**RAILS**

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**May 19, 2023**

## RAILS Board Committee Reports

### *Advocacy Committee Report- Chair Robin Helenthal*

The committee met on May 11, 2023. The next meeting is June 8, 2023.

The meeting focused on the topic of Specialized Libraries. Catherine Yanikoski, Research Librarian at Engineering Systems, Inc., talked about her transition to a specialized library and her experiences and challenges. Dan Bostrom gave an overview of trends in specialized libraries in Illinois.

Monica Harris reported on the ILA legislative and advocacy updates and the status of bills HB2789 Library Systems–Book Banning, SB2419 License to Read Act, and HB4016 state budget. The tentative topics for the next meeting agenda are: ILA legislative and advocacy updates and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

### *Consortia Committee Report-Chair Thomas Stagg*

The committee met on April 24, 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2023.

Aaron Skog (SWAN), Jill Morris (PALCI), and Lucy Harrison (GALILEO) presented a report from ICOLC Strategies for Open Collaboration Task Force: "Opportunities and Challenges to Build the Future We Need," which highlights what libraries can do to regain ownership of tools and services to create a more competitive marketplace. Nincy George (RAILS) presented the World Language Cataloging Services program, a statewide program that provides supplementary services to Illinois libraries where original or world language cataloging is needed. Rachel Fischer (CCS) reviewed how CCS collaborated with RAILS in establishing a standard for localized cataloging procedures that helped the RAILS World Language Cataloging Services gain traction among CCS members. Anne Slaughter (RAILS) reported that RAILS is collecting expanded data through the LLSAP Support Grant process to help develop more data-driven decision-making tools for libraries regarding LLSAP membership and the responsibilities of automation. This new data collection instrument is called RAILCAR, and Grant Halter (RAILS) presented an overview of the data fields that will be newly collected along with the fields that will be aggregated from existing sources such as IPLAR and the zILLANE report. The FY2024 meeting schedule document was amended to correct a typo and approved by unanimous vote. Leila Heath (RAILS) and Anne Slaughter clarified the difference between paper libraries and contracting libraries and invited discussion on the experiences LLSAPs have had with these libraries. Heath shared that RAILS is working to add a component to L2 to help identify contracting libraries and their parent libraries.

### *EDI Committee Report - Chair Dianne Hollister*

The committee met on May 9, 2023. Next meeting TBD

EDI Committee member Michelle Mistalski, and member of the BIPOC Library Workers Networking Group gave a report that included the successful mentorship program the group has created.  A BIPOC/Queer presenters list is another project that the networking group is working on.  Sarah McHone-Chase, a member of the Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries' (IACRL) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI) attended the meeting and will be a regular attendee of this committee. IACRL will partner with the RAILS EDI Committee to collaborate and share information. There was a robust conversation on sharing EDI initiatives and success stories from committee member libraries such as the success of Bloomington Public Library's True Colors Book Club, and Rush University's devoted diversity

page on the library's website. Cook Memorial Public Library District's successful results from a focus group of participants in their ESL (English as a Second Language) class, and Northbrook Public Library's staff EDI committee has created three working groups as a result from a recent EDI organizational assessment. An ongoing discussion was held on ways to motivate library directors to do EDI work. Harris reported on RAILS' EDI efforts including ways to diversify the RAILS Board in the upcoming election, the new RAILS website was designed with maximum readability to align with our accessibility goals, and the RAILS' job board is now requiring all posts list salary in dollar amounts. There was a discussion about member terms, representation of future committee members, the format of the meetings, and also the FY2024 meeting schedule. The committee agreed to include ex-officio members from other Illinois library organizations with an EDI focus as a partnership and to share EDI initiatives.

## Executive Committee Report - Chair Alex Vancina

The committee did not meet.

## Nominating Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The committee will meet on May 31.

## Policy Committee Report - Chair Jennifer McIntosh

The committee met on March, 8.  The next meeting is on May 4, 2023
Items discussed at the meeting will be brought to the Board at the May meeting.

## Resource Sharing Committee Report - Chair Becky Spratford

The committee met on May 8, 2023.  The next meeting tentatively scheduled for August 7, 2023.

The Find More Illinois program reports three new library members and strong renewals. An expansion of the program that would allow for the implementation of an ILS system for under and non-automated libraries is in the very early stages of planning. Brian Smith walked the committee through the new RAILS website. The website's integration with L2 was noted as a favorite feature among members. At the most recent Statewide Public Policy Committee meeting, ILA reported a shortfall of revenue across the state, but there is cautious optimism about the possible approval of a Statewide Online Educational Resource Program. Libraries, however, are encouraged to budget as usual. Members discussed the end of the Gubernatorial Emergency Proclamation, and a tentative schedule of meetings for FY24 was suggested. Committee members agreed to keep Find More Illinois and the Statewide Online Educational Resources Program as standing agenda items for future meetings.

## Universal Service Committee Report - Chair Alice Creason

The committee met on March 7, 2022.  The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2023.