



March 14, 2022

**TO:** RAILS Consortia Committee – LLSAP Sustainability Working Group  
**FROM:** Anne Slaughter  
**SUBJECT:** Find More Illinois update

## Membership growth incentive program

- Since the incentive program began, thirteen new libraries have signed on, most still in the onboarding process (listed below).
  - DeKalb Public Library
  - Helen Plum Library
  - Highwood Public Library
  - Knoxville CUSD 202
  - Ohio Public Library District
  - Pinnacle Library Consortium (six libraries)
  - Skokie Public Library
  - Wheaton Public Library
- As part of our first phase of publicity, Deirdre had informal conversations with directors at 27 primarily large and standalone libraries. Sixteen of those libraries expressed further interest. Of those libraries, three have quotes pending, three have signed on, and the remaining ten have been invited to demos (several have sent staff as of this writing) with additional outreach pending. Only two libraries stated that they would not ever consider joining. Most of the remaining libraries without immediate interest are currently engaged in strategic planning, have a director vacancy, or are prioritizing a path to LLSAP membership.
- Eric and I are holding a series of open demos for libraries that have requested more information about the program. These are currently scheduled through March 25, and we will likely add more due to their popularity.
- We will offer, broadly publicize, and record a webinar in May. This is deliberately sequenced to take place after our transition to the union catalog for searching (more information below).
- Immediately following the union catalog transition in April, we will begin a more widespread and visible promotional campaign. RAILS Communications staff are in the process of collecting testimonials from participating libraries. For the time being, we have completely refreshed and updated the [Find More Illinois website](#) content, and are announcing new members in the RAILS e-news.

## Union catalog transition

In order to resolve a confusing user experience with searching and the display of search results, we are moving away from using the Z39.50 protocol to gather library holdings information, and are adding all participating library holdings to a union catalog via MARC record uploads. This means that only one source will be searched and results will be returned all at once, with no extra clicks needed to retrieve everything. We will still be able to display item status via Z39.50. This transition is currently underway and is scheduled to be complete in early April.

## Enhanced borrowing

Enhanced Borrowing was rolled out in February. This optional and free service forwards borrower requests with the Unfilled status to RAILS' OCLC WorldShare account. RAILS staff place these requests in WorldShare and send received items to the requesting library. Library staff process these requests just like other FMI requests, returning the item to RAILS when the loan period ends. This no-cost option is available to any interested Find More Illinois members, and is especially helpful for those without OCLC access.

## Verso discussions

Our existing contract with Auto-Graphics includes discounted pricing for all Illinois libraries for their Verso ILS product. In order to further address the need for smaller libraries to have an ILS with robust circulation and patron management features, we are currently in discussions with Auto-Graphics regarding a no-cost option for the smallest libraries which may currently be nonautomated or using bare bones circulation systems. Verso offers seamless integration with SHAREit, so libraries will be able to easily and affordably participate in resource sharing via their Verso implementation. This discussion is in the early stages and we will share more information as soon as it's available. More information about the product is on the RAILS website Deals & Discounts page.