VIRTUAL MEETING
RAILS CONSORTIA COMMITTEE
Monday, April 19, 2021.
125 Tower Drive
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

MINUTES

1. **Welcome**
   Paul Mills, RAILS Consortia Committee Chair, welcomed everyone at 10:00 a.m. and called the meeting to order. Paul Mills read the following statement: In accordance with the government emergency administrative Act PA100-0640, the RAILS Board of Directors finds an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent and believes it is in the best interest of RAILS to hold a virtual meeting to perform essential business. This meeting will be recorded as per the statutory requirements.

2. **Roll Call of Members**
   Telephone/Zoom: Emily Faulkner, Kristine Hammerstrand, Rebecca Malinowski, Paul Mills, Kendal Orrison, Scott Pointon, Aaron Skog, Jennifer Slaney, Tom Stagg

3. **Introductions of Guests; Announcements**
   Burr Ridge: Deirdre Brennan, *ex-officio*
   Telephone/Zoom: Michael Campbell, Nincy George, Karen Goyer, Kate Hall, Matt Hammermeister, Gwen Harrison, Leila Heath, Julie Milavec, Jody Rubel, designated minute taker; Anne Slaughter, *ex-officio*

4. **Public Comment**
   No public comments.

5. **Adoption of the Agenda**
   Scott Pointon moved, and Emily Faulkner seconded, that the

   THE RAILS BOARD CONSORTIA COMMITTEE ADOPT THE APRIL 19, 2021 AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

   Roll call vote:
   Ayes: Emily Faulkner, Kristine Hammerstrand, Rebecca Malinowski, Paul Mills, Kendal Orrison, Scott Pointon, Aaron Skog, Jennifer Slaney, Tom Stagg

6. **Approval of Minutes of the January 11, 2021 Consortia Committee Meeting**
   Kendal Orrison moved, and Tom Stagg seconded, that

   THE RAILS BOARD CONSORTIA COMMITTEE APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

   Roll call vote:
   Ayes: Emily Faulkner, Kristine Hammerstrand, Rebecca Malinowski, Paul Mills, Kendal Orrison, Scott Pointon, Aaron Skog, Jennifer Slaney, Tom Stagg

7. **New Business**
   a. **FY 2022 Meeting Schedule**
   Jennifer Slaney moved, and Rebecca Malinowski seconded, that

   THE RAILS BOARD CONSORTIA COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FY2022 MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.

   Roll call vote:
   Ayes: Emily Faulkner, Kristine Hammerstrand, Rebecca Malinowski, Paul Mills, Kendal Orrison, Scott Pointon, Aaron Skog, Jennifer Slaney, Tom Stagg

   July 19, 2021
   October 18, 2021
   January 10, 2022
   April 18, 2022

   b. **RAILS Special Cataloging Services**
   Anne Slaughter introduced Nincy George, RAILS Cataloging Services Coordinator who provides cataloging training and expertise to RAILS libraries. In 2020, Nincy George adapted in-person training to online courses. Featured 2021 courses included Web Dewey, MARC standards, and Library of Congress classification, plus specialized supplementary courses. In the fall she is developing a course on the updated RDA model. She noted plans for FY2022 to develop additional courses, and establish a cataloging service center for non-Western European world languages to support needs not met by other means in the future. Post training evaluations indicated courses are exceeding the expectations of the attendees. Nincy also assists with preparing MARC records for non-automated libraries joining Find More Illinois. In her position, Nincy collaborates with consortia, technical services networking groups, and other professional groups.

   c. **LLSAP Support and RAILS budget**
   Deirdre Brennan explained to the Consortia Committee that RAILS is operating on a deficit budget and is interested in viewpoints about the value of ongoing LLSAP operational support and for catalog membership grants that attract new consortium members. An error on the LLSAP Support Grant and Historical Allocation document was noted; Anne Slaughter would review and resend a corrected version. Many committee members commented that without the help of the grants, their consortium would not have been able to attract new members and were appreciative of the support. Committee members stated two key benefits why the Catalog Membership Grant is valuable to libraries: 1) ILS cost savings and 2) gaining additional access to services. Anne Slaughter explained that past budgets allowed for cataloging grants to be fully fund the projects, with the exception of 2019 when a cap was imposed. It was suggested to define an equitable formula for funding costs in the future, in the event that requests exceed available funds.

   Committee members described how the LLSAP grants fund consortium operations and membership fee rebates, allow for funding special projects or services, and attract new RAILS members. They also weighed the value of LLSAP grants versus catalog membership grants. One solution suggested was to have one pool of money and let the consortium decide how to allocate funds.

d. **Find More Illinois growth**
Anne Slaughter reported LINKin libraries are considering interlibrary options outside of the INN-Reach platform. RAILS staff met with representatives from the LINKin libraries to gain a better understanding of what participation might look like. The SHAREit software that runs Find More Illinois can handle the increased volume and offers load balancing capabilities. FY2022 budget will include financial support for the group, and other new participants, to join. More conversations to follow along with an in-depth product overview.

Waynesville Township Library recently joined Find More Illinois as its newest member. The library previously was not automated and patrons now have access to an online catalog and interlibrary loan. RAILS staff worked with library staff on creating MARC records. Committee members inquired about the status of SHARE Illinois and its expected end of life cycle. Consortia noted activity was low and not updating barcodes. It was suggested to reconsider the threshold five of six consortia participating in Find More Illinois to four of six and end service support.

e. **REALM Update**
Deirdre Brennan reported the REALM Steering Committee's work is now focused on vaccine education and addressing concerns about HVAC system in libraries, museums, and archives and hope federal funding is available in the future. Committee has met with the CDC.

8. **Unfinished Business**
   a. **Consortia and COVID-19 – Discussion**
   Committee members reported on increased rates of quarantine in specific areas, approaches to mass staff vaccination events, staff readiness to return to the building, and intentions to resume in-person training or meetings. The group discussed optics and fairness of remote work, and the loss of staff collaboration. The conversation turned to post-pandemic considerations and how it may be an opportune time to take a fresh look at job descriptions and assess office space needs. RAILS staff are reviewing the timing, logistics, and benefits and drawbacks of returning to in-person training.

   b. **Statewide database funding advocacy update**
   Deirdre Brennan updated the committee on advocacy efforts for funding a statewide database. Representatives Durkin and Mussman have sponsored HB2071. The bill proposes a task force to report back to the general assembly on needs and how to fund. Briefly shared thoughts on possible best methods to access databases and educating schools on access. Paul Mills thanked Deirdre Brennan for pursing. Illinois is one of two states that does not have a statewide database package.

9. **Reports**
   a. **Consortia Committee Chair**
   No report.

   b. **Consortium reports**
   RSA - Kendal Orrison reported on the move to Salesforce help desk ticketing system and find that software has streamlined staff workflow. Consortium is testing Enterprise 5.1 that improves searching functionality. Staff are creating short specific-task related videos. Adjustment to the circ rules improved circ mapping and reduced the number of lines.

SWAN – Aaron Skog reported that the consortium is running ByWater's Aspen Discovery catalog parallel to the current catalog as a test. He noted enhanced features that benefit library staff and patrons. OHM is running monthly for consortia and available as an open source product in GitHub. Also reported the consortium enabled WorldCat Discovery's real time availability feature.

Pinnacle – Matt Hammermeister shared that auto-renewal was enabled for patrons. Pinnacle is in the process of outsourcing phone notifications. Support from the LLSAP grant allowed for the funding of adding e-magazines to the OverDrive subscription. The tech services group is completing an EDI audit for subject headings.

PrairieCat – Emily Faulkner reported PrairieCat is looking at inclusive EDI language.

RRLC – No report

CARLI – Kris Hammerstrand shared staff working remotely through the summer. There are tentative fall plans for an in-person annual meeting. The ILLINET Direct Borrowing service will be discontinued.

CCS – Rebecca Malinowski added the report to the chat as follows:
- CCS has selected Planeteria as our web redesign partners, and we are anticipating a July launch of our new, streamlined site.
- Member Services Manager Debra Wischmeyer is working with the Database Management Committee on an evaluation of member library staff data use and data literacy to help CCS expand reports and analytics offerings, including training opportunities.
- User Experience Specialist Kathleen Weiss is working with the User Experience Advisory Group to improve notices. This project will gather feedback from patrons through surveys embedded in notices.
- Member Services Librarian Rachel Fischer is working with the Standard Cataloging Rules and Practices Advisory Group to improve subject heading access by replacing outdated and derogatory language in existing LC subject headings and approving the use of additional thesauri to enhance records.
- Member Services Librarian Mieko Fujiura-Landers and Systems Administrator Robert Barth are working with interested libraries on patron maintenance using the National Change of Address Database through Unique Management Services.
- Operations Manager Beth Stoneburner is working with Executive Director Rebecca Malinowski to determine workplace needs post-COVID. We intend to determine by March 2022 if CCS will become a fully remote workplace, hybrid workplace, or continue offering work from home and flexible scheduling options but focusing on in-person work.
- CCS plans on having access to a test instance of Vega Discover by the end of May through the Development Partner Program with Innovative Interfaces.

c. **RAILS report**
The Find More Illinois software could serve as an alternative to CARLI's ILL Direct service. Consortia members were updated on the Illinois State Library's Annual Certification, and would be receiving an updated list of consortia members that had not completed certification.

10. **Adjournment**
At 11:58 a.m., Paul Mills, adjourned the meeting.