
RAILS Report – Consortia Committee

Catalog Membership Grants

RAILS announced Catalog Membership Grant awards made to five libraries in May 2025. Congratulations to the recipients!

- Camp Point Public Library (RSA) - \$9,413.87
- Chadwick Public Library (RRLC) - \$23,239.00
- Hamilton Public Library (RSA) - \$12,910.00
- North Pike District Library (RSA) - \$7,127.00
- Vernon Area Public Library District (CCS) - \$62,000.00

The FY2026 RAILS Budget includes funding for the Catalog Membership Grant program, is pending approval by the Illinois State Library at the time of this report's submission. An updated application and deadlines will be announced when possible.

Delivery Data Project Status Update

We are waiting to receive three weeks' worth of transit data from each LLSAP before reviewing the results and comparing their numbers to the delivery hub volume counts. Once that data is collected, we will evaluate the results to better understand data quality limitations and explore options for sustainable reporting. During the October Consortia Committee meeting, we expect to continue discussing the feasibility of supplementing the quarterly volume counts with library data.

RAILS Consortia Annual Report (RAILCAR) Project

The RAILCAR project has been on standby while we wait for the crucial third year of data collection. Waiting for three years of data allows us to more effectively evaluate trends and patterns that emerge from the results. We use a similar approach in the LLSAP Support Grant, which uses three-year averages in the awards formula. We anticipate sharing our findings and revised project goals at an upcoming Consortia Committee meeting.

FY2026 RAILS Board Changes

At its June meeting, the RAILS Board honored several departing members and will welcome newly elected members at its meeting and orientation session on Friday, July 25. Committee assignments, including the two RAILS Board representatives on the Consortia Committee roster, will be determined shortly thereafter. More information on the new Board members is at

<https://railslibraries.org/news/121401>.

RAILS Staff Retirements

RAILS has bid fond farewells in July to two longtime staff members in July who worked extensively with RAILS Board and committee members during their tenure: Emily Fister, Executive Assistant, and Jody Rubel, Library Resource Specialist. Stacy Palmisano, formerly Special Projects Coordinator, has assumed

the Executive Assistant role, and hiring for new Library Resource Specialist and Special Projects Coordinator is in progress.

Major L2 Updates

Several improvements and long-requested features have been added to L2 (<https://librarylearning.org>) recently for those who post events to the calendar and who have access to the reporting and other functions available to staff at regional library systems, the Illinois State Library, and partner organizations like LLSAPs:

1. Additional options for providing information to people who register for an event that differentiate between active registrants and registrants on the waitlist.
2. Event templates are no longer just calendar events that can be used to generate additional events and now function as true templates that can be updated separately from live events on the L2 calendar.
3. The “Manage” menu has been re-organized around the types of content with which users interact.

New RAILS Resource Sharing Map Coming Soon

A new version of the RAILS Resource Sharing Map is nearing completion with a new home and features. Using ESRI ArcGIS, we have developed a dynamic online version of the map that offers more information and visualization capabilities for the organization and membership. The map is currently in a soft launch to gather feedback before an official announcement at the RAILS Member Update in September.

Webinar: Assessing Your Technology Environment Without IT Staff

LLSAP staff may want to be aware of a recent RAILS webinar that is useful to libraries without their own IT staff. Using the free IMLS-funded [Toward Gigabit Libraries Toolkit](#) as a reference, Carson Block walks through essential activities to troubleshoot and manage library technology environments. Topics include testing internet connection speed and quality of your internet connection, measuring Wi-Fi performance, and creating a simple, easy-to-understand network diagram. The recording is available at <https://railslibraries.org/education/archives/121501>.