

RAILS Report

Find More Illinois

Find More Illinois has the potential to greatly expand resource sharing in Illinois by connecting the catalogs of consortia and standalone libraries that choose to participate. It may also serve as an online catalog for libraries unable to otherwise automate for financial or other reasons, and as a lower-cost alternative to OCLC.

The 21 libraries participating in the Find More Illinois pilot project have completed initial setup and two days of training. They began placing and filling staff-mediated interlibrary loan requests in April and were expected to introduce the program to their patrons sometime in May. (Timing of the May rollout was up to each individual library.)

Find More Illinois also now has a logo:



The Find More Illinois website at <https://findmoreillinois.org> has been redesigned to incorporate the new logo and its color scheme, and the Find More Illinois catalog search screen has also been rebranded.

The pilot program will continue through the summer. Everyone can search the Find More Illinois virtual catalog, but only patrons and staff from the 21 pilot libraries can place interlibrary loan requests. After the pilot, any interested library of any type (academic, public, school, and special) will be able to participate. The annual membership fee structure for future participation is still under development.

A demonstration of Find More Illinois will be planned for the September 10, 2018 meeting of the Resource Sharing Committee.

Delivery

The shipping labels automatically generated by the Find More Illinois software are acceptable substitutes for the standard RAILS delivery label and for the paper ILDS labels used by non-ILDS libraries. This saves library staff time and also increases sorting accuracy, as handwritten labels are not always legible and thus can result in delivery errors.

In FY2017 (July 2016–June 2017), RAILS delivery vehicles were driven an average of 17,188 miles/week. The wear and tear on vehicles adds up quickly at that rate. RAILS plans for vehicle replacements to ensure reliable delivery service to libraries. In May 2018, RAILS acquired three new Ford Transit cargo vans to replace high-mileage vehicles. Additional replacement vehicles are planned for FY2019.

RAILS has been working with the Laboratory for Applied Spatial Analysis (LASA) at Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville on a delivery study. RAILS and LASA staff met on May 30, 2018 to review visualizations of current delivery stops and various “what-if” scenarios. Further review is needed, but this study is expected to assist with increasing delivery efficiency and with planning for RAILS facility needs, which are closely tied to delivery needs.

BiblioBoard Library

Through RAILS’ partnership with BiblioLabs, any Illinois resident has access to thousands of e-resources free of charge and without needing a login or library card. This program is popular with member libraries and is one of the most asked-about services on member visits and at RAILS’ conference exhibit booths. As a result, we are always looking for ways to optimize our members’ use of this program.

On April 26, 2018, RAILS hosted a BiblioBoard Bingo and pizza party to help members create new ways to connect the different BiblioBoard collections to their current programs and events and to introduce library patrons to new indie titles and resources.

RAILS member libraries have asked for materials to help them promote the different BiblioBoard offerings to their customers. To meet this need, RAILS has added print and web-ready files for bookmarks, rack cards, and posters to the RAILS website at <https://www.railslibraries.info/services/biblioboard> under the heading: Program and Promotion Ideas/Marketing Collateral Files. We will add additional materials as they become available.

eRead Illinois

RAILS contracts with Baker & Taylor for the Axis 360 e-book platform for eRead Illinois. Baker & Taylor has been planning to move Axis 360 to the cloud. At the time of this writing, the migration is planned for June 2–3, 2018. Veronda Pitchford has worked with Baker & Taylor and other RAILS staff to assist with notifications to member libraries and consortia.

Explore More Illinois

Development of Explore More Illinois continues. Veronda Pitchford is working with museums and other cultural attractions to interest them in participating in the program. Other RAILS staff are working with staff of the shared catalog consortia on patron authentication setup. For more information about Explore More Illinois, see the RAILS website at <https://www.railslibraries.info/services/museum-pass>.