

17 May 2018

TO: RAILS Board of Directors

FROM: Deirdre Brennan

SUBJECT: Strategic plan update

We have completed our data gathering for the strategic plan.

We want to write a plan that is action oriented and focused on how RAILS can anticipate and respond to member needs.

Identified needs can be broken down into these broad categories:

Help libraries optimize their resources through support for sharing materials; cooperative purchases that optimize available tax dollars; sharing expertise through continuing education and consulting to ensure libraries stay abreast of trends, innovations and issues in the library field

Help libraries understand the ever growing diversity of patrons and their needs and how to meet them by providing continuing education opportunities and through partnerships with experts on a variety of management and service issues

Help libraries to articulate their value to users, potential users, funders, elected officials, and other stakeholders and advocate for issues affecting libraries as appropriate and help libraries advocate for themselves.

Help libraries be the best they can be so that they will remain vital players in their organizations or communities.

Help libraries be resilient and prepared for the future and to respond to changes in the overall environment that affect library service. In addition to preparing our member libraries for the future, RAILS also helps to ensure the future of libraries and librarianship as a profession by preserving and advancing core professional values.

The next steps will be to craft these categories into a vision of success and goals and objectives delineating how to achieve the vision. I hope to have a more detailed document at the June meeting. I look forward to discussing these categories and how they resonate with the board at the meeting.