RAILS Report – Consortia Committee

FY2025 LLSAP Support Grant and RAILCAR

RAILS staff is currently finalizing the details for the FY2025 LLSAP Support Grant application and process, which will incorporate the first round of questions for the RAILCAR dataset discussed at the April 2023 meeting of the Consortia Committee. We anticipate a timeline similar to previous years, with applications provided to the six RAILS LLSAPs before the end of July, and an application deadline in September.

Catalog Membership Grants

RAILS awarded two FY2023 Catalog Membership Grants in May:

> Addison Public Library - $33,147.00 to join SWAN
> Warren Newport Public Library District - $53,040.00 to join CCS

The FY2024 application will be finalized and posted shortly. We anticipate two application deadlines for FY2024, in October 2023 and April 2024.

Find More Illinois

Aurora Public Library District is the newest Find More Illinois member. Libraries joining through December 2023 will have all one-time setup fees waived.

On June 2, representatives from the Find More Illinois team, Pinnacle Library Cooperative, and Helen M. Plum Memorial Library District, presented "Simplifying ILL with Find More Illinois" at the Wisconsin-Illinois Innovative Users Group. Topics included optional NCIP (NISO Circulation Interchange Protocol) integration, Find More Illinois implementation, and workflow improvements.

Statewide Access to Electronic Resources

As you have likely seen by now, the Illinois Secretary of State's FY2024 budget has passed, and it includes $5 million for statewide access to online resources. Under this proposal selected databases will be available without charge to everyone in the state of Illinois, including the one million residents who do not currently receive library service. RAILS will continue to update our members on next steps as we learn more. We understand that the Illinois State Library will invite the systems and CARLI to discuss next steps in July, and that this will be a topic of some discussion at the July meeting of the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) in Springfield.

Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act – Resources for Libraries

[50 ILCS 70/1 et seq.](#) requires public library districts and other units of local government to form a committee to study local efficiencies. RAILS has created resources for public libraries to help support their compliance with the Act, including talking points talking points about the efficiencies that their membership in RAILS provides them, so they can include them in the reports being submitted to their counties.

[FAQ - Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act](#)
[Memorandum on Compliance and Report Template](#)
[RAILS Talking Points - Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act](#)

RAILS 2023 Board Election Results

After an election with a significantly increased member library voting turnout, the candidates who have been elected to serve on the RAILS Board will be sworn in at the July 28 meeting:

Academic Library Seat
Gwen Gregory, Northern Illinois University

Public Library Trustee Seats
Jean M. Carroll, Thomas Ford Memorial Library
Jennifer Hovanec, Villa Park Public Library
Alex Vancina (re-elected), New Lenox Public Library District

School Library Seat
Monica Caldicott (re-elected), Vernon Hills High School Library Media Center

Special Library Seat
Catherine Yanikoski, Engineering Systems, Inc

Digital Equity and Broadband Expansion

Anne Slaughter partnered with Troy Brown from IHLS to attend the ISLAC meeting in May and facilitate a discussion of the significant library-specific impacts and opportunities presented by current national and statewide efforts around broadband expansion and digital equity. This collaboration will continue, including involvement from CARLI, additional discussion at future ISLAC meetings, and an upcoming statewide survey to gather higher-quality data on relevant library connection information, resources, and needs. This work coincides with the June 26 announcement of a $1,040,420,751.50 allocation to Illinois under the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, which will be used for grants to deploy or upgrade broadband networks to ensure that everyone has access to reliable, affordable, high-speed Internet service, and to pursue eligible access-, adoption-, and equity-related uses. The Illinois Office of Broadband is required to develop both a Five-Year Action Plan and a Digital Equity Plan to guide their use of BEAD funds as well as funds distributed under the related Digital Equity Act. The Office of Broadband has also recently announced its [Digital Equity Capacity Kickstarter](#)

program, for which libraries are eligible to apply. All of these programs will have more information, including opportunities for public comment, provided as they develop, and we encourage the library community to stay abreast of these historic initiatives via the Illinois Broadband Connections newsletter.