

Consortial Reports

CARLI/I-Share

No report.

Cooperative Computer Services (CCS)

- CCS has adopted Homosaurus, an international linked data vocabulary of LGBTQ+ terms. Homosaurus will not replace LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings) terms but will be added as additional access points to enhance the discoverability of LGBTQ+ resources in our catalog.
- CCS has completed the removal of "illegal aliens" and related LCSH terms from the CCS database. They have been replaced with the terms recommended by the SAC Working Group on Alternatives to LCSH "Illegal aliens."
- CCS is the recipient of a RAILS Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Training Grant. CCS will use grant funds to host four webinars in late summer and fall that focus on serving diverse populations through collection development.
- As part of Innovative's Development Partner Program, CCS has received a training instance of Vega Discover. Six libraries have volunteered as beta libraries to test the new discovery interface with their patrons. Patron user testing of Vega Discover will begin in late August/early September.
- CCS's newly redesigned website will go live in August.
- Governing Board approved FY 2021-2022 Strategic Directions & Goals, which outlines specific goals/tasks for year one implementation of our new strategic plan.
- CCS will vote in July whether to distribute RAILS LLSAP grant funds to members in a more equitable manner, based on the metrics used by RAILS to allocate funds.
- CCS will add a race/ethnicity attribute to the patron registration section of Polaris. This field was requested by the Evanston Public Library to assist in gathering data to ensure they are serving patrons of all races equitably. No library will be required to use this field or collect this data. CCS is working with a consultant to determine configuration of the field. Additional training will be provided to CCS library directors on disaggregated data and how it supports DEI efforts.

Pinnacle Library Cooperative (PLC)

- Pinnacle's Member Services Librarian, Leah Dudak, has resigned to pursue a PhD in Library Science at Syracuse University. We're currently in the process of filling her position.
- Before Leah left, she completed preparing the first module of our new interactive training platform, geared towards Circulation staff. This new training resource uses Google Slides to create a web-based, interactive environment. The interface resembles the appearance of the ILS, but provides guided instruction on specific tasks. The platform also has links to previously

recorded training videos. In the future, we will be releasing additional modules covering activities for public services and Technical Services.

- The board approved our budget for the new fiscal year. The budget is largely unchanged, but we did add additional funding for Children's/Teen eContent and a group subscription for OverDrive's Magazines.
- On June 1, we transferred all ILS phone notifications to Unique and decommissioned our old telephony server. That server was the last piece of physical equipment that Pinnacle owned and maintained, as all of our other servers are hosted. The new service has proven to be much more reliable than our old system.
- Our OPAC committee recently conducted a catalog usability survey to identify areas of patron confusion. Based on the results of the survey, the committee is considering several changes to our existing catalog:
 - Replace the OverDrive icon with the more familiar Libby icon for integrated eContent titles
 - Rename the hold status "Pending" (the item is on a picklist and needs to be pulled) to "Checking Shelves"
 - Potentially create new format icons for "Book+CD" and "Three dimensional object"
- We recently adopted (or are in the process of adopting) several new policies, including a Travel Event Policy, an Anti-Harassment policy, a Fiscal Accountability Policy and a Patron Privacy Policy.

PrairieCat

- Marengo-Union Library District went live on 6/30/2021. We are excited to add another member to our growing consortium. Work continues on the addition of the Lostant Community Public Library, Putnam County elementary school, and the Byron Public schools.
- PrairieCat web servers have now been migrated from the RAILS data center and are hosted by Cherry Hill, which specializes in the hosting and support of library websites, particularly those written using Drupal.
- Work continues on our enhanced server security project, and should be finishing up in July.
- PrairieCat held our elections for standing committees and Administrative Council in May. Administrative Council is adding four new members: Beth Ryan (Johnsburg Public Library), Hilary Lombardo (Oregon Public Library), Ashley Huffines (Freeport Public Library) and Victoria Blackmer (Robert R. Jones Public Library).
- PrairieCat has signed a development partnership agreement with Innovative for their patron enhancement elements of Vega. A team is being formed to begin work on this project. There seems to be a great deal of enthusiasm from membership.
- We have scheduled our next Resource Sharing Summit for Oct. 21, to be held virtually this year. Topics of discussion include moving forward with group purchases as well as a possible re-alignment of membership levels. Amanda Standerfer will again facilitate.

- PUG Days will again be held online this year. The schedule will be September 13-24, 2021, with sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 am and 2 pm, and final sessions on Friday, September 24, 2021.
- Go-live for our membership in IMRF is scheduled for 7/1/2021.

Resource Sharing Alliance NFP (RSA-NFP)

- RSA's major activity for this period was moving facilities in conjunction with the RAILS Delivery hub. RAILS was notified at the end of April that the landlord would not be renewing our lease, and needed to be moved by June 30. RAILS found a new facility and the RAILS Delivery Hub and RSA offices were moved at the end of June. The cleanup now commences.
- RSA's Supervisors did the bulk of the RSA-specific office move work. I'd like to thank the RSA non-supervisor staff who have increased their work levels to compensate during the move. We'd also like to thank RAILS and Robert Morgan, the East Peoria Delivery/Building Manager, for all their hard work to make the move happen.
- RSA finished beta testing SirsiDynix's Enterprise 5.1. We identified several beta bugs, did a lot of testing work around OverDrive Magazine online checkouts, which they purchased from RB Digital. Finally, we tried every possible way to break the newly implemented faceting of data limited to the search library. Happy to say it works as expected and instantly swaps facet data/counts from search library to all of RSA depending on which display the patron switches to mid-search.
- RSA staff recorded several additional short videos. These are focused on how to perform specific tasks to help both new staff and those to do those tasks infrequently and need a reminder. These have proved quite popular with our members.
- We have begun the process of creating a new RSA Support website, which will be hosted by a 3rd party. We're currently doing the work in-house and hope to complete the project without outsourcing the work. We shall see. We're at the phase where we are trying to identify how our member libraries 'think' about where things should be located and trying to match that to a site map. We've contracted for hosting and are working on themes and mockups for several different looks.
- Astoria Public library has gone live for both checkouts and holds in RSA! We are scheduling the final circulation go-live training with Ranson Memorial Library. They have one staff member who is currently busy with summer reading. Our last new library is Williamsfield who is working to hire a new Director. We are working to schedule circulation training and go-live dates once that new Director is on board.

Rock River Library Consortium (RRLC)

- Compared to other consortia, RRLC is very quiet. RRLC along with TLC is working to add Amboy School District (K-12 grade) and Center For Change into the consortium. They received grants from RAILS to join. We have a tentative live date of August 13th for both institutions.

- We have scheduled training for the last week in July with TLC for all entities to send as many staff as they wish along with requiring the two new entities staff to attend. The trainer will go through circulation, inventory and reports. This is a great opportunity for staff to ask questions and for our new members to meet the other entities' staff as well.
- Sterling Schools has completed changing their K-8th grade collections from 6-digit barcodes to 13-digit barcodes with the help of a volunteer. This project was labor intensive because of moving the books from the schools to the public library. The volunteer was asked to change out the barcode and to copy catalog or merge records to help make the database cleaner. This project took 2 years to complete.

System Wide Automated Network (SWAN)

Aspen Discovery

SWAN has an agreement with ByWater Solutions to provide three years of support for the Aspen Discovery catalog. The next two months will be spent completing software development of a few key features SWAN requires, and afterwards we will offer to begin migrating libraries in SWAN in two groups. We will decide along the way if Enterprise Discovery will be renewed with SirsiDynix.

We have completed usability studies of the catalog with library patrons. The [Aspen Pilot Research Summary Report](#) is now available on the SWAN support site. The report summarizes the research efforts around Aspen features and functionality, including usability testing, surveys, and relevancy analysis, and it compiles the full research reports for all research activities conducted during the pilot and beta testing periods.

In addition to the research summary, SWAN is preparing a risk assessment and performance analysis to ensure that Aspen is a reliable, stable platform for the membership. ByWater staff made significant improvements to indexing performance in the past month. The SWAN User Experience team completed the initial configuration for all 100-member library catalogs—including indexing for ILS records, Hoopla, and Overdrive—so we could see any impact to performance before any libraries are using Aspen as their primary catalog. Following this setup, the index significantly increased in size and we encountered memory limits and extreme slowness with our nightly indexes. SWAN staff worked closely with ByWater to identify areas to improve code efficiency, while also increasing server resources. Our index size was reduced by half, and we are now seeing significantly faster nightly index times. There are additional performance improvements ByWater is currently working on to further improve performance, and we are also working on better processes to restore the index from a backup.

In addition, ByWater completed all of our go-live priority development requests with the exception of fines payment integration. Once the payment integration is complete and SWAN staff are confident that the indexes and performance are stable, our six pilot libraries can begin to use Aspen as their primary catalog and SWAN can set a timeline for a wider rollout.

At this time, we plan to offer a set of 8-10 trainings and library staff can choose which trainings will be most helpful for them and their roles.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Metadata Task Force

This cataloging group has largely completed its analysis of subject terms that will be replaced/supplemented in the SWAN catalog. What remains is working out the technical details of executing this plan. Currently, we are discussing how to allow libraries to enhance the visibility of items pertaining to diversity topics. Success in this area will also help with libraries wishing to conduct diversity audits of their collection. We realized we need more input from the membership to understand other libraries' goals. To this end, we will be hosting a panel discussion where SWAN members can come to discuss topics of collection diversity and searchability. This will help us align the task force's goals with those of the membership at large. We are in the planning phase of this panel, but we expect it to take place in late July.

RAILS CE Grant: Fundamentals of Web Accessibility

SWAN was awarded a CE grant from RAILS to have Deque present on web accessibility. Web accessibility means that people with disabilities have access to digital content. When collecting and providing digital content, libraries have an ethical and legal obligation to be inclusive by serving all members of the public. Public libraries lack education around web accessibility, and this CE grant will help libraries gain knowledge of a Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT), Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), or Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This Deque webinar will help libraries get a basic grasp of web accessibility, how persons with disabilities use the web, and help them decide if they are meeting accessibility standards for their digital collections and websites.

Deque is a company that is dedicated to digital accessibility. Deque performed accessibility audits for the Big 10 Library Accessibility Alliance. The webinar presentation will be held in September and will be open to 100 RAILS member library staff.

E-resource accessibility and VPAT database

SWAN E-Resource Consultant Robin Hofstetter is working with RAILS and [Electronic Subscription Managers Network Group](#) (ELSUM) to provide resources and guidance to libraries around making accessibility a priority when purchasing e-resources. While many libraries are having conversations around diversity, equity, and inclusion, digital accessibility is often overlooked. People with disabilities are the largest minority group, and libraries may be excluding a significant portion of their populations through purchase decisions for resources that, for example, cannot be used by patrons experiencing color blindness or difficulty using a mouse.

One step towards making better purchasing decisions is to ask vendors for a VPAT (Voluntary Product Accessibility Template). Robin is working with RAILS and ELSUM members to create a VPAT repository on the RAILS site, so that libraries can more easily find out if vendors they are using or, more importantly are negotiating with, offer a VPAT and meet a minimum of accessibility standards.

Server Migrations

SWAN successfully completed the migration of the SWAN support site and OTRS support ticketing system from the RAILS datacenter to SWAN's cloud infrastructure without notable issues. The notice dialer was replaced by the SWAN Notice Dialer from Unique Management Solutions. The RAILS hosted

Mailman email list servers are now located in SWAN's cloud infrastructure, which was the final system service to be migrated from the RAILS datacenter. SWAN also removed all physical equipment from the RAILS datacenter in June and plans for secure disposal at a later date.