

RAILS Report

Consortial Staff In-Service Day

The annual in-service day for consortial staff is being planned for November 22, 2019. Details and location will be announced later.

FY 2020 RAILS Catalog Membership Grants

Grants to fund the one-time costs to libraries of joining a RAILS LLSAP (CCS, Pinnacle, PrairieCat, Rock River Library Consortium, RSA, and SWAN) are in the RAILS budget for FY 2020. We are currently finalizing the application, and it will be posted soon on the RAILS website. The application deadlines are October 15, 2019 and April 15, 2020.

Find More Illinois

The SHAREit software that powers Find More Illinois was upgraded to version 6 during the first weekend in June. RAILS was the first site to upgrade to the new SHAREit version, so we are working with our vendor, Auto-Graphics, to provide feedback and to tweak the new version. Benefits of the new version include greater security, the ability to open multiple sessions in different tabs of the same browser, and improved display of search results.

Work on developing patron authentication via OpenAthens (an identity and access management service) to meet SWAN's needs and software development to support reciprocal borrowing (Patron Lookup functionality) has progressed to the point where we are planning testing. Both development projects are based on Auto-Graphics version 6 code base, so progress hinged on RAILS upgrading to version 6.

The pilot stage of Find More Illinois officially ended as of June 30, 2019. June also saw three more libraries go live on Find More Illinois: Addison Public Library (with a standalone Sierra integrated library system), Creston-Dement Public Library District (a PrairieCat member), and Normal Public Library (an RSA member).

Find More Illinois annual fees for libraries with collection expenditures of \$200,000 or more have been reduced, effective July 1, 2019. (Fees for other libraries were already so low that it was not feasible to reduce them further.) In addition, in FY 2020, RAILS will continue to assist with implementation fees for members of shared catalog consortia in RAILS and for early adopters for libraries with standalone integrated library systems. Libraries can join at any time, and members of a shared catalog consortium can join on an individual basis. Please refer libraries that are interested to the Find More Illinois website at <https://www.findmoreillinois.org> for information on joining and requesting a quote. They can also email info@findmoreillinois.org or Jane Plass at jane.plass@railslibraries.info with questions.

Telling the Library Story

RAILS has launched a campaign to help libraries prove their value to their stakeholders. A major piece of this campaign is the My Library Is website (<https://www.mylibraryis.org>), where libraries can share effective ways they have found to tell their stories and learn from others. The site also includes general resources and toolkits, library value calculators, information on networking and training opportunities, and specific information for each type of library.

RAILS CE and partnership grants have also shifted focus in FY 2020 as part of the campaign. Both types of grants will support events or projects that help libraries of all types to tell their stories and promote their value. Revised applications and the application schedules will be posted on the RAILS website soon.

Explore More Illinois

SHARE has expressed interest in Explore More Illinois. Jessica Barnes, RAILS Special Projects Librarian, will begin working with them when the SWAN libraries have been added. We will ask the SHARE libraries to assist us with identifying and adding attractions in their geographic area.