
RAILS Report – Consortia Committee

LLSAP Support Grant and RAILCAR

RAILS is in the process of reviewing applications and determining allocations for the FY2026 LLSAP Support Grant, with awards to be announced in late October. This application cycle also represents the second year of data collection for the RAILCAR project, which we will be reporting on in more detail at January's Consortia Committee meeting.

Statement on the Importance of Librarians in Academic Libraries

The RAILS Board of Directors voted on Friday, September 27 to endorse the [CARLI Statement of the Importance of Librarians in Academic Libraries](#).

RAILS Resource Sharing Department Expands

Maggie Thomann has the RAILS Resource Sharing department as the new Library Resource Specialist. This position was added to support the growing Deals & Discounts program. As the Library Resource Specialist, Thomann will help identify quality products and services for RAILS member libraries, maintain and analyze data related to purchasing, and process finalized deals.

Illinois Libraries: Agencies of Impact Data Study

In September, RAILS published the [Illinois Libraries: Agencies of Impact, a Data Study](#), which dives deeply into the quantifiable impact of Illinois libraries, and is intended to help member libraries of all types and sizes demonstrate their value to their various stakeholders. RAILS' Research Data Analyst Janette Derucki was subsequently interviewed by WBEZ for a segment about the value of libraries. Physical copies of this data study booklet have been mailed to each of our member libraries. If you are interested in receiving physical copies, please contact communications@railslibraries.org.

FY2024 RAILS Annual Report

The [FY2024 Annual Report to the Illinois State Library](#) was approved by the RAILS Board at their September meeting. This report summarizes our activities in FY2024 pursuant to the objectives in our strategic plan.