

RAILS Report

FY2019 RAILS Catalog Membership Grants

The second and final application deadline for FY2019 grants is April 17, 2019. Anne Slaughter is preparing budget estimates for FY2020 grants. If you know of libraries that want to join your LLSAP in FY2020 (July 2019–June 2020) and have not yet let Anne know, please contact her at anne.slaughter@railslibraries.info or 630.734.5127 as soon as possible.

Annual Library Certification

Thanks to all consortial staff who assisted their libraries and RAILS with the required ILLINET ILL Traffic Survey and the annual certification process. Most RAILS members certified successfully, including all members of shared catalog consortia.

Membership Standards Data Collection

Many RAILS libraries have already completed the RAILS membership standards data collection form. However, to get as many responses as possible, we have extended the deadline to April 15, 2019.

Consortial staff may be asked for reports to help their libraries gather data. Collection is being done via a web form, but the form can be previewed in PDF format at <https://standards.railslibraries.info/special/StandardsFormPreview.pdf>.

RAILS Staffing Changes at Burr Ridge

RAILS has filled six open positions at the Burr Ridge office:

- Grant Halter began as Data Coordinator and Research Analyst on April 8. Grant will oversee data collection, analysis, and related research for and about libraries in Illinois and beyond to assist libraries, library systems, and other affiliated organizations in making informed decisions about services, resources, and developing trends or issues. Grant was previously the Data Analyst at Oak Park Public Library and is also working with SWAN.
- Anna Duff will begin as an Administrative Assistant on April 9. Stacy Palmisano will begin as an Administrative Assistant on April 15.
- Margae Schmidt and Diana Rusch will begin as Consulting and Continuing Education Specialists on April 15. Margae has worked at RAILS since 2014, first in the Illinois Talking Book Outreach Center and more recently as Administrative Assistant, and she also has previous library experience. Diana comes to RAILS from the Tinley Park Public Library, where she was the Adult Reference Librarian.
- Leila Heath will begin as Library Resources and Programs Manager on April 29. She will manage RAILS' cooperative purchasing and vendor discounts, work with Anna Behm (E-Content Specialist) on RAILS e-content programs (including BiblioBoard Library and the eRead Illinois Axis 360 collection), and oversee the RAILS Explore More Illinois program, which will connect libraries and their patrons with museums and other attractions. Leila has most recently worked as Head of Public Services at Warrenville Public Library District.

We welcome all our new staff and extend our congratulations to Margae.

Find More Illinois

Find More Illinois now includes 37 library agencies and connects 10 catalogs—the consortial catalogs of PrairieCat, RSA, and Rock River Library Consortium, as well as three I-Share library catalogs and four catalogs of libraries with standalone integrated library systems. The list of current participants can be found at <https://www.findmoreillinois.org/libraries>. Four more libraries are in the implementation process.

Auto-Graphics continues to work on developing patron authentication via OpenAthens (an identity and access management service) to meet SWAN's needs and is working on software development to support reciprocal borrowing (Patron Lookup functionality). Both development projects are based on Auto-Graphics version 6 code base.

RAILS and Auto-Graphics plan to upgrade to SHAREit version 6 in early May. Version 6 will provide improved security, enhancements to the search interface, more options for RAILS super user administration, and a more flexible platform for future software development.

Explore More Illinois

Explore More Illinois launched on April 1, 2019 with 86 participating libraries, 13 cultural attractions, and 15 offers. RAILS expects to add some additional attractions in the next few weeks and to start adding more participating libraries by April 15. There are already libraries on the waiting list. Libraries that want to join are encouraged to fill out the authentication form at <https://exploremoreillinois.org>.

Replacing L2 Grant

RAILS has been awarded special grant funding from the Illinois Secretary of State, through the Illinois State Library, to replace L2. Originally conceived as a continuing education calendar and membership directory, Library Learning (L2) has evolved into a critical tool for library staff and library systems across Illinois, and the platform can no longer support our evolving needs. This replacement project will allow us to continue this important work. RAILS anticipates the project will take the full 18 months of the grant period.

It's important that RAILS hears from as many stakeholders as possible, so we've scheduled several town hall meetings in April:

- Friday, April 19, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at RAILS Burr Ridge
- Wednesday, April 24, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at IHLS Edwardsville
- Thursday, April 25, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at RAILS East Peoria

Details are available on L2 at <https://www.librarylearning.info>. Please register in advance if you're planning to come.