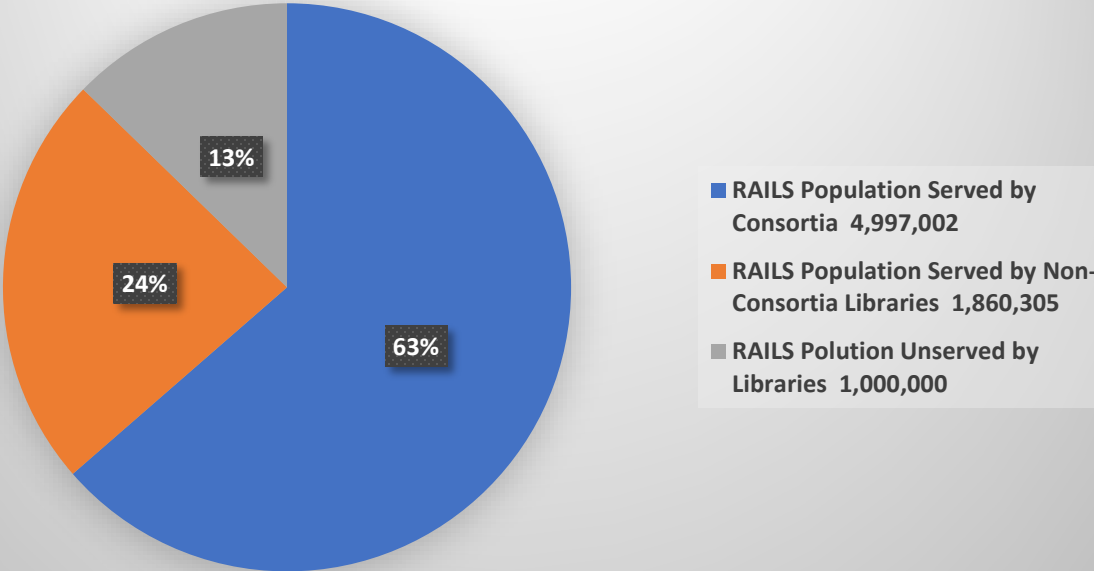
² Derived from Illinois total population, subtracting Heartland and Chicago Public Library

³ As reported via IPLAR 2015

RAILS 1,287 Libraries



RAILS Population Data 7,857,307 in Service Area



Summary: While RAILS consortium represents 38% of the total libraries in RAILS, it serves 63% of the population in RAILS.

What is Resource Sharing? An Overview

Illinois libraries provide patrons access to materials through two broad initiatives: inter-library lending, and reciprocal borrower access.

Inter-Library Loan



Definition: ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Code, Illinois State Library (2008) – Interlibrary loan is the process by which a library requests material from, or supplies material to, another library. The purpose of interlibrary loan is to obtain, upon request of a library user, material not available in the user's local library.

Reciprocal Borrowing



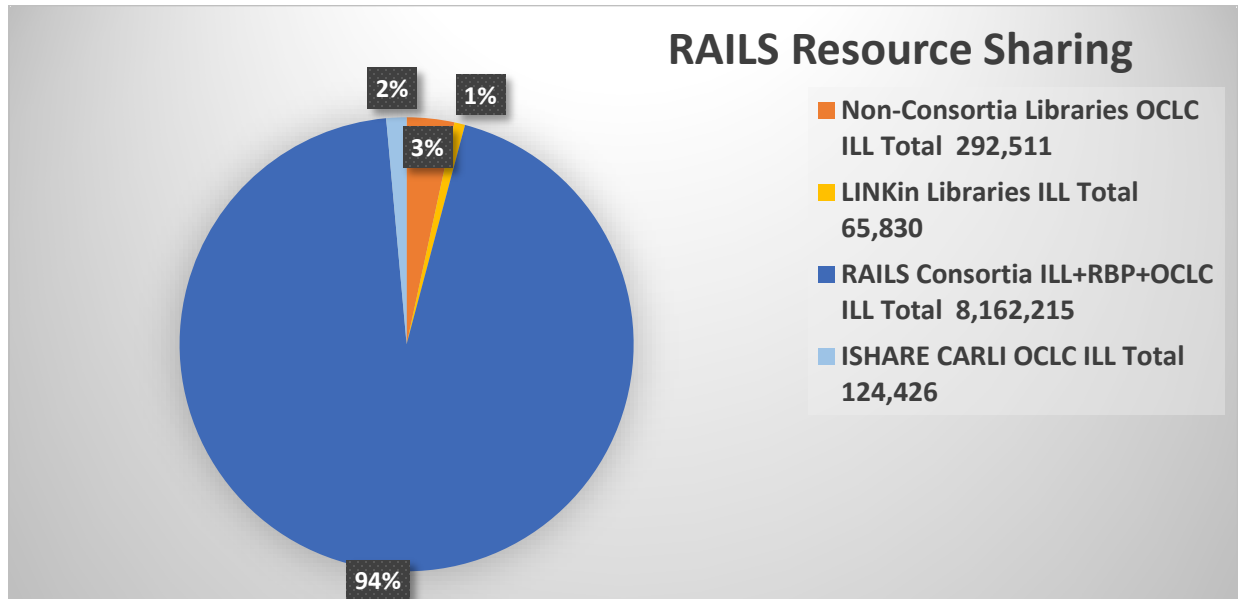
Definition: Reciprocal Borrowing is defined by RAILS and administrative code. Library consortia share single patron databases within their respective integrated library system software, which eases the reciprocal borrowing barriers for library users. Once a patron is registered within the consortium, it is in effect a library card that is immediately accepted within the consortium. See: (23 Ill. Admin. Code 3030.110), (23 Ill. Admin. Code 3030.215)



Summary: Resource sharing is a combination of reciprocal borrowing and ILL.

Library Resource Sharing in RAILS

The total amount of resource sharing in Illinois can be derived through counting the ILL and reciprocal borrowing totals. The Illinois State Library supports a statewide initiative to have as many academic, school, special, and public libraries participate in a union catalog provided through a contract with OCLC. Illinois libraries initiate ILL through this catalog. For the purposes of this analysis, intra-consortia ILL is considered as part of the total ILL.



RAILS Consortium	ILL	RBP	OCLC ILL	ILL + OCLC ILL + RBP	Percentage
CCS	765,000	595,000	64,062	1,424,062	17.2%
ISHARE	246,444	14,672	124,426	385,542	4.7%
LINC	235,770	145,725	22,734	404,229	4.9%
LINKin Libraries	65,830			65,830	0.8%
MAGIC	190,680	83,899	9,643	284,222	3.4%
NIC	74,536	29,814	6,222	110,572	1.3%
Pinnacle	12,668	63,748	8,605	85,021	1.0%
PrairieCat	628,963	776,272	20,558	1,425,793	17.2%
RSA	563,303	942,940	25,507	1,531,750	18.5%
Rock River			727	727	0.0%
SWAN	1,143,112	1,369,080	56,701	2,568,893	31.0%
Resource Sharing Totals	3,926,306	4,021,150	339,185	8,286,641	100%
Non-Consortia Libraries OCLC ILL Total				292,511	3.38%
LINKin Libraries ILL Total				65,830	0.76%
RAILS Consortia ILL+RBP+OCLC ILL Total				8,162,215	94.42%
ISHARE CARLI OCLC ILL Total				124,426	1.44%
RAILS Total Resource Sharing				8,644,982	100%

Summary: the consortium in RAILS are the major contributors to resource sharing, representing 94% of the annual total of resource sharing within RAILS.

What are LLSAP?

The “Local Library System Automation Program” is an official designation created by the Illinois State Library for library automation consortium affiliated with the regional library system. The LLSAP designation is defined through policy at the regional library system.

RAILS LLSAP definition—Revision approved by the Consortia Futures Subcommittee on November 9, 2015; by the Consortia Committee on January 18, 2016; and by the RAILS Board on January 22, 2016

RAILS LLSAP GOAL AND DEFINITION

Local Library System Automation Program (LLSAP) is a term used statewide and rooted in historical relationships between the regional library systems and consortia. 23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030 states: “Local Library System Automation Program means an integrated library system open to membership by full library system members of all types developed by or receiving financial or in kind support from a library system.”

The RAILS Board first approved a more detailed RAILS LLSAP definition on March 23, 2012, following work by the RAILS LLSAP Task Force. (The task force has since been replaced by the RAILS Consortia Committee.) The following revision was fully approved on January 22, 2016.

RAILS LLSAP SUPPORT GOAL

To foster resource sharing and make a library management system affordable for any interested member library, RAILS’ goal is to support shared catalog consortia in its service area. To enrich existing relationships while promoting collaborative ventures with new partners, the RAILS Board has approved this definition of LLSAPs (Local Library System Automation Programs):

RAILS LLSAP DEFINITION

Local Library System Automation Programs are shared library management systems that are supported by RAILS and that are open to membership by all types and sizes of RAILS member libraries. All LLSAPs affiliated with RAILS:

- 1) Support members whose primary service point is within the RAILS service area (Although non-RAILS members may belong to an LLSAP, they will not be included in allocation of RAILS support.)
- 2) Operate in a reciprocal contractual partnership with RAILS
- 3) Are supported by RAILS through in-kind and/or financial support
- 4) Maintain policies that broaden resource sharing throughout RAILS’ service area
- 5) Foster cooperation to support RAILS’ mission and to make library management systems affordable for every interested member library in RAILS, regardless of type or size
- 6) Work together to ensure the ability of all LLSAPs to meet the needs of their members, to increase the use of shared online catalogs by RAILS members, and to develop services that will further resource sharing throughout RAILS by providing staff, technical expertise, and assistance when needed

RAILS Funding of LLSAPs

The current arrangement within RAILS for the four-official designated LLSAPs is based on a formula where an amount of support dollars is contractually set with intergovernmental agreements with the four LLSAPs, and the cost of supporting those LLSAPs are deducted from the set amount. This arrangement results in MAGIC, PrairieCat, and RSA paying RAILS. The contractual arrangement with SWAN uses the same formula, but results in RAILS providing SWAN funds directly, as SWAN is not relying as much on RAILS services to operate (employees, facility, accountants, etc.).

FY18 LLSAP Support

The four RAILS LLSAP entered into a second three-year agreement starting in FY16. This agreement used a funding formula to allocate support between the four LLSAP consortia. RAILS tracks costs associated with LLSAP and resource sharing support. Should the LLSAP support expenses go above the amount pledged, the LLSAP would reimburse RAILS for the overage.

LLSAP FY18 (Contract FY16-FY18)	MAGIC	PrairieCat	RSA	SWAN	Totals
RAILS Support Dollars (Gross)	\$256,292	\$678,890	\$746,188	\$568,629	\$2,250,000
Total Amt of RAILS Support Expenses	(\$334,291)	(\$1,099,961)	(\$934,405)	(\$65,182)	(\$2,433,839)
Amt Either Paid to RAILS or to LLSAP	\$69,098 paid to RAILS annually	\$421,071 paid to RAILS annually	\$150,371 paid to RAILS annually	\$503,447 paid to SWAN annually	(\$503,447)
LLSAP Payments to RAILS	\$69,098.00	\$421,071.00	\$188,217.00	\$ -	\$678,386
RAILS FY18 Budget Expenses Total on LLSAP Support (Net)					(\$2,258,900)

Summary: RAILS set \$2.25 million in its FY18 budget for LLSAP support, which is the gross amount. RAILS is also receiving reimbursement revenue from the LLSAPs to offset some of its LLSAP support expenses, but the net result is \$2.25 million in FY18 support.

CARLI ILL & Reciprocal Borrowing⁴

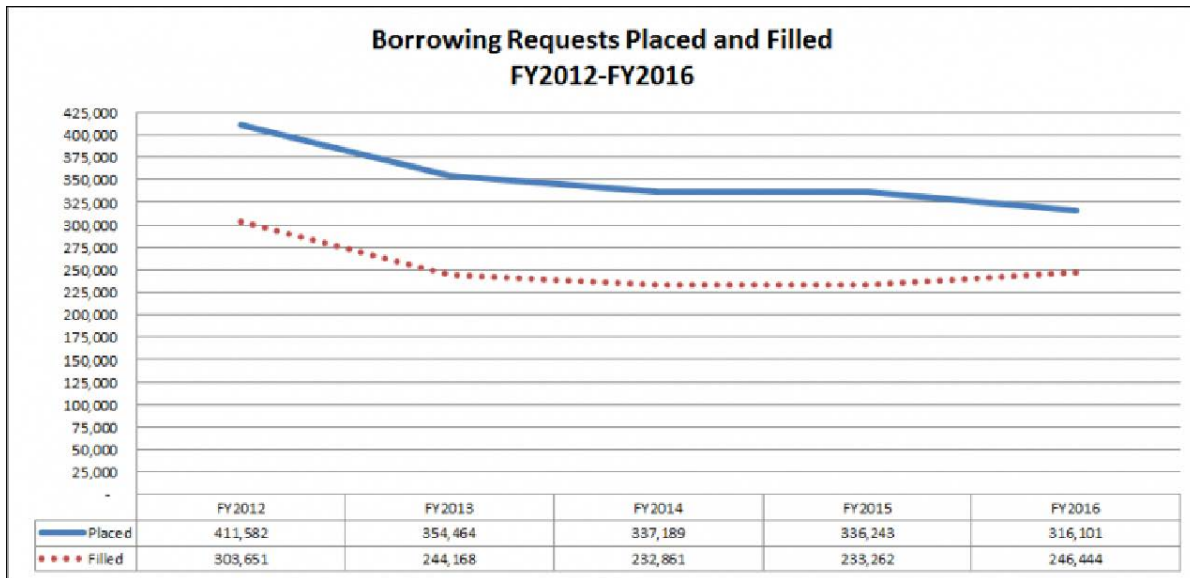
CARLI ILL

From FY2012 to FY2016 there was a 23% decrease in the borrowing requests placed at the 44 academic libraries in CARLI.

- Most notable is the significant decrease of 14% borrowing requests being placed from FY2012 to FY2013.
- From FY2013 through FY2016 the borrowing requests have remained relatively stable with an average decrease of 4% from year to year.

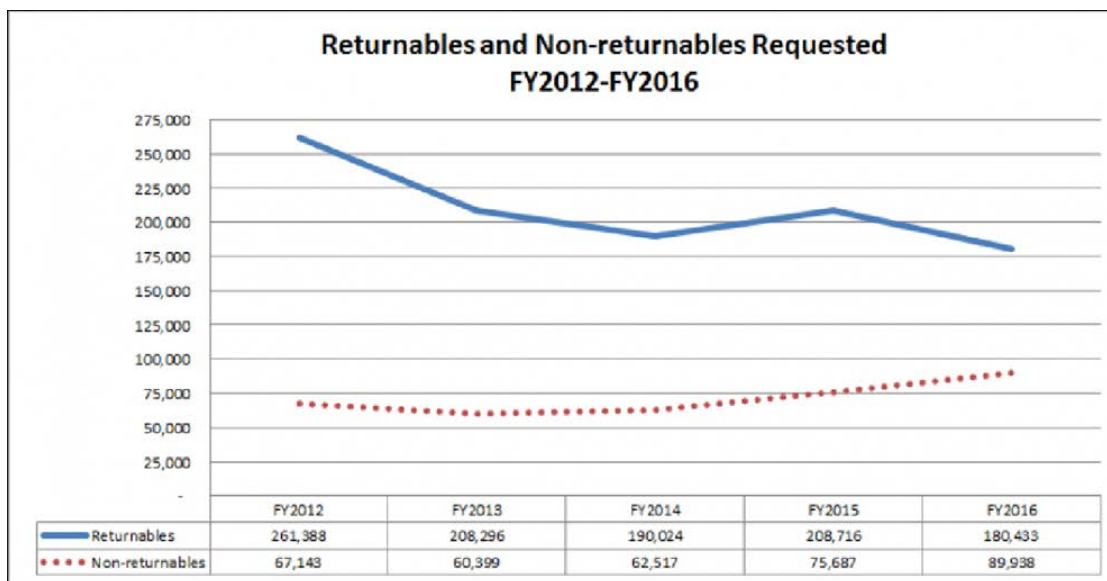
⁴ Information supplied by the 2017 CARLI Annual Report & Projects: Resource Sharing Committee
<https://www.carli.illinois.edu/sites/files/files/2017AnnualReportsandProjects.pdf>

- From FY2015 to FY2016, despite a 6% decrease in the number of requests placed, the percentage of requests filled increased 5%.



Information supplied by the 2017 CARLI Annual Report & Projects: Resource Sharing Committee

From FY2012 to FY2016 CARLI has experienced a 31% decrease in “returnable items” i.e. physical items, being borrowed, but there has been a 34% increase in number of “non-returnables” i.e. electronic versions being borrowed. CARLI’s *Resource Sharing Committee Annual Project: ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Traffic Survey Analysis: FY2012-FY2016* data shows that despite the decrease in returnables being requested and the increase in non-returnables being requested, returnable items are still the most requested type of items by library patrons in CARLI.



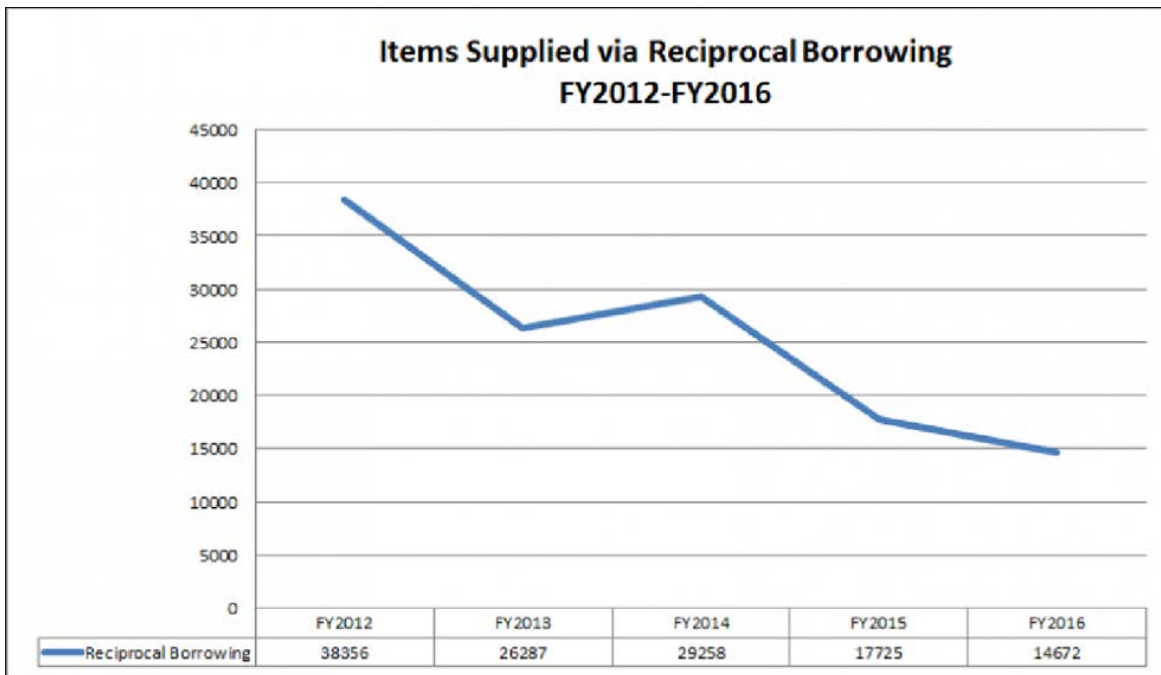
Information supplied by the 2017 CARLI Annual Report & Projects: Resource Sharing Committee

CARLI Reciprocal Borrowing

This can apply to a patron from one I-Share library visiting another I-Share library and borrowing materials, or if the academic library has a reciprocal borrowing agreement with the local public library or non-I-Share library.

[According to the report, some CARLI libraries may have misinterpreted the meaning of reciprocal borrowing to refer to the lending of materials through resource sharing agreements and not as the on-site borrowing of materials by patrons from another library; as a result, the numbers reported for reciprocal borrowing may not be fully accurate.]

From FY2012 to FY2016, items loaned via Reciprocal Borrowing from the 24 academic libraries that submitted data for all 5 years decreased by 62%.



Information supplied by the 2017 CARLI Annual Report & Projects: Resource Sharing Committee

Summary: Data collected from the academic libraries in CARLI I-SHARE shows ILL and reciprocal borrowing trending down. For the past five years ILL has decreased 19% and reciprocal borrowing has fallen 62%.

Summary

- While RAILS consortium represents 37% of the total libraries in RAILS, it serves 64% of the population in RAILS.
- Resource sharing is a combination of reciprocal borrowing and ILL. The consortium in RAILS are the major contributors to resource sharing, representing 94% of the annual total of resource sharing within RAILS.
- RAILS set \$2.25 million in its FY18 budget for LLSAP support, which is the gross amount. RAILS is also receiving reimbursement revenue from the LLSAPs to offset some of its LLSAP support expenses, but the net result is \$2.25 million in FY18 support.
- Data collected from the academic libraries in CARLI I-SHARE shows ILL and reciprocal borrowing trending down. For the past five years ILL has decreased 19% and reciprocal borrowing has fallen 62%.

Questions about this analysis? Have some ideas for future ones? Contact me!

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