Agenda Item 6.4

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RAILS Report – Resource Sharing Committee

April 21, 2025

Illinois Libraries: Agencies of Impact Media Kit Now Available

In this kit available on the My Library Is.. website, libraries will find all the infographics included in the original report for use in their own presentations. There are also two 11x17 posters that members can print and display to demonstrate the thriving nature of libraries for their communities. We are sharing the statistics from the study throughout the next several months on our Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Save the Date: RAILS Member Update on February 11

We are looking forward to another RAILS Member Update this February. Agenda items will include:

- General RAILS news and updates from Executive Director Monica Harris
- A presentation on public library meeting rooms and the First Amendment with attorney Julie Tappendorf
- An overview of Galena LitFest by Larissa Distler, librarian at Galena Public Library
- Kate Niehoff, Director of Consulting and CE at RAILS, will share information on a new RAILS CE initiative *RAILS Learning Labs*.

Updated Memo on Immigration Enforcement Guidance

Attorneys at Ancel Glink have updated the memo provided to RAILS in 2017 that focused on guidance for member libraries on how they should interact with Immigrations and Custom Enforcement officials("ICE"). This memo was shared with RAILS member library directors in late January. While we expect some additional follow-up as more is learned about how the federal government intends to conduct their proposed ICE operations, we hope this memo will help provide guidance based on some of the common member questions.

RAILS 2024 Year in Review Video

Instead of doing a RAILS Minute in December this year, we decided to try a video recap of RAILS' work in 2024 for our membership. We highlighted several initiatives that moved forward in 2024, including the SLATE dashboard launch, support for broadband and digital equity efforts, updating our delivery fleet, legislative efforts for Illinois libraries including the Treasurer's bond bill and PA 103-100, efforts to educate libraries on digital accessibility, much more. As always, our Communications Team did a great job encapsulating a great deal of work into an approachable format. I encourage you to look at the video if you haven't already. We'll be back to the RAILS Minute in January.

Find More Illinois Update

RAILS Technology Special Projects Coordinator Eric Bain provided FMI training to new FMI libraries on December 9 and 10. RAILS Consortial Services Supervisor Barb Miller and Eric Bain both attended a customer support meeting with Auto-Graphics on December 18 to discuss current software support tickets.

Delivery Count February 24-28

The next RAILS delivery count begins on Monday, February 24. 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, February 24 through Friday, February 28. 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.

Exciting New Discount for RAILS K-12 Schools

RAILS K–12 schools are now eligible for advantageous pricing on Swank movie licensing, with the option to purchase Movie Licensing or the Movie Licensing + Streaming Plus package. Swank movie licensing offers comprehensive copyright protection for your entire school or district for movie showings from all the top Hollywood studios. Swank's unique Streaming Plus platform also includes legal access to 40,000+ feature films, documentaries and foreign titles, available both in school and at home for teachers and students.

January Renewals Save Libraries Over $25,000

The Deals & Discounts team completed the January 1 sign-up and renewal processes for Swank public libraries and BookBrowse. Over 200 libraries participated in these deals and saved over $25,000. RAILS contacted members through promotion channels, webinars, and individual reach-outs and worked with the vendors throughout the process.

Illinois Library Association Legislative Meetups

The annual series of ILA legislative meetups occurred across the state in early December 2024. The ILA's FY2025 legislative priorities discussed included the Libraries Connected proposal (related to providing complimentary internet service to libraries in their role as community anchor institutions; RAILS co-sponsored this proposal) and Considering Equitable Compensation Reporting Requirements (related to the requirement for posting salary information for any employer of an IMRF participating organization for any employee making over $75k). Also mentioned was the request to fund libraries appropriately, including support for the library systems, and support for the licensed school librarians task force. ILA Lobbyist Derek Blaida discussed potential strategies for moving these efforts forward in the new year.

RAILS staff and the Board had representation at all five events in our service area. At the Public Policy Committee meeting in January 2025, it was reported that library attendee levels were back at pre-pandemic levels. Thank you to all of you who attended these meetings, as well as those of you who sent invites to legislators and led the efforts to organize the events in your area.

December & January Partnerships Meeting

RAILS has monthly meetings with representatives from the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE), Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS), Illinois Library Association (ILA), and the Illinois State Library (ISL) to discuss ways to collaborate to support school libraries.

December meeting topics included:

- An upcoming ILA Intellectual Freedom Committee discussion around soft censorship
- A discussion of ILA Legislative Meetups
- How public libraries can support school libraries
- A recap of the Illinois Association of School Boards conference
- A discussion of the LBSS Grant program