

Barriers to resource sharing

- School libraries
 - Not widely known what RAILS is/does
 - Lack of librarians in schools
 - Staffing time and needs
- Public libraries
 - Library board members do not know or understand what RAILS offers to libraries
 - Not enough staff to share resources as much as they would like
 - Lack of understanding of the Illinois State Library's role in libraries and resource sharing
 - Larger libraries tend to not look outside of their library for expertise because they have a large staff
- Special libraries
 - Corporate administration dictates staff time; resource sharing is not a priority
 - Students/other staff do not want to wait to receive materials
- Academic libraries
 - Multiple consortia are confusing to staff and patrons
 - Technology to support resource sharing
- General
 - Territorial issues in Illinois
 - Reluctance to share across different types of libraries

Ideas on how to reduce barriers to resource sharing include consistency of branding, intuitive and convenient systems, and eliminating interlibrary loan fees. Patrons and staff need to have the right mindset to make resource sharing more successful.