

### **Specialized Library Advocacy – Excerpts from past Advocacy Committee meetings**

Excerpt from the January 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Nemecek-Loise read aloud a draft of a post written by Halle Cox for the RAILS and SLA (Special Libraries Association) listservs to promote legislative advocacy to special libraries. In the post, Ms. Cox shared how legislative advocacy committee work resulted in a legislative change that provided funding for law libraries. The committee suggested changes to the draft: the title of committee be changed to the RAILS Board Advocacy, add contact information and links for more information, and Ms. Witt suggested the post include action steps. The committee liked the passionate tone of the message and appreciated the personal story.

Excerpt from the May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Laura Turner discussed the lack of visibility, nationally and locally, of specialized libraries in articles, library initiatives and issues, resources, and Board and committee representation. Ms. Turner suggested eRead Illinois and data are areas that RAILS put more focus on specialized libraries. Advocacy is about asking how we could include specialized libraries in the work that is done and learn more about the issues that are important to them. Specific actions toward advocacy are to include more voices of specialized librarians, education on the commonalities of specialized librarians and the unique services they can offer, feature them in events or tours of their facilities.