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April 19, 2022

RAILS Board Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Report- Chair Robin Helenthal

The committee met on April 14, 2022/The next meeting is on May 12, 2022.

Janette Derucki shared an overview of the RAILS School Library Data Project. The project is an advocacy initiative because it helps provide data to increase public confidence in school libraries and become a resource to advocate for qualified school librarians and funding for school libraries. The project collects data about school enrollment, library staffing, library budgets and collections. Accurate library data is the most difficult to collect because libraries tend to report this data differently. Data continues to be collected and analyzed. The goal is to apply the data to create a renewable, sustainable data resource to accomplish the following: store and update data for school libraries in Illinois, display the data via a dashboard interface, and serve to connect school librarians. The next challenge will be to gather data on schools that did not participate in the library certification. Future work may include partnering with Chicago Public Schools. Data questions in the annual library certification will be improved to achieve better results.

The Cards for Kids Bill expansion passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature. Future legislative topics for the RAILS Advocacy Committee are universal service, the school librarian mandate, and standards for school libraries. Materials challenges continues to be discussed. School districts across Illinois report receiving FOIA requests concerning whether their library owns specific books and requests to supply information regarding materials challenges. Kara Thorstenson, CPS, Library department head, has expressed an interest in joining the Advocacy Committee.

Next steps:

The topics for the May meeting agenda are:

1. Legislative update
2. Materials challenges
3. School librarian standards
4. Media literacy unit requirement for public high school curriculum
5. Discussion of the FY23 meeting schedule

Consortia Committee Report-Chair Paul Mills

The committee met on Monday, April 18, 2022 / Next meeting Monday, June 18, 2022

Committee Chair Paul Mills updated the committee on the LLSAP Sustainability Working Group progress. RAILS received three proposals to investigate and gain insight into the possibilities that may exist for ILS cost savings for a statewide catalog or possible smaller LLSAP mergers. RAILS staff are assessing the proposals and will select a consultant soon. The working group met in January and March and will meet next on May 16. The working group continued its discussion on criteria for libraries joining LLSAPs. Grant Halter, RAILS Data Analysis

Manager, recommended developing a RAILS-wide data collection instrument to capture consortium information not collected through other reports, in order to tell a bigger story and indicate metrics that would help illuminate LLSAP costs, affordability, and value to libraries. The instrument's working title is RAILCAR. Mark Hatch, RAILS Delivery and Facilities Director shared plans for improved route efficiencies and cost savings efforts at the East Peoria hub. RAILS contracted with GeoMARC (formerly LASA) to identify re-routing efficiencies. Nancy George, RAILS Cataloging Service Coordinator, updated the committee on World Language Cataloging Services that launched in January 2022. George is overseeing the service, which obtains MARC records for world language print and AV material in libraries' regular collections (the IHLS Cataloging Maintenance Center covers special collections).

Rebecca Malinowski, CCS Executive Director, shared the results from a data study focusing on Patron Behavior, Holds, and Resource Sharing, and a staff-created collection diversity audit tool. It was reported that Find More Illinois transitioned to a union list for improved searching and user experience. Staff are widely promoting the Find More Illinois incentive program. Staff are also working with the Find More Illinois vendor on an affordable ILS option for libraries that are currently nonautomated or under automated.

EDI Committee Report - Chair Dianne Hollister

The committee met on Wednesday, March 30, 2022/ Next meeting Thursday, May 10, 2022

EDI Consultant, Biz Lindsay-Ryan lead an EDI training on identity, culture and bias. The training included two exercises, one using an identity wheel and one was on the topic of culture. A TED Talk video was shown titled *The Danger of a Single Story*. The training included a review of the three levels of culture: surface culture, shallow culture and deep culture. Three videos on bias and blind spots was shown. Lindsay-Ryan closed the training with a discussion on inclusion and belonging. Deirdre Brennan discussed the RAILS report and asked the committee to specifically read the new RAILS Strategic Plan. The deadline to fill out the identity survey is April 5. Brennan said that the document is not perfect but will be useful to understand the identities of the committee members. On the agenda for the next meeting will be the committee agreement, EDI training, a discussion on the results of the I AM survey, and the FY2023 meeting schedule.

Executive Committee Report - Chair Thomas Stagg

The Executive Committee met on April 6, 2022. No future meetings are scheduled.

The committee met for the final interview of the five candidates to fill the vacancy of Patricia Smith's at-large board seat. They also reviewed and refined the interview questions. The Committee will make a recommendation to the full board at the April 22, 2022 Board meeting.

Nominating Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The committee met on April 18, 2022/Next Meeting is TBD (May 26-June 9)

The committee met to review the election process. The sample ballot was presented, and the members were thanked for their help in recruiting a diverse group of candidates. The nominating committee will meet again after the election to verify the election results and propose a slate of officers for RAILS Board for FY23.

Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Charm Ruhnke

The committee met on February 14, 2022/Next Meeting is May 9, 2022

Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Susan Busenbark

The committee met on Thursday, March 10, 2022/Next meeting Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 1 p.m.