

RAILS Report

FY2019 LLSAP Support

In addition to providing a mix of financial and in-kind support to the historical RAILS LLSAPs (PrairieCat, RSA, and SWAN), RAILS offered “core services only” LLSAP support to other RAILS consortia for FY2019. Interested consortia that meet the LLSAP requirements were offered core LLSAP services: the use of RAILS meeting rooms, support for communication and collaboration (including a conference calling account), and the opportunity for prospective new member libraries to apply for LLSAP membership grants. Cooperative Computer Services, Pinnacle Library Cooperative, and Rock River Library Consortium applied, were accepted, and have each signed a FY2019 LLSAP agreement with RAILS.

FY2019 RAILS Catalog Membership Grants

After a hiatus in FY2018, RAILS is again offering catalog (LLSAP) membership grants in FY2019. There will be two formal award periods. Application deadlines are October 17, 2018 and April 17, 2019. In addition, RAILS has awarded grants to support the migration of the eight NIC libraries into PrairieCat. Six libraries (Cherry Valley Public Library District, Harvard Diggins Library, Ida Public Library in Belvidere, Nippersink Public Library District, North Suburban Public Library District in Loves Park and Roscoe, and Talcott Free Library District in Rockton), and PrairieCat applied for and received a total of \$182,955.10 in grant funding.

Consortial Staff In-service Day

The 2018 in-service day for consortial staff will be held on Friday, November 2, at Joliet Junior College from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The day will focus on topical discussions and presentations of projects of specific interest to consortial staff in Illinois. Registration is currently open in L2, and registration deadlines and other details will be sent shortly.

Cataloging Services Coordinator

RAILS has completed interviews for the new position of Cataloging Services Coordinator and expects to fill the position in early November. This person will be responsible for assessing and implementing the recommendations of the Cataloging Working Group, including the development of an ongoing basic cataloging skills curriculum for library staff, and developing other cataloging services for RAILS members.

Find More Illinois

The Find More Illinois expansion is off to a good start. The sign-up period for the first of three planned cohorts closed on October 1. RAILS expects seven libraries to be in the first cohort, assuming the timely receipt of the participation agreements and implementation data from the libraries. These include three RSA libraries, three PrairieCat libraries, and one library with a standalone Polaris system. One-day training sessions are scheduled for November 13 (RAILS East Peoria), November 14 (RAILS Coal Valley), and November 15 (RAILS Coal Valley). Libraries will go live as soon as they complete training.

The sign-up period for the second cohort opened on October 2 and runs through November 23, 2018. Two PrairieCat libraries have already signed up for this cohort. The schedule of remaining demonstrations in 2018 is available at <https://www.librarylearning.info/tags/?FMIdemo>, and information on the joining process is posted at <https://www.findmoreillinois.org/join>.

Consortia managers are informed when one of their member libraries decides to join Find More Illinois. RAILS appreciates the assistance of consortial staff in the implementation process. Most consortia will connect through Z39.50 and SIP2. RAILS is also working with SWAN, OpenAthens, and Auto-Graphics (the software vendor for Find More Illinois) to explore the use of OpenAthens for patron authentication.