

RAILS Report

RAILS budget and funding update

RAILS staff is currently working on its FY2022 System Area and Per Capita (APC) Grant application to the Illinois State Library. This application contains the RAILS budget and comprehensive plan of service for the year. The RAILS Board will review some components of the APC grant application at their meeting on April 23, with approval expected at their May meeting.

Annual library certification

The 2022 library certification process is underway on L2, and ends on May 15. Many of you have already helped boost the signal on this – thank you! We will especially appreciate your help reaching out to specific libraries as the deadline gets closer. Please watch for more on this in the coming weeks.

Catalog membership grants

We have received (or expect to receive) several applications for the current round of Catalog Membership Grants, and expect to make awards in early May. We also intend to offer this grant program again in FY2022.

Consortia staff in-service event

We held our fifth in-service event for Illinois consortia on Friday, March 26. 51 staff members from six Illinois organizations (CCS, SWAN, PrairieCat, Pinnacle, RSA, IHLS/SHARE/CMC) gathered virtually to learn together and share updates on their current projects and priorities. We also learned some fascinating brain science and sustainable tactics for connecting virtually from our keynote speaker Lynn Hoffman. She provided lots of food for thought on how organizations and individuals can work to sustain connections, remain productive, and reduce Zoom fatigue.