RAILS Report

E-books

See the attached memo on "What's New with RAILS E-Content?" in addition to the information below.
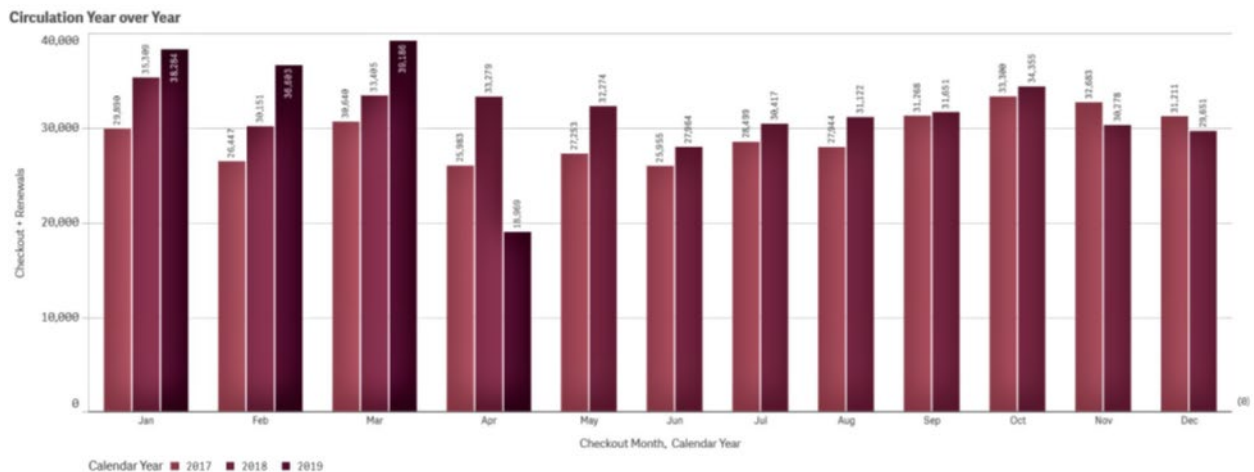
BiblioBoard

In April, RAILS began using Facebook ads to highlight its BiblioBoard offerings. Each ad promotes a specific title that is available at no cost to anyone in Illinois via RAILS' partnership with BiblioBoard. The campaign will conclude in late June or early July. You can help spread the word about BiblioBoard by sharing or liking these ads if you see them.

At the SPARK (Spanish Programming and Resources for Kids) networking meeting at Arlington Heights Memorial Library on May 6, Anna Behm, RAILS E-Content Specialist, shared information about the Spanish language e-books and children's resources available in RAILS' BiblioBoard collection.

Axis 360

The renewal process for member libraries using the Axis 360 collection in eRead Illinois began in April. The response has been good. There is one notable cancelation—Oak Park Public Library. They cited the desire to consolidate their e-content services as the reason for canceling.

Circulation of the eRead Illinois Axis 360 collection was up for the first three months of this year as compared to previous years.

RAILS relaunched a monthly eRead Illinois Axis 360 newsletter earlier this year. It includes important updates, tips on where to find support, and other helpful information about eRead Illinois Axis 360. Fill out the subscription form if you would like to receive it.

On May 22, RAILS held a "What's New with eRead Illinois Axis 360?" webinar with Baker & Taylor. The webinar provided eRead Illinois member libraries with information on recent updates to collection development procedures and platform development, as well as places that they can go to get support.

SimplyE for Consortia

SimplyE is an e-reader app that makes it possible for patrons to access all of a library's e-books in a consolidated place, even when the library uses multiple e-book vendors. At this point OverDrive, Axis 360, RB Digital, and cloudLibrary can be integrated. SimplyE is an open source application developed by the New York Public Library (NYPL).

Additional software and technical infrastructure are needed to integrate the display of a library's e-books into the app. RAILS is working with Minitex on an IMLS-funded demonstration project for SimplyE deployment. Minitex is handling the server environment and technical setup. Pinnacle Library Cooperative is working with Minitex on implementation, and several other RAILS public libraries have indicated their interest and spoken with Minitex technical support staff to find out more.

Explore More Illinois

Explore More Illinois, the RAILS museum/cultural attractions program, launched on April 1, 2019. There is no fee for libraries or attractions to participate, so the program is growing rapidly. As of May 28, 2019, we have over 100 participating public libraries and 18 attractions.

Find More Illinois

Find More Illinois is scheduled to upgrade the SHAREit software that runs the service on the weekend of May 31. The service will be unavailable during the upgrade. Benefits of the new version include faster searches, user interface enhancements, improved usability, and greater security.

The meeting packet also includes a separate report with a first-year overview of Find More Illinois.

Shared Catalog Consortia

The eight libraries formerly in the Northern Illinois Cooperative (NIC) are now part of PrairieCat. They went live on May 22, 2019. RAILS supported the merger through its catalog membership grant program with a total award of $187,955.10. The eight libraries are:

- Cherry Valley Public Library District
- Harvard Diggins Library (Harvard)
- Ida Public Library (Belvidere)
- Nippersink Public Library District (Richmond)
- North Suburban Library District (Loves Park and Roscoe)
- Rockford University
- Talcott Free Library District (Rockton)
- Woodstock Public Library

The resource-sharing impact of adding these libraries to PrairieCat is already apparent in search results from the PrairieCat catalog and in changes in delivery volume at the RAILS Rockford facility.

April 17, 2019 was the deadline for the second round of FY2019 catalog membership grants. Libraries joining any one of the six RAILS LLSAPs (Local Library System Automation Programs) are eligible to apply. The following libraries were awarded grants in this second round:

- Astoria Public Library District—$6,458.95 to join RSA
- Indian Trails Public Library District (Wheeling)—$51,465 to join CCS

- Milledgeville Public Library—Grant award pending receipt of additional information; joining Rock River Library Consortium
- Rock Falls Elementary School District #13 (three school libraries)—$17,939 to join Rock River Library Consortium

New Bindery Pickup Service

RAILS has worked with HF Group to create a consolidated bindery pickup service. Libraries can place bindery shipments to HF Group in RAILS delivery, and HF Group will pick them up from the RAILS Bolingbrook facility when there are four or more orders. This will allow libraries to send smaller shipments without incurring delivery charges, as HF Group requires a $500 minimum order for pickup and delivery. [Procedures, the 2019 schedule, and HF Group information](#) are posted on the RAILS website.

Statewide Delivery

RAILS has worked with the Illinois State Library, CARLI, and the Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) on a new contractual arrangement for statewide delivery service. Currently, RAILS has a contract with CARLI (through the University of Illinois) for statewide delivery (ILDS), with IHLS as a subcontractor for RAILS. In FY2020, which begins July 1, 2019, CARLI will contract directly with both RAILS and IHLS. The three agencies will continue to work together to provide reliable and efficient delivery service.

RAILS Staffing Update

RAILS has filled its vacant positions. Five new employees began in April 2019:
- Anna Duff—Administrative Assistant
- Grant Halter—Data Coordinator and Research Analyst
- Leila Heath—Library Resources and Programs Manager
- Stacy Palmisano—Administrative Assistant
- Diana Rusch—Consulting and Continuing Education Specialist

In addition, Robert Cummings, who was a delivery driver at the Bolingbrook facility, assumed a new position as Delivery Services Manager at the Rockford facility, and Margae Schmidt, who was an administrative assistant, assumed a new position as Consulting and Continuing Education Specialist.

CARLI E-Resources Brokering Service

CARLI has created an advisory group of Illinois public, school, and special librarians for the purpose of shaping an e-resources brokering service for ILLINET member libraries that do not belong to CARLI. Representatives from RAILS are Leila Heath, RAILS Library Resources and Programs Manager; Katie Kraushaar, Manager of Information Services at Quincy Public Library; and Eric Pasteur, Digital & Audiovisual Collections librarian at Oak Park Public Library. The advisory group will also include representatives from the Illinois Heartland Library System and the Illinois State Library. The group's first meeting will be July 10, 2019.

International Collaboration on Resource Sharing

Jane Plass attended the spring meeting of the International Coalition of Library Consortia (ICOLC) in Vancouver, Canada from April 7–10, 2019. RAILS helped sponsor the meeting, and Jane also served on the program planning committee. Session topics included:

- Collaboration within a consortium and between consortia

- Equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Patron authentication, including consortial issues and privacy concerns
- Controlled digital lending, an emerging form of interlibrary loan in which print books owned by a library are digitized. The print book is then taken out of circulation, and the digitized version is loaned to a single person at a time.
- Open access, which provides access to research results free of cost or other barriers. The shift away from subscription-based access to journals to open access has enormous economic implications for universities, colleges, libraries, and publishers.

16 May 2019

TO: **RAILS Board of Directors**

FROM: **Anna Behm, E-Content Specialist**

SUBJECT: **What's New with RAILS E-Content?**

What is eRead Illinois? → **Popular e-content fast** → https://ereadillinois.com/
- Started as a grant funded project in 2013 (with Illinois Heartland Library System)
  - eRead Illinois has been sustained by membership fees since 2015.
  - Fees are calculated based on a library's population served and collection budget.
- Popular materials collection hosted on Baker & Taylor's Axis 360 platform
  - One book, one user model
  - Only RAILS and IHLS non-SHARE libraries (IHLS SHARE libraries have a separate collection hosted on the Cloud Library platform)

FY 19 Membership

Library Type	Number of Libraries	Population Served
Academic	20	43,345
Public	233	3,449,628
School	143	265,935
Special	7	68,638

What's new with eRead Illinois Axis 360?
- Focused collection development
  - Short waits for popular materials
- Platform development
  - Website, app, and admin portal
- Support for members
  - eRead newsletter relaunched January 2019 – includes news, helpful tips, information, and updates about eRead Illinois Axis 360
  - Trainings are on-going as requested, hosted a eRead member update on May 22
  - Updating the sign up and renewal process to make it user friendly

What is BiblioBoard? → A wealth of e-content now → https://library.biblioboard.com/home
- A collection of simultaneous use e-books and e-content
    - Robust collection of independent and self-published materials
    - Organized into modules, anthologies, collections, and curations
- Geolocated to the entire state of Illinois
    - Everyone in Illinois can access the collection without a login or library card
    - No fee for libraries
- Additional BiblioBoard modules currently available to libraries for a fee
    - Create Module – publish e-books and upload content
    - Share Module – submit created e-content to local and national collections

What's new with BiblioBoard?
- Added over 1,000 educational titles to the collection in early 2019
    - Surveyed attendees at the AISLE annual conference about what kind of content they would like to see made available
    - Added Time for Kids Teacher Created Materials and ABDO
    - The subjects covered include science, math, social studies, the humanities, and art. Over 300 titles are in Spanish.
- Additional resources for educators include:
    - Common Collections which include resources and teaching guides
    - Recovering the Classics
    - Open Educational and Scholarly Resources
- Increased outreach to schools and other organizations
- Increasing emphasis on independently published materials

Learn More
eRead Illinois Axis 360 collection: https://rails.axis360.baker-taylor.com/

eRead Illinois Axis 360 newsletter: https://ereadillinois.com/eread-illinois-libraries/chat-newsletter-archive

BiblioBoard curation of educational materials:
https://library.biblioboard.com/curation/6f9b9ec5-d549-4644-a729-ccf5fb18f899

Indie Illinois collection on BiblioBoard: https://library.biblioboard.com/anthology/147dca91-4b5e-429e-b9cf-697c87677907