
RAILS Report – Resource Sharing Committee

Welcome Jessica Silva, RAILS Member Engagement Specialist

Jessica Silva started in her new role as the RAILS Member Engagement Specialist on April 3. This role was vacated by Dan Bostrom when he was promoted to RAILS Director of Marketing and Communications in October 2023. Jessica has terrific experience in K-12 school and academic libraries, most recently as a faculty librarian at Austin Community College in Austin, Texas. Jessica served as co-chair of the Texas Library Association’s Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee, was a member of TLA’s Public Relations and Marketing committee, and she served on multiple book award committees in Texas. We are very excited for the RAILS membership to get to know Jessica in her new role here in Illinois.

RAILS Receives Additional Replacement Delivery Vehicles

During April RAILS received two new box trucks for our high-volume Bolingbrook delivery routes. This is in addition to the new transit vans received earlier in the year and represent two of the five replacement box trucks we hope to receive before the end of the fiscal year. These new box trucks replace aging vehicles in our fleet and will allow us to reduce truck rental expenses.

Delivery Count May 6-10

The next RAILS delivery count begins on Monday, May 6. Member libraries should physically count every item in each of your delivery containers and [complete the online count form for each scheduled delivery day of the count period](#) from **Monday, May 6, through Friday, May 10**. To have access to your library’s delivery count form, you must be logged in with your L2 credentials and affiliated with a library that receives system van delivery. Only enter data for the day(s) you receive delivery.

Save the Date: RAILS Member Update on May 8

We are looking forward to another virtual RAILS Member Update on May 8 beginning at 3:00 p.m. Topics will include a spotlight on website accessibility, 2023 My Library Is... grant recipients, and more. A full agenda is coming but [registration](#) is available now.

Illinois Legislative Updates

ILA has published a list of the bills they are [monitoring](#) if you have an interest in following these changes.

- [HB4224](#): Seeks parity between libraries and other governmental units to require library treasurers to hold a bond of 10% of total revenue collection (as opposed to the current level of 50%). Passed the House on April 15th (90-17), moved to the Senate on April 16th, and currently has eighteen co-sponsors.

- [HB4258](#): Amends the License to Read Act to include provisions regulating contracts between libraries and publishers, including the provision that no contract will restrict libraries from operational functions, restrict disclosure of the terms of its license to other libraries, or enable violation of the Library Records Confidentiality Act. This bill has was re-referred to the Rules Committee on April 5th and it has two co-sponsors.
- [HB4567](#): Amends the criminal code to include library employees as protected in relation to threats and disorderly conduct. This bill was sponsored by Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias as an additional support for libraries facing threats and other conduct challenges. Has had its Second Reading in the House and has nineteen co-sponsors.
- [HB4111](#): Amends the Illinois Local Library Act and the Public Library District Act of 1991. Requires competitive bidding for contracts in excess of \$30,000 (rather than \$25,000) for specified improvements and equipment purchases. This was re-referred to Rules Committee on April 5th. This bill has two co-sponsors.
- [HB2401](#): Reintroduced from last legislative session. Amends the school code and requires that books included in any course include diverse authors. Includes school board level control of reading material. Has been assigned to the elementary and Secondary Education School Curriculum and Policies committee. Three amendments have been proposed to this bill.

RSA Independence Project

RSA has now met the minimum requirement of libraries required to sign intergovernmental agreement documents in order to formally trigger the conversion to an Illinois Intergovernmental Instrumentality on July 1, 2024. There is a list of RSA members who have signed the IGA on the [Membership Page of the support site](#), near the bottom of the page.

RAILS Awards 2024 My Library Is... Grants

The Reaching Across Illinois Libraries System (RAILS) has selected 28 projects to receive My library Is... Grants. The total amount funded for these projects is \$104,204.15.

The purpose of these grants is to provide an opportunity for libraries to focus on projects that help tell the library story and increase visibility and support for libraries in general. For a full list of recipients, please see the [recent press release](#). Also, for more data about these grants, please see the data visualization created by RAILS Data Research Specialist Janette Derucki at the end of this report.

RAILCAR Updates

In recent months two RAILCAR dashboards have been shared during Consortia Committee meetings focusing on public library and LLSAP comparisons. The dashboards are the first results created from the RAILCAR dataset that combines information from many sources such as L2, IPLAR, and Certification. Next steps are to develop snapshot reports from libraries and LLSAPs, develop dashboards for school, academic, and special libraries, and add other datasets as needed.

eRead Illinois Data Analysis Project

RAILS Data Analysis Intern, Quinn McKissock, has been working hard on cleaning and analyzing data from the eRead program. Much of their time has been spent reconciling the complex reports Baker & Taylor shares, including order, holds, and circulation. Quinn is currently preparing summarized results of their analysis to share with the full RAILS Board in May, as well as establishing manageable processes for

maintaining the data after their internship concludes and creating useful dashboards for our eRead decision-makers.

RAILS Participates in 2024 ICOLC Annual Meeting

Joe Filapek and Leila Heath attended the 2024 ICOLC (International Coalition of Library Consortia) Annual Meeting in Anaheim April 14-17. This event brings together representatives from library consortia across North America and features a variety of presentations and small group discussions. Topics during this year's annual meeting included Open Access, demonstrating consortial value, and DEI consortial initiatives. Learn more about [ICOLC here](#).

Improvements to L2 and New L2 Registration Video

L2 has received a set of improvements to the visual display of the calendar that were based on user feedback and have been well received. Staff are currently working on estimating costs for potential feature development in FY2025, and will work with the statewide L2 Governing Group to assign priority levels to these features. Suggestions and feedback are always welcome via the L2 help form. RAILS Applications & Web Developer Brian Smith also created a [video with instructions on setting up a new account](#).