
9 September 2025

TO: RAILS Resource Sharing Committee

FROM: Joe Filapek, RAILS Associate Executive Director

SUBJECT: Current State of RAILS Resource Sharing

As the Resource Sharing Committee comes together for our first meeting of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, we'd like to discuss the current state of resource sharing across RAILS member libraries. It is our hope that this discussion might help inform some of our future agenda items and potential work of the committee. We've included the charge for the Resource Sharing Committee in your packet as well.

We'd like to focus on the following questions for our discussion:

- In the past few years have you seen any notable changes in the circulation patterns at your library? For example, has the ratio of print vs. e-material circulation shifted?
- How well does the RAILS delivery system work for your library and its patrons?
- How does your library currently participate in resource sharing/interlibrary loan? What do you believe are the biggest challenges for libraries to fully participate in resource sharing?
- Do you feel your patrons' expectations have shifted in any way over the past few years? For example, do they expect items faster or with more format options?
- In what other ways could RAILS lead best practices in resource sharing? Is there anything we haven't mentioned above that has significantly changed for your library regarding resource sharing?

We look forward to hearing from the committee about the ways that resource sharing has evolved and what RAILS can do to respond to those changes.