

RAILS Report – Consortia Committee

Catalog Membership Grants

The application for [FY2026 Catalog Membership Grants](#) has been posted and is available for libraries wishing to join an LLSAP and apply for funding to offset some of their initial one-time costs for joining. The content and formats of the application materials have been updated and streamlined, but the requirements for eligibility and use of funds remain the same. Application deadlines for FY2026 are November 1, 2025 and April 15, 2026.

World Language Cataloging Service Update

The webform that libraries use to submit items for cataloging [has been updated](#) and streamlined, and the service is fully operational following the September approval of funding from the Illinois State Library. For consortia with member libraries using this service, RAILS staff is happy to work with consortial staff to ensure that cataloging records are following consortial best practices and requirements.

Cataloging Guidance Documents to be Updated

Originally produced by the Cataloging Working Group of the Consortia Committee in 2018, the “Best Practices for Consortial Cataloging” and “Cataloging Staff Competency Levels” [guidance documents](#) will be reviewed and revised in the coming months. Your feedback on any updates needed is welcome.

DU On Demand in RAILS Continuing Education Archives

[Directors University on Demand](#) is now available to staff at any Illinois library. This joint project with Illinois Heartland Library System, Illinois Library Association, and RAILS provides foundational skills for Illinois public library directors. The new online format does not replace the in-person Directors University event but adds an opportunity for self-paced learning that is accessible to new Illinois public library directors year-round.

In addition to DU On Demand, the [RAILS Continuing Education Archive](#) is a treasure trove of past event recordings available to RAILS members. Recent recordings include Illinois Notary Public Best Practices, Trustee Training: Robert's Rules of Order, Up or Out: Getting Employees Back on Track, and Practical Strategies for "Speaking" to Power.

RAILS Member Update

RAILS' next Member Update is on Wednesday, November 12 at 3:00 pm. Consortial staff are always welcome to attend. [Register on L2](#).

RAILS Staff Departures

RAILS has continued to bid fond farewells to retiring staff members, with Karen Goyer, Special Projects Coordinator and Deborah Mitchener, Accounting Specialist, departing in September. Special Projects Librarian Jessica Barnes has also left RAILS for a new opportunity; those of you with libraries

participating in Explore More Illinois will have a new RAILS staff contact for this service as a result. We appreciate your patience as we continue to adapt to these changes and our new colleagues get up to speed.

[“Can’t Shelve This” Podcast](#)

The [“Can’t Shelve This” podcast](#) that we produce in collaboration with Illinois Heartland Library System has entered season two. [September’s episode](#) welcomes Cyndi Robinson (Executive Director of the Illinois Library Association) and K.C. Boyd (District of Columbia Public Schools Librarian—AKA The Boss Librarian) to discuss tactics for early career librarians to develop connections in the field.

[RAILS FY2026 Plan and FY2025 Annual Report](#)

RAILS’ System Area and Per Capita Grant Application, which includes the operational plan and budget for FY2026, has been approved by the Illinois State Library, and our FY2025 annual report has been submitted. These documents can be found on the [RAILS website](#).