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**TO: RAILS Consortia Committee – LLSAP Sustainability Working Group**  
**FROM: Anne Slaughter**  
**SUBJECT: Statewide resource sharing and cataloging opportunities**

Among the many topics of interest that have emerged in the working group's conversations thus far, there are two that are perennial and intersecting, and also represent ways that Illinois differs from many other states:

1. An interest in looking more deeply into opportunities that exist for statewide resource sharing (such as consortial mergers, more broadly including school libraries, and collaboration with SHARE), and
2. The high total expenditure on OCLC across Illinois and the RAILS service area, and whether and how cataloging needs are met, either by OCLC or other means.

Despite a long and very strong history of resource sharing in Illinois, there has not in recent history been widespread enthusiasm for adoption of a statewide catalog consortium (despite some merger activity) or other interlibrary loan platform. Additionally, Illinois is unique in its saturation of libraries, especially small public libraries, that maintain OCLC membership. Several individual consortia require OCLC membership for all their libraries, but there is no statewide mandate for OCLC participation.

In our work at RAILS over the years investigating the “overlay project” that became Find More Illinois, alternatives to OCLC, and the issues of exposing consortial holdings on the web, we've encountered many states, or groups within states, that have successfully adopted statewide resource sharing platforms and/or accomplished quality cataloging work at a consortial level without widespread use of OCLC. These states include, but aren't limited to, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire. Of course, each of these groups and states have a unique set of circumstances and have developed varying solutions that fit the needs of their stakeholders. However, they all serve as examples of successful models that diverge from the status quo here in Illinois.

Our colleagues at Auto-Graphics, the company that provides the SHAREit software for Find More Illinois, have decades of experience working with statewide implementations of interlibrary loan and cataloging solutions, and are familiar with the landscape in Illinois. Paul Cope, President, and Albert Flores, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, have agreed to attend this meeting to share their experiences and perspectives more broadly, and to discuss and answer questions about the ways the SHAREit software could meet interlibrary loan and cataloging needs.