



125 Tower Drive  
Burr Ridge, IL 60513  
630.734.5000  
railslibraries.info

## Executive Director Report, July 2022

Welcome to all of our new and continuing board members! Each month, we provide reports on RAILS activities during the previous month. These reports are organized by strategic plan goal. *This Month at RAILS* also includes brief talking points on select This Month at RAILS items to help you spread the word about our programs/services.

### *Provides leadership in ensuring sustainable, equitable resource sharing*

RAILS supports a number of networking groups. The newest one is for City Library Directors. Illinois library law for city libraries is not as robust as it is for other types of public libraries, causing confusion and varying interpretations of the relationships between city government and library boards. We are pleased that Chicago Public Library Commissioner Chris Brown attends these meetings; it is a wonderful opportunity to expand our collaboration with CPL.

Our Member Engagement Manager, Dan Bostrom, developed our *RAILS Minute* during the height of the pandemic as an additional way to reach out to member libraries with quick updates about RAILS news. Dan and I talk for a few minutes every couple of weeks about the latest news at RAILS. For example, during the most recent *Minute*, we discussed the development of our EDI cohort and the FAQ Julie Tappendorf wrote for the Cards for Kids expansion.

### *Models best practices in equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion*

The board election has brought greater diversity to the RAILS board. Of course, our work is far from done, but I am happy to see progress. The Policy Committee will soon begin meeting to review and revise the board election process.

We hope to launch our EDI member cohort later this year. There is a lot of interest in this program.

### *Assist member libraries in preparing for the future*

The State Library is planning to convene a meeting this month of the Illinois State Library Advisory Council. There are many new members, including me. This committee has not met for several years. It has a key role in oversight of the library development statewide. I am pleased that it will be going back to work.

### *Leads alongside member libraries to develop and strengthen Illinois library community*

As I wrote to the board earlier, Joe Filapek has won the ILA Trustee of the Year award. In addition to his great leadership of our consulting and continuing education program, Joe has served as an Executive Board member for ILA and is president of the Aurora Public Library Board of Trustee.

RAILS has received the 2022 Robert R. McClarren Legislative Development Award in recognition of our advocacy for universal service and the expansion of the Cards for Kids Act. I would like to call out the superb work done by our Universal Service Committee over the past 3 years, and particularly the work of committee member, and former RAILS board member, Gail Bush for her tireless work on this issue.

On July 7, I participated in a podcast with Senator Laura Murphy and Jo Bonnell the Executive Director of the Desk Plaines Public Library. Our topic was universal library service and Senator Murphy's success in leading the passage of the expanded Cards for Kids.

Gail Bush set up a meeting with Senator Laura Fine who is also interested in universal service. We provided her with documents explaining the problems faced by unserved residents. We also provided her with our proposal for statewide access to online resources.

### *RAILS Staff News*

On July 14, we celebrated the retirement of Bill Goetz, a longtime member of our finance department. We will miss him.



## This Month at RAILS – July 2022

### THE TOP THREE

In response to board member feedback, each month we provide brief talking points on select This Month at RAILS items to help you spread the word about our programs/services. Here are this month's top three:

#### **All Illinois Libraries Can Benefit from Find More Illinois!**

[Find More Illinois](#) (FMI) connects participating standalone and shared online catalogs. Library patrons can search all these catalogs in a single search. All Illinois libraries are eligible to participate, regardless of size, type, or library software.

All setup fees are waived for libraries that join before March 2023 and no annual fees will be billed until July 1, 2023. RAILS is widely publicizing FMI so libraries can take advantage of this incentive offer. As a part of this effort, staff produced this [FMI video](#) with testimonials from current participants.

#### **RAILS Announces EDI Learning Cohort**

RAILS invites library staff at all levels from all types and sizes of RAILS libraries to apply for our new EDI Learning Cohort. Approximately 50 RAILS members will meet monthly via Zoom from October 2022 through May 2023 to explore topics related to equity, diversity, and inclusion. The application period runs through July 29. You can find more details [on the RAILS website](#).

#### **Save the Date for August 17 RAILS Back to School Fest**

On the afternoon of August 17, RAILS will host a Back-to-School Fest to help our school library members get the most benefit from their RAILS membership. The 90-minute online forum will include short presentations by RAILS staff on system programs/services of interest to school libraries. All are welcome! Watch for more details and registration coming soon. A recording will also be available for those unable to make the session.

*Provides leadership in ensuring sustainable, equitable resource sharing*

## Enhance sharing of knowledge and best practices

### **RAILS School Library Staff Encouraged to Attend August 17 Back to School Fest**

On the afternoon of August 17, RAILS will host a Back-to-School Fest to help member school library staff learn about RAILS programs/services. The 90-minute online forum will include short presentations by RAILS staff. Any school library member interested in learning more about what RAILS has to offer them is encouraged to attend. Watch for more details and registration coming soon. A recording will also be available on the RAILS YouTube page after the session.

### **Save the Date for September 29 RAILS Member Update**

RAILS holds regular member updates to keep members informed about the latest RAILS news and other recent developments affecting libraries. The next update session will be Thursday, September 29 from 10 a.m. – noon. RAILS Board members are welcome to attend!

Deirdre Brennan will host the meeting in person at the RAILS Coal Valley service center and there will be a light lunch for Coal Valley attendees after the update session. Members can also attend at the RAILS Burr Ridge or East Peoria service centers or via Zoom. [Registration details are available on L2](#) and watch for an agenda closer to the date.

### **Update on RAILS Plans to Redesign/Rebuild Website**

RAILS is redesigning/rebuilding our website to replace an outdated version of Drupal and to better reflect our [new strategic plan](#). We received nine responses to our May RFP and selected Aten Design Group, Inc. to help with the new design and some of the development work. Aten also helped with the design and development of [L2 \(the statewide Library Directory & Learning Calendar\)](#). We plan to debut the new website in late 2022.

### **RAILS In-Person Member Library Visits Continue**

Monica Harris, RAILS Associate Executive Director, continues to visit RAILS member libraries in July, with scheduled visits to Morris Area Public Library District, Chenoa Public Library District, Peoria Public Library, Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library, and Lillie M Evans Library District. Monica is also planning trips to several additional libraries in Central Illinois in September.

## Leverage economies of scale to provide greater purchasing power

### **RAILS Discounts and Group Purchases Save Members Money!**

RAILS completed sign-up/renewals for several annual group purchases in June, including EBSCO databases and the ALA RDA Toolkit. The annual EBSCO database package group purchase now includes 161 libraries, public and K-12, and surpassed \$1 million dollars this year, an increase of \$438,000 (+70%) over last year. Forty-one additional libraries (28 publics and 13 schools) joined this group purchase. Thirty-five libraries renewed or joined the ALA RDA Toolkit group purchase, which totals over \$7,000.

RAILS members can find more information, trial access, and pricing on all deals and discounts by logging into the RAILS [Deals & Discounts](#) page.

## Career Online High School (COHS) Update

[Career Online High School](#) is an 18-credit, vocation-based high school completion program that enables libraries to offer adult learners accredited high school diplomas and career certificates in high-demand fields. RAILS coordinates and administers the program for libraries statewide and negotiates lower fees for the scholarships that participating libraries award to students.

The following table provides the latest information on the program as of July 1.

Scholarships Awarded	Total Graduates	Current Number of Students in Program	RAILS Graduation Rate/National Rate
317	152	69	61%/53%

## Sharing Best Practices on Consortial Group Purchasing

Leila Heath, RAILS Director of Library Resources & Programs, and Jenny Taylor, Associate Director of E-Resources at the [Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois](#) (CARLI), met in June to discuss issues and procedures pertaining to consortial group purchasing. The two will continue to meet regularly to share ideas and best practices.

## Seek greater efficiencies, innovations, and enhancements to delivery services

### Changes to East Peoria Area Delivery Routes Begin August 1

RAILS has been working with [GeoMARC](#) (formerly LASA) from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to evaluate our East Peoria delivery operation. We have worked with GeoMARC many times in the past and respect their ability to provide creative and sound delivery routing recommendations.

Based on GeoMARC's evaluation, we are completely rerouting all East Peoria delivery locations beginning Monday, August 1. This change will make our operation more efficient by reducing four routes. It will also save RAILS an estimated \$35K to \$40K annually. These changes will in no way affect the high-quality delivery service libraries have come to expect from RAILS.

### Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) Physical Delivery Meeting

RAILS participated in the semi-annual meeting of organizations providing physical delivery in mid-June. The group, which includes organizations who provide in-house delivery as well as those who contract for service, offers valuable insight into the wider world of delivery efficiencies and challenges. Discussion included the use of efficiency focused tracking devices, experiences transitioning to automated handling, and the increased costs of delivery due to fuel, vehicle maintenance, and labor.

## Work collaboratively to identify and support shared catalog solutions and expand resource sharing

### All Library Types/Sizes Encouraged to Join Find More Illinois

[Find More Illinois](#) (FMI) connects participating standalone and shared online catalogs. Library patrons can quickly search all these catalogs in a single search. All Illinois libraries are eligible to participate, regardless of their size, type, or library software.



For libraries that join before March 2023, all setup fees are waived. No annual fees will be billed until July 1, 2023. RAILS is heavily promoting FMI to encourage libraries to take advantage of this special incentive offer. As an example, Nicole Zimmermann and other RAILS staff produced this [FMI video](#) featuring interviews with current participants.

### Revisions to RAILS State of Resource Sharing Map

RAILS has a map that shows the [State of Resource Sharing](#) within our system, including consortia participation, public library standalone catalogs, and unserved areas. We are revising the map to reflect changes in consortia membership, library names, district boundaries, etc. made since 2019. We are aiming to have the revised map ready by sometime this fall.

### Latest eRead Illinois News

RAILS' [eRead Illinois Axis 360](#) collection includes e-books and e-audiobooks for adults and children with very reasonable pricing. RAILS is finalizing eRead Illinois renewals for FY 2023. As of July 6, 338 library agencies (school districts, main public library buildings, etc.) completed the renewal process. This figure does not include RSA libraries. (RSA is one of six RAILS-supported online catalog consortia.) We anticipate the total number of renewing agencies to total 475 once RSA libraries complete the process.

Anna Behm, RAILS E-Content Specialist, and a representative from Baker & Taylor, our eRead Illinois vendor, scheduled a webinar about scoping the eRead Illinois collection for school libraries. (The scoping feature allows schools to restrict student access to mature adult content.) The webinar will take place twice – on [August 30](#) and [September 1](#). We scheduled the webinar in response to the increased number of questions we've received about scoping in recent months.

Anna Behm also gave a virtual presentation in June to Elgin Community College (ECC) staff about eRead Illinois and related help resources. About five ECC staff members attended.

### Use of RAILS E-Resources

#### eRead Illinois Axis 360 Checkouts

Time Period	E-Books	Audiobooks	Total
June 2022	15,894	14,121	30,015
FY 2022 (July 2021 – June 2022)	280,593	185,056	465,649

#### Inkie.org Library Views

Time Period	Number of Views
June 2022	1,766
FY 2022	40,541

## Explore More Illinois Update

Through RAILS' [Explore More Illinois](#) online cultural and recreational pass program, cardholders at participating Illinois public libraries can take advantage of various discounts at museums, park districts, historical societies, zoos, art centers, recreational facilities, and other attractions.



RAILS covers the licensing cost for the software and there is no additional cost for libraries or attractions to participate. As of July 12, 408 Illinois libraries participate in the program (324 RAILS and 84 IHLS member libraries) and there are [48 attractions](#).

RAILS is working with the [Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois](#) (CARLI) and Illinois Central College (ICC) on a pilot program to allow community college libraries to join Explore More. In June, RAILS staff met with CARLI and ICC staff to discuss next steps, including which college library to pick as the next addition to the program.

New attractions added to Explore More in June include: the Dillon Home Museum in Sterling, the Rockford Art Museum, the Governor John Wood Mansion in Quincy, and two offers from Galesburg Parks and Recreation for its water park and boat rental at Storey Lake. The most popular attractions in June were the Peoria Riverfront Museum, Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Wheels O' Time Museum in Dunlap, and Chicago Children's Museum.

Jessica Barnes and Stacy Palmisano from the RAILS staff visited Rockford attractions in June to shoot one of several proposed videos to highlight Explore More Illinois offers. Stacy is working on final edits, and we will share the video when completed.

## Collaboration on RAILS Statewide Services

RAILS staff meet regularly with Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) staff to discuss RAILS programs/services available to all Illinois libraries, how libraries can take advantage of these resources, possible promotional activities, and additional collaboration opportunities. The June meeting focused on three of these programs/services: [inkie.org](#), Explore More Illinois, and Career Online High School.

## *Models best practices in equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion*

### RAILS Announces EDI Learning Cohort

The current [RAILS Strategic Plan](#) addresses our members' expressed need for EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion) leadership by including it as one of our four strategic goals. To help address this need, RAILS is forming an EDI Learning Cohort.

Approximately 50 RAILS members will meet monthly via Zoom from October 2022 through May 2023. Each two-hour session will explore topics related to EDI, including race, privilege, bias, identity, and cultural lenses. RAILS EDI Consultant Elisabeth "Biz" Lindsay-Ryan will lead the sessions. RAILS is encouraging staff at all levels at all types of libraries throughout our service area to apply.

The application period opened on June 27 and will run through July 29. We've received 41 applications as of July 11. More information on the cohort is available [on the RAILS website](#).

## *Assist member libraries in preparing for the future*

### Help member libraries of all types and sizes demonstrate their value



#### **New Specialized Library Spotlight: Sterling Morton Library at Morton Arboretum**

RAILS conducts video interviews with staff at specialized libraries to highlight the wide variety of different libraries and the valuable work they do, and to give them an opportunity to promote their programs/services.

In [the latest spotlight](#), RAILS Member Engagement Manager Dan Bostrom speaks with Rita Hassert, Library Collections Manager, at the Sterling Morton Library at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle. Rita discusses [ACORN \(Arboretum Collections & Resources Nexus\)](#), an online platform that is open to anyone and provides online access to the library's special collections, including photos, videos, audio, letters, and more.

#### **Libraries Learn about Binge Boxes at My Library Is... Networking Event**

On July 12, the My Library Is... Advisory Team hosted an online event on “binge boxes” (collections of books or DVDs and other goodies that library patrons can check out). Staff members from Carol Stream Public Library, Orland Park Public Library, and Prospect Heights Public Library discussed how they implemented a binge box program. A total of 59 people registered and 27 attended. A [recording is available](#) on the RAILS YouTube page.

## *Leads alongside member libraries to develop and strengthen Illinois library community*

### Strengthen collaborative relationships with partner library organizations

#### **Third-Annual Special Libraries Association Midwest Symposium Breaks Records**

On June 10, special library workers from the Midwest and beyond came together for a professional development event that continues to grow and attract attention. The Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Saint Louis SLA communities hosted the half-day virtual event, which broke records for the most registrants (100) and participants (over 80).

As 2022 SLA Illinois President, RAILS Member Engagement Manager Dan Bostrom served on the planning committee for this event, which featured keynotes, three educational sessions, six lightning talks, and the opportunity to network with other special library workers. The goal was to bring together the best minds from the Midwest and the collaboration between the five communities has led to stronger ties.

#### **RAILS at 2022 Special Libraries Association (SLA) Conference**

RAILS Member Engagement Manager Dan Bostrom will participate in the 2022 SLA Annual Conference July 30 – August 2, in Charlotte, North Carolina. As the 2022 President-Elect of the Leadership & Management Development Community, Dan has been helping plan sessions and organize speakers. Dan and Eugene Giudice from Dentons, Inc., a RAILS member library, will also present “Getting New Employees over the First-Year Hump” on Monday, August 1.



### **RAILS Invited to Participate in August 2022 REALM Symposium**

RAILS has been an active participant in the [REALM \(REopening Archives Libraries and Museums\)](#) project since it began as a response to the pandemic in 2020. The project is funded by OCLC and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). As the project moves to its next phase, RAILS leadership continues to participate in conversations and focus groups about concerns that affect our member libraries.

Associate Executive Director Monica Harris was invited to participate in the REALM Symposium: Our Way Forward in August 2022. It will include 150-200 representatives from libraries, archives, museums, public health, community organizations, and others, for a two-day, interactive virtual gathering. The event, hosted by IMLS and OCLC, serves as both a capstone for the REALM project and a foundation for future collaboration among those working in and with culture heritage institutions.

### **July Meeting with AISLE, CPS, IHLS, ILA, ISL**

RAILS staff meet monthly with representatives from the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE), Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS), Illinois Library Association (ILA), and Illinois State Library (ISL) to discuss ways we can work collaboratively to support school libraries. Gwen Harrison, Network Consultant at the Illinois State Library, also joined us for the April meeting. Topics discussed in July included recent library materials challenges and an update on RAILS efforts to gather better data about Illinois school libraries. The next meeting of the group is Tuesday, August 2 at 4 p.m.

## ***RAILS Staff News***

### **RAILS at ALA Conference in Washington, D.C.**

Several RAILS staff (Anna Behm, Joe Filapek, Nincy George, Monica Harris, Leila Heath, and Anne Slaughter) attended the American Library Association's Annual Conference in Washington D.C. at the end of June. General attendance at the conference was less than pre-pandemic, but attendees were generally pleased for the opportunity to be back together for learning and sharing.

RAILS staff attended educational programs, met with vendors, participated in networking events, and toured the exhibit hall looking for ideas to bring back to RAILS. Monica Harris is an [ALA At-Large Councilor](#), and governance meetings focused on the composition and structure of the Council going forward, budget analysis, committee reports, and an understanding of the growing nature of intellectual freedom challenges in libraries.

# Consortial Reports

---

## CARLI/I-Share

No report.

## Cooperative Computer Services (CCS)

No report.

## Pinnacle Library Cooperative (PLC)

- Pinnacle has been working with Amanda Standerfer at Fast Forward Libraries on our first Strategic Plan. The plan is still in development, but we've identified our core themes as (1) Training, (2) Governance and Culture, (3) Communication, and (4) Resource Sharing.
- As part of the strategic planning process, we surveyed staff at each member library. We're happy to report that 98.3% of respondents said they were "Very Satisfied" or "Satisfied" with Pinnacle as a whole, with Pinnacle staff, the shared OverDrive collection, and the Polaris ILS receiving the highest levels of support. The remainder of the survey helped highlight gaps in training or issues with internal communication that will be addressed.
- In May, we upgraded the ILS to Polaris 7.1. The new version is primarily focused on adding Technical Services functions to Leap, the web-based version of the ILS.
- Working with Eric Bain at RAILS, all six libraries are getting ready to join Find More Illinois. We have successfully configured the NCIP connection, which acts as an intermediary between the SHAREit software and our Polaris ILS. We're hoping to train ILL staff on the product in late Summer and launch the service to patrons in the fall.
- On June 14th, Pinnacle celebrated 10 years as a consortium! To celebrate the occasion, library marketing staff coordinated desserts/food for staff in each library break room. Each library also held a drawing for any patron who checked out an item on the 14th.

## PrairieCat

- PrairieCat is moving forward with several initiatives currently. Right now, we are working with North Chicago Public Library, who are joining PrairieCat at the fully participating level. They should be going live in the September/October timeframe. We are also working on upgrading Mt. Carroll Public Library from a union listing to basic online circulating member. In addition, Rock Island Public Library is in the process of adding a branch to their district, which should also open in the September/October timeframe. Of course, projects at Putnam County Schools and Lostant Community Public Library are also ongoing.
- PrairieCat continues to work with Innovative Interfaces as a development partner for their Vega promote software suite. In addition, we will shortly begin the process of configuring our Vega Discovery server. The software has been officially released for consortia running the Sierra ILS, and we will shortly be working with our Innovative project manager to begin the live server configuration. In tandem, we will be working with our Training, Engagement, and User

Experience committees to train member libraries and develop support materials for members as well as patrons.

- We are currently in the initial phase of redesign for our support website. PrairieCat staff are working with our site hosting provider, Cherry Hill, on this project. We have several wireframes we are currently reviewing, and will be moving on to finalizing our site structure presently.
- Planning for further independence from the RAILS IT infrastructure is also ongoing. We will launch a new, web-based helpdesk platform for our users on July 14. This will eliminate our reliance on the RAILS-hosted OTRS solution. Shortly thereafter, we will be moving our mailing lists from the current mailman server hosted at RAILS to a web-hosted solution. We are working with Microsoft and software vendors to price and acquire Office 365 licensing, as well as Active Directory and Exchange hosting. We are also working with other vendors on related aspects of our IT infrastructure, such as VOIP/messaging, online meeting software, email spam filtering and archiving, and other aspects of our infrastructure that we will be addressing in the coming months.

### Resource Sharing Alliance NFP (RSA-NFP)

- The Cataloging Department is rolling out a brand-new, no record available cataloging process for all RSA member libraries starting on July 1. Members will no longer have to fill out a cataloging request form, take photos/scans of their items or send them in delivery to RSA so that our staff can create temp records for libraries to put the items on. Over the years, this had led to increased amounts of duplicate requests and correspondingly longer waiting times for items not already in the database to first check out to patrons. The new procedure has the libraries creating very brief temp records if they are the first library to find the missing title. That new brief record format contains only the Title, Author, ISBN/ISSN, a free text field to denote special contents or all the titles in a binge box, and submitter's email address. Any other library with the same new title will attach to the brief record created by the first library.
- On the backend, RSA staff have expanded OCLC Connexion bibload training to all interested RSA members. We hope this expands the pool of libraries who can download titles, which has the side effect of overlaying brief records too. That also relieves some of the pressure on RSA's Cataloging Staff to find and upgrade all the brief records. RSA Staff will contact the original submitter when we are ready to fully catalog the items on brief records. RSA currently receives just over 1,000 cataloging requests per month. We hope to drop that by 80% with this new procedure.
- RSA's Membership approved our first ever standard for item types of new materials! RSA's membership has historically rejected standards and operated in a do your own thing kind of way. Over the past five years we have had a lot of Director turnover and the first major thing they complained about was how ILL reciprocity worked. We spent nine months finding, describing, fleshing out with statistics, and providing a standardized solution to our ILL reciprocity issues, almost all of which involve new materials. The Board and membership also approved a new Reciprocity Policy to go along with the new standard. We are moving from 20 new materials item types, none of which were used the same way between libraries, to nine

specific item types, three of which contain system-wide holdable and non-holdable/local holds only breakout types. The three breakout types, new books, DVDs, and BluRays, cover 95% of all new materials holds and are what caused the reciprocity flare-up in the first place. RSA staff are working up a survey to go out soon to gather data on how each library wishes to use the new item types, as well as their holds and circ rules, and how long a thing is new for each one. RSA staff are working to update as much of the backend as we can now. In August we'll begin working individually with libraries to bulk move their new materials into their newly selected item types.

- RSA's new support website design is finished. Most of the internal layout and navigation work is finished as well. We have created several ways to find the same information ranging from free form search, four position specific handbooks, by topic search, and entry specific related materials. We've loaded about 50% of the documents required to go live; cataloging documents are being loaded now. There is a RSA Website Committee meeting in late June to review the progress and fine-tune the navigation. The Committee requested we load actual live materials so they could research how finding answers to various questions or topics would work.
- We've entered the final stages of developing a new search tabs interface that works with the new SirsiDynix Cloudsource Open Access articles database. We're finding all the little bugs and issues with the new widget SirsiDynix created for us. To avoid swamping our standard catalog with over 32 million open access articles, journals, ebooks, reports, complete educational courses and more, we've separated those results off by themselves. Doing so broke our existing search results tabs integration. We will be moving from three interactive tabs of search results, Books, eStuff, and everything in RSA, to six tabs by adding Juvenile materials, a Hoopla breakout, and the Cloudsource OA articles tabs. RSA Staff are finalizing designs to marketing and educational resources for our libraries to help them explain both the new search tabs and the open access articles product to our member's patrons or students. For many RSA libraries, this new product will provide their only full-text access to online resources and databases.
- Finally, RSA is reworking our online membership list to incorporate the new East Peoria delivery stop library codes. This will initially cause some confusion to libraries in our hub and force them to look up every item going into delivery to learn the library's new code designation. Since most RSA library delivery goes to other RSA libraries, we've always provided a list specifically sorted by RSA system library codes to make labeling easier. In addition to the new library delivery stop codes, we've added all the Community Drop Point (CDP) codes and labeling instructions as well as codes and instructions for member branch libraries since they essentially work like CDP libraries.

## Rock River Library Consortium (RRLC)

RRLC group voted at their final meeting of the year to use RAILS grant funds to subscribe on a trial bases to two different databases for our members. The public libraries will try the Press Reader database for online magazines. The schools will receive Gale databases: In Context, Opposing Viewpoints, and Global Issues for the high schools and the middle and lower grades will receive Gale in Context for their age-appropriate students. We are looking forward to offering these databases to our patrons being in July.

## System Wide Automated Network (SWAN)

### 25 million OCLC WorldCat holdings update completed for five LLSAP

OCLC WorldCat is completely redoing its public catalog interface in August 2022. As part of that update, OCLC extended an offer to have libraries update holdings in WorldCat. SWAN coordinated with OCLC and five Illinois LLSAPs (CCS, PrairieCat, Pinnacle, RSA, and SHARE) to use the OCLC offer to perform a complete “wipe out” of the existing WorldCat holdings, and use the Illinois LLSAP created OCLC Holdings Manager to set the most accurate representation yet of 25 million holdings in WorldCat.

SWAN staff performed a manual audit of OCLC holdings for a random selection of libraries to ensure things were accurate.

We are pleased to have this project finished and hope that Illinois library staff see fewer incidences of holdings set for items that were discarded in the distant past. Our regular monthly OCLC holdings processing resumed mid-May.

Scott Brandwein and Rudy Host assisted the five Illinois consortia with whom we collaborated on the OCLC Holdings Manager (OHM) project. As of June, monthly catalog extracts were being processed based on consortium submissions.

### SWAN Library resource sharing metrics: comparison 2019 vs 2022

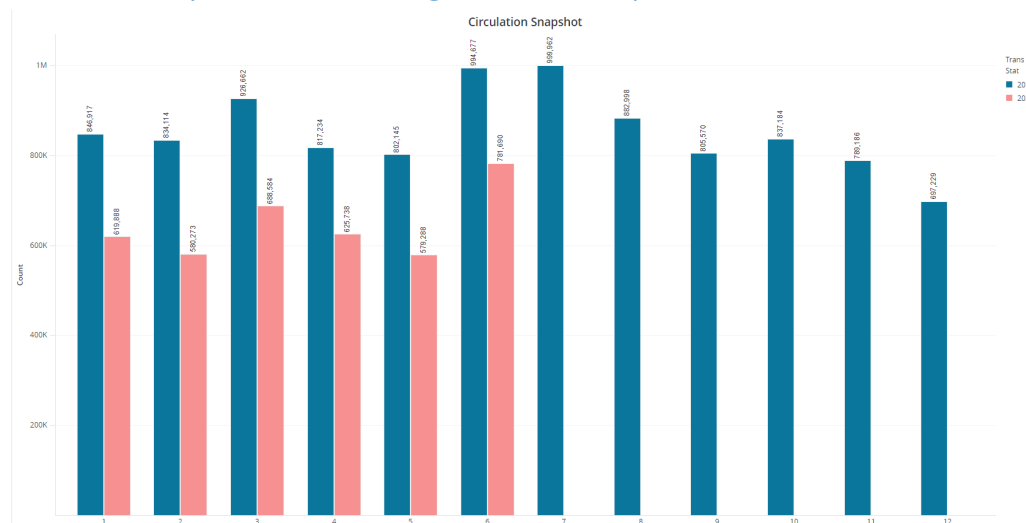


Figure 1 SWAN circulation totals for 100 libraries comparing 2019 against 2022

Comparing June 2019 pre-pandemic circulation (994,677) against June 2022 (781,690), we are at 79% of prior pre-pandemic numbers. May 2019 to 2022 comparison was 72%. Summer months June and July traditionally show peak circulation so the coming months will show if those trends continue and add momentum to continued circulation growth.

A closer look at the quarterly comparison from Q1 2019 to Q1 2022 shows that some libraries have recovered more than others. The chart below maps all SWAN libraries. The height of the bar represents the 2022 Q1 circulation total per library. Color of bar represents percentage of circulation comparing Q1 2019 to Q1 2022. Areas shown in red or orange are less than 50% of Q1 2019 circulation.

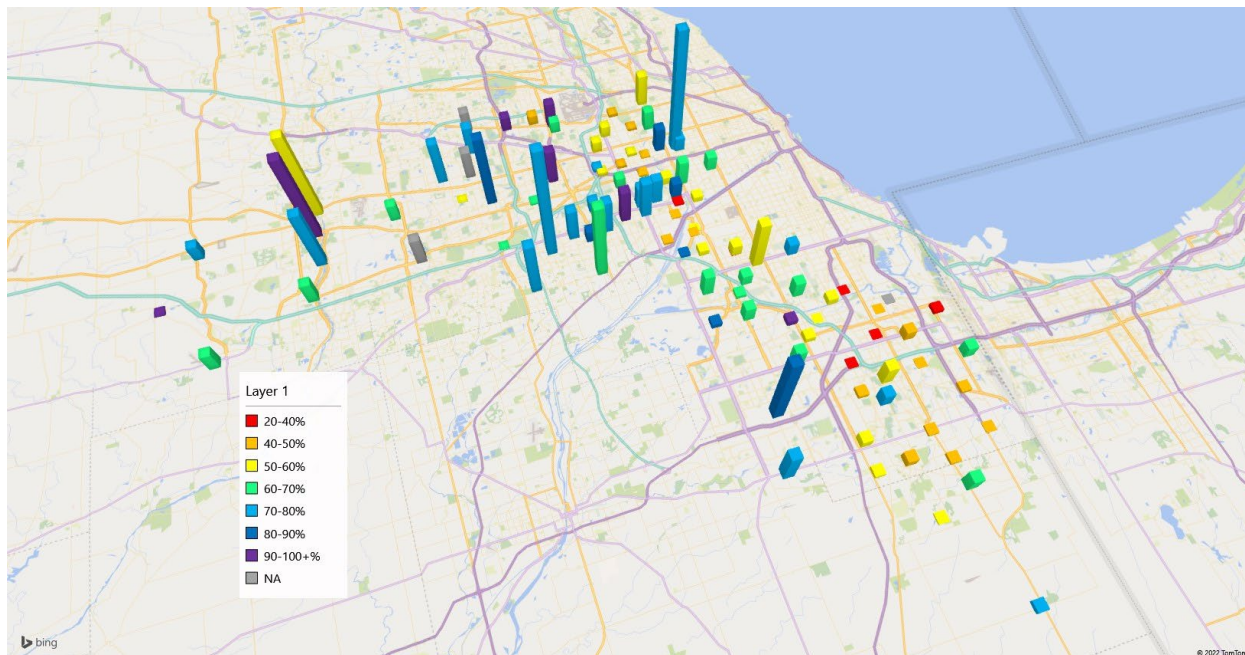


Figure 2: SWAN region visual map with circulation indicated as 50% below average (red, orange) & libraries near 2019 totals (blue & purple)

### System-wide transits

In May 2022 SWAN saw a decrease in transits of 9% compared to same period May 2019. As number of holds processed did not decline at the same rate, this drop may be related to more efficient holds management through Aspen Discovery, which replaced the prior Enterprise Discovery on May 1, 2022.

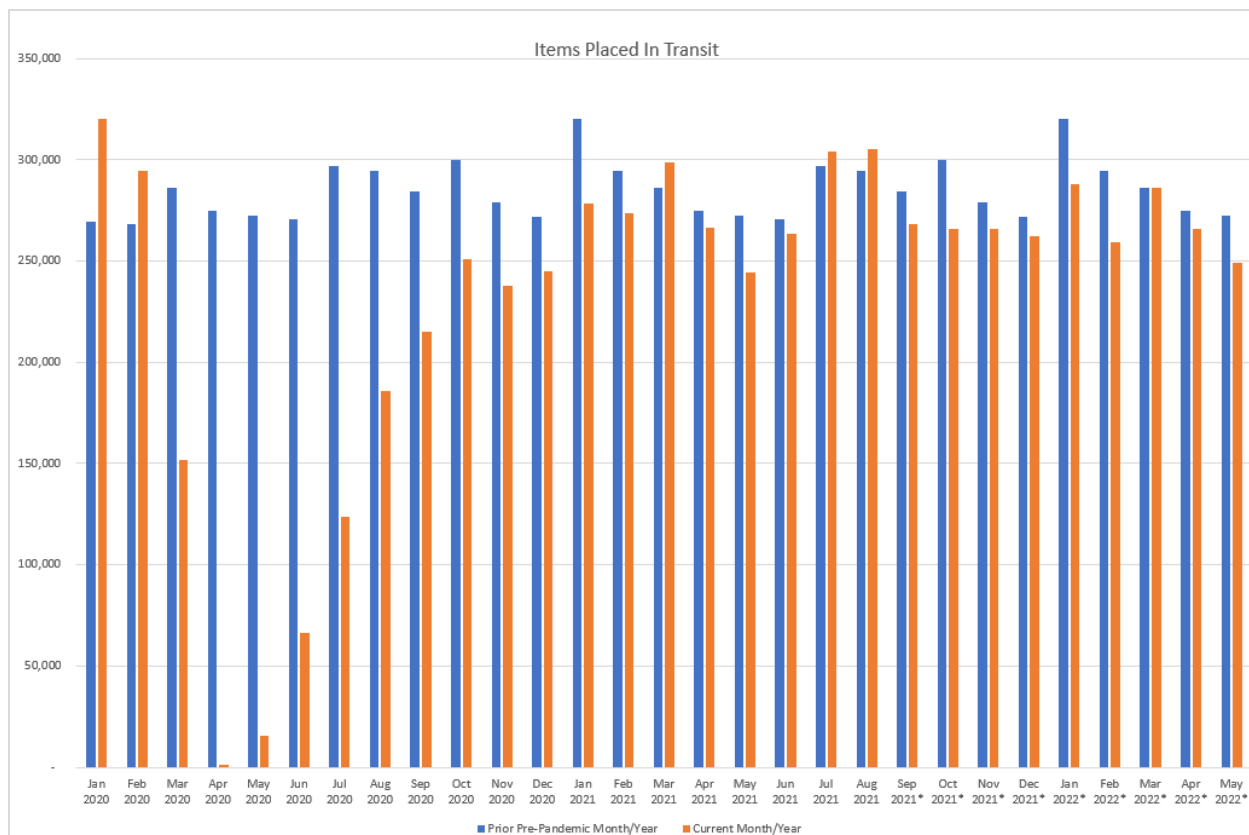
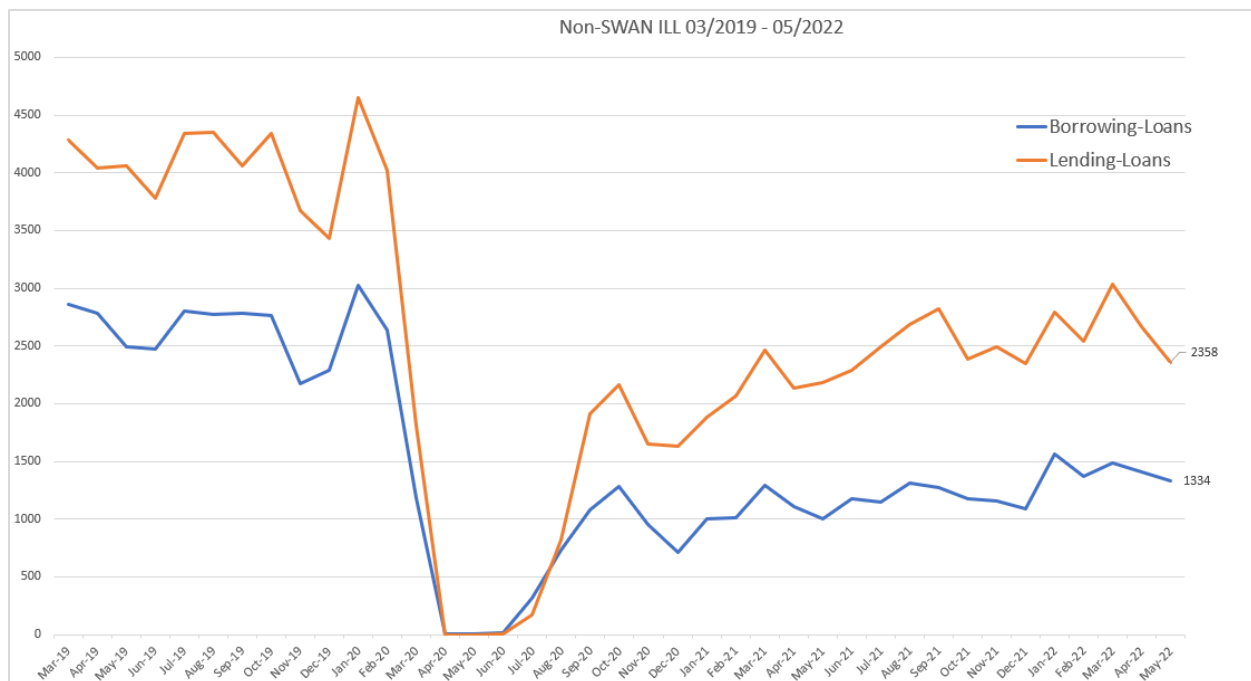


Figure 3: SWAN metrics showing items sent to "transit" between libraries via RAILS delivery service

Correlation of hold filled to pick up library continues to be between 67-70% from October 2021 through May 2022. Consistently 2 out of every 3 items filling holds comes from a SWAN library different from the pick-up library.

**OCLC Worldwide Resource Sharing**

Resource sharing outside of SWAN dipped somewhat in April-May 2022. This was due to the period when our OCLC holdings were being reset. Again, SWAN libraries lend outside our consortium at a 2:1 ratio.



### Illinois is #1 in WorldShare ILL

Members of the OCLC WorldShare ILL community received the following post from an intern working on statewide statistics. Illinois is #1 in requests and lending and is a net-lender!

From Brian Shupp (OCLC Intern)

[https://www.oclc.org/community/discussions/interlibrary\\_loan.topic.html/oclc\\_ill\\_activitybystate-LfEe.en.html](https://www.oclc.org/community/discussions/interlibrary_loan.topic.html/oclc_ill_activitybystate-LfEe.en.html)

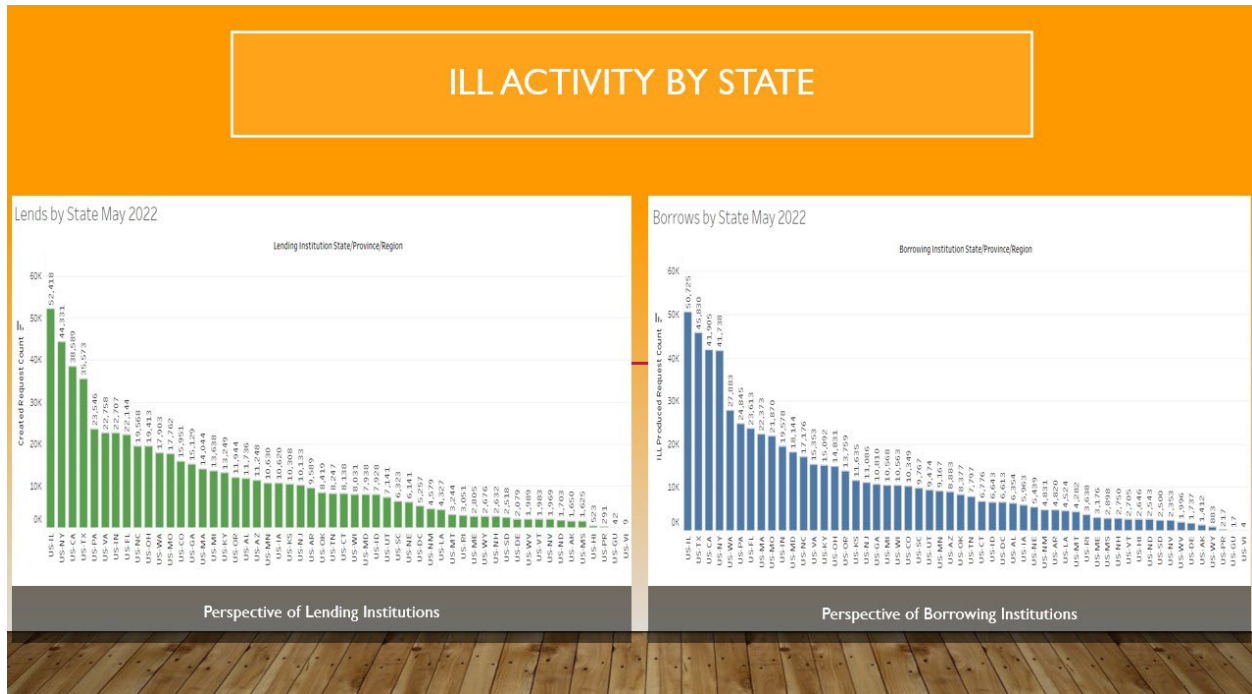
Hey everyone!

I'm the OCLC resource sharing intern back this week with some more stats for you.

Today I'm sharing stats about ILL activity among the 50 US states, as well as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. This is one month of data from May 2022.

If you're with a library in ILLinois, (yes, I'm already using ILL puns), New York, California, or Texas, good job! You've been busy filling the most requests.





Check the charts to see where you state is located!

- **Illinois libraries sent a request to lending libraries 50,725 times while around 235,000 requests were sent to them.**
- New York libraries received 217,000 requests while sending only around 87,000 requests themselves.
- Texas libraries received around 45,000 requests while sending about 23,000 requests themselves.

I also took a look at stats between states rather than simply the ILL activity within a state. Here are some of those top stats from 2022 so far:

- Washington libraries sent 15,557 borrow requests to Oregon libraries.
- Massachusetts libraries sent 12,289 borrow requests to New York libraries.
- **Illinois libraries filled the most requests within their state overall (Illinois-to-Illinois) with 79,420 requests.**
- Ohio libraries lent 5,478 times to Washington libraries.

Do you have ideas for more stats you would like to see? Please reach out to me with your suggestions.

Enjoy,

Brian Shupp