

## Minutes

### **RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting**

Monday, January 27, 2025 | 10:00 am

RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites

125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

1. Welcome and Call to Order  
Vancina called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
2. Roll Call of Members  
Murray called roll.

Present in Burr Ridge: Elizabeth Clarage (CARLI), Kate Hall (CCS), Jennie Mills (Pinnacle), Julia Milavec (RAILS Board), Alex Vancina (RAILS Board)

Present in Coal Valley: Carolyn Coulter (PrairieCat)

Present in East Peoria: Kendal Orrison (RSA)

Present at Sterling Public Library: Jennifer Slaney (RRLC)

Present via Zoom: Aaron Skog (SWAN)

A quorum was present.

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements  
Guests in Burr Ridge – Matt Hammermeister, Monica Harris, Mark Hatch, Leila Heath, Mary Kate Murray (Designated Note-Taker), Jody Rubel, Maggie Thomann, Anne Slaughter  
Guests in Coal Valley: None  
Guests in East Peoria: Antony Deter  
Guests at Sterling Public Library: None  
Guests via Zoom: Janette Derucki, Emily Faulkner, Joe Filapek, Larisa Good, Grant Halter, Suzanna Jones, Rebecca Malinowski, Barb Miller, Anna Wassenaar
4. Public Comments  
There were no public comments.
5. Adoption of the Consent Agenda
  - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
  - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2024  
Hall moved and Milavec seconded the approval of the consent agenda as presented. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.  
Ayes: Clarage, Coulter, Hall, Mills, Milavec, Orrison, Slaney, Vancina  
Nays: None

6. Reports

6.1. Chair Report

6.2. Consortial Reports

6.3. RAILS Report

Slaughter noted that L2 feature developments for FY2026 need to be sent to the developer soon. The L2 Governance Group will be discussing possible new features at its next meeting. Anyone is welcome to reach out to Slaughter directly or use the contact form on the L2 website to request L2 features. Bug-fixes for previously identified issues are in-process. Hall emphasized the importance of working toward serving the 1 million unserved residents of Illinois.

6.4. Resource Sharing Committee Report

The RAILS Resource Sharing Committee met on December 9, 2024. The meeting covered challenges to resource sharing across RAILS libraries and a Delivery overview by Mark Hatch. At the next meeting on February 10, the committee will discuss possibilities for helping RAILS members understand their interlibrary loan options. Heath stated that Find More Illinois (FMI) is working with CARLI and a focus group of ten academic libraries to test the viability of an academic lender-only program. The FMI collection is currently over 7 million items. Heath reported that FMI is working on a fee structure that is not based on collection budget, which will hopefully make the program more equitable across library types.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Update on statewide database access

Jones reported that the implementation of the EBSCO database package is moving forward. Currently, the Illinois State Library (ISL) is creating a list of which libraries require outreach from ISL due to a possible lack of access. Now that some libraries have access to EBSCO resources, training will be held in the Spring. Communication about the program, including requests for usage statistics and training information, will be sent to library systems. ISL still does not have an official announcement date for promotion of the program. A website is in development at the Secretary of State's office that will have all the information about the EBSCO package available in one place. There is currently a temporary website provided by EBSCO that lists some of the available databases. Hall suggested that ISL create a data dashboard that libraries can use to submit their usage data. Skog noted that SWAN worked to have e-books included in the EBSCO package available in the SWAN catalog for simultaneous use. Skog offered to collaborate with other LLSAPs to make the EBSCO e-book holdings available in their catalogs.

7.2. Update on broadband expansion in Illinois

Slaughter communicated that the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for round four of the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) funding is out now, and the Digital Equity Capacity Grant has an anticipated release date of February 3, 2025. Slaughter emphasized that there has been no definite information on potential changes to funding distribution at the federal level.

7.3. Discussion of delivery data – Joe Filapek, Grant Halter

Filapek stated that, in December, RAILS reached out to each LLSAP regarding data from a sampling of libraries. Halter stated some challenges in the reporting, including the lack of "In Transit" reports at some LLSAPs; varied Delivery schedules at member libraries; libraries with multiple locations, drive-up windows, and pickup lockers; and differences in how libraries

process items. Before the next scheduled Delivery count, Halter will reach out to LLSAP staff who generate reports to discuss logistics. For the February, May, and August Delivery counts, Halter will request LLSAP data from all the consortia's member libraries. This data will be compared to the physical count to identify any items falling through the cracks. Halter is working with IT to develop a smoother Delivery data submission portal. Halter noted that he may not be available for the next Consortia Committee meeting.

8. New Business

Update on Illinois State Library Advisory Committee and FY2026 budgeting

Harris stated that the January Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) meeting was cancelled, but federal funding issues were discussed at the November 21 meeting. The Illinois State Library is expected to receive 5.75 million dollars in federal funding, 2 million of which is marked for Delivery services. Money has not been received by any State Libraries across the country yet, and it is not abnormal for this funding to arrive late. There is a lot of speculation that federal funding may not be distributed as planned due to the new federal administration. ISL has stated that funding for per capita grants, regional library systems, and the Talking Books and Braille program is their number one priority for the upcoming year. The next ISLAC meeting will be in March 2025. Harris reported that the Illinois Library Association (ILA) has made funding a legislative priority for FY2026, and that she and other Illinois library advocates will be speaking directly to federal legislators in March through the Voices for Libraries initiative. The American Library Association (ALA) has released a new advocacy campaign called Show Up for Libraries. Harris noted that RAILS has 24 months of operations funded in reserve and stressed the need for adaptability moving forward.

9. Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting

The next RAILS Board Consortia Committee meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2025, at 10:00 am. Suggested agenda items include funding updates, a presentation from SWAN about side-loading EBSCO e-books, and further discussion of delivery data.

10. Adjournment

Vancina adjourned the meeting at 11:04 am.