

Consortial Reports

April 15, 2024

Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI/I-Share)

No update is available at this time.

Cooperative Computer Services (CCS)

Find More Illinois Implementation

D. Wischmeyer is working with Eric Bain (RAILS) on our training plan and content for CCS members.

Member Engagement Survey

D. Wischmeyer has compiled and analyzed member engagement data from FY22-23. Data reviewed includes staff and library attendance at technical and advisory group meetings and CCS-led training sessions. Data shows attendance varies significantly by library and by CCS group. To help understand current and improve future engagement, CCS will create and share an engagement survey with key library contacts.

ILS Data in Decision-Making

CCS Governing Board engaged in an ideation activity to help define member library goals related to data collection and analysis for strategic decision-making. CCS will work the results into setting our upcoming strategic directions for the year and next year's strategic planning process.

Review of Fine Count Data

R. Barth continues to work on a comparison of ILS data and RAILS Delivery Fine Count data to determine the feasibility of using an automated rather than manual count.

Pinnacle Library Cooperative

Pinnacle and Pours

From April 1 - May 31, Pinnacle libraries will be collaborating with local breweries and coffee shops for a shared programming event called Pinnacle and Pours. Patrons are encouraged to visit participating restaurants, grab a drink, and scan the QR code to enter to win prizes. To coincide with the event, libraries will also be hosting a variety of themed programs throughout the next few months. More information is available at pinnaclelibraries.org/pours.

IUG Conference

In March, Pinnacle staff attended and presented at the Innovative Users Group conference in Detroit, MI.

Find More Illinois

At the March board meeting, the board voted that we would not be renewing our consortial-level participation in Find More Illinois. Member libraries may choose to participate at an individual level.

PrairieCat

Mills & Petrie Memorial Library and Gymnasium – Membership Upgrade

Mills & Petrie Memorial Library and Gymnasium is a current PrairieCat Union List member. The library uses ResourceMate for cataloging, but does not have an automated system for patron records or circulation. Kim Toole, interim director, inquired about upgrading their membership from Union List to Basic Online level. The library board reviewed the upgrade and approved the IGA. The signed IGA will go to the April PrairieCat Delegates Assembly meeting for approval. The library plans to submit a RAILS Catalog Membership Grant for assistance with this project.

Oglesby Public Library District – Membership Change

The Oglesby Public Library District requested to downgrade from Fully Participating to Basic Online membership level. The updated IGA will be reviewed at the April PrairieCat Delegates Assembly meeting.

PrairieCat Resource Sharing Summit

PrairieCat hosted our annual Resource Sharing Summit on March 7 at the DeKalb Public Library. We had 40 people in attendance and positive feedback from survey results. This year's topic was Serving the Unserved. Joe Filapek, RAILS Associate Executive Director, and Greg McCormick, Illinois State Library Director, presented on laws around non-resident cards, reciprocal borrowing, interlibrary loan, and other related topics. They also addressed common issues and questions on these topics. In the afternoon, attendees had breakout table discussions around service to the unhoused, cards for kids, cards for veterans, IGAs among community organizations, and other outreach initiatives. It was a useful and informative event.

Vega Discover – Kids Catalog

PrairieCat staff are working on configuring the Vega Discover Kids Catalog. The customizations allow for a more kid-friendly design and several themed pages such as subjects and series.

Rock River Library Consortium (RRLC)

No update is available at this time.

Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA)

RSA Independence Project Update

Phase 1 of the RSA Independence Project (RIP) remains on track. On March 1st, we rolled out final versions of the new Intergovernmental Agreement to reform RSA's governance and organizational type, new Bylaws, and a new fee structure. Our member libraries agree to all three of these documents by signing the IGA. In addition to the three major documents, we included 19 other support documents covering various administrative, history, and in-depth fee structure information.

RSA Membership, Support Site, and Site Visits

As of 21 March, we have had 31 public, 13 school, 1 academic, and 1 special library return signed IGAs. We've also heard from 3 schools who will not remain in RSA long-term due to the inevitable increase in fees due to our independence from RAILS. Our members have through June to return signed IGA's to remain RSA members.

As you might imagine, our major focus over the next three months is working with our members to ensure they have all the information they need to examine their options, answer all their Board or Administrative questions, and return the IGA's to us. Full details are available on the RSA Independence Project page on our support site: <https://support.librariesofrsa.org/independence-project/>

The RSA Support Site has been updated with an all new, document index. This index lists all RSA policies standards, procedures, guides, cheat sheets, and information documents. All are grouped into overall system or operational topics, then all documents pertaining to an individual topic is consolidated to make discovery and linking easier. This has been a long-time RSA and member library wish-list item and we're happy it's finally available. Having a consolidated listing of all RSA member facing documentation also helps us target what needs reworked or reviewed based on document age.

Cataloging and Operations staff are conducting in person library visits. We're working through the list of libraries who want visits prior to setting up visits with those who may be less thrilled to see us. Our target is to visit each of our 140-ish members at least once every other year.

Board of Directors

We're also in the process of creating a Board of Directors slate to elect a brand new, 12-person, Board to be seated on 1 July 2024. We're taking volunteers now and have a three-person nominating committee running the process. Our schools and small public libraries have a hard time serving on the Board. To help make serving on the Board more feasible for members like this, we've instituted a \$1,000 a year 'rebate' at the end of each year of Board service. These checks will be issued to the 12 libraries with staff serving on the Board. This has dramatically increased the number of small library Directors interested in potentially serving on the RSA Board.

SirsiDynix and ILS Servers

SirsiDynix's mobile catalog app, from Solus, is back online as of mid-February. RSA worked with SirsiDynix to beta test the changes that were required to get it back online. We identified several issues and were glad to be able to offer this to our patrons again. Approximately 50% of all online payments made by patrons came in via this app. Our member libraries are happy to be able to offer this again as it's been the #1 patron complaint since late November when it went offline for all SirsiDynix customers.

RSA has updated several ILS products including our Symphony servers. We're currently running the latest versions of all software. We're also experimenting with several changes to our patron catalog including new homepage customizations and updated book rivers for all libraries. We've also started to consider a total rebrand of patron facing products. This project has been pushed to the new RSA Board for their input, guidance, and leadership.

RSA Day

RSA Day 2024 was held on the 20th of March. We had almost 150 library staff attend in person this year. Attendance continues to grow year over year. Most of the events were non-RSA system specific and

aimed at library frontline staff. Feedback has been very positive and we thank RAILS for the event grant which helped cover the speakers and building costs!

System Wide Automated Network (SWAN)

Single sign-on project

SWAN will begin work on a single sign-on solution to bring our 1,200 library staff logins to allow access to our support and learning platforms with a single login. Our goal is to make library staff access to these software platforms smoother and more secure. We have approved an agreement to work with Ping Identity to provide a SAML solution for the following platforms requiring login:

- Support website using Drupal CMS
- Inquisiq learning management system
- Community forums using Discourse
- BLUEcloud Staff: our web-based library management system

We are already providing library patrons with a single sign-on solution to online research platforms and e-content through our OpenAthens service.

Aspen LiDA features development

Events integration is now included with the 24.02 release of Aspen Library Discovery App (LiDA). Our support and software developer Bywater Solutions is still working on additional enhancements to bring events to the fore in the app, but the initial integration is complete. Libraries that have added their Library Market, Communico, or Springshare calendars will see events in both Aspen Discovery and Aspen LiDA.

We are still working with Bywater to connect Symphony for Scan-and-Go, the self-checkout feature in the LiDA app.

Membership survey completed

We recently completed a survey to determine satisfaction with the six software platforms provided by SWAN for its 100-member libraries. The survey specifically requested rating and feedback on the following:

- WorkFlows: staff client from SirsiDynix
- BLUEcloud Analytics: data analysis and reporting from SirsiDynix
- MobileStaff: staff tablet-based app from SirsiDynix
- Aspen Discovery: SWAN OPAC supported and developed with ByWater Solutions
- MessageBee: notification platform with Unique Management Solutions
- WorldShare ILL & WorldCat Discovery: OCLC group-services for Illinois libraries, managed by SWAN

The survey's written comments are undergoing sorting and analysis, with recommendations for actionable next steps.