

RAILS Report – Resource Sharing Committee

New RAILS Resource Sharing Map Coming Soon

A new version of the RAILS Resource Sharing Map is nearing completion, featuring a new home and updated content. 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 includes member libraries that are involved in resource sharing groups and programs, such as LLSAPs and RAILS services like eRead Illinois, Find More Illinois, and Explore More Illinois. Users can filter the map to view subsets of these libraries and save those images for their use. We plan to update the map on a regular basis as L2 information and other data sources are updated and added. The map is currently in a soft launch to gather feedback before an official announcement at the RAILS Member Update in September.

RAILS to Work with Supply Chain Consultant

RAILS will be working with an outside lean supply chain/process consultant to conduct an assessment of our Bolingbrook facility. This assessment will analyze all aspects of warehousing, bin sorting, and material handling at our delivery service center. The objectives of the assessment are to identify lean improvement opportunities that reduce waste and streamline the sorting and movement of materials. Over the course of several weeks, our consultant will conduct an on-site assessment, create an assessment report, and will be available to work with RAILS staff to implement recommended process improvements. Depending on scheduling, we hope for this work to commence this fall.

L2 Signup Month Contest

As part of a year-long effort to encourage staff and trustees from member libraries to sign up for a [Library Learning \(L2\)](#) account, RAILS declares September “L2 Signup Month.” To celebrate, we’re hosting a contest! Throughout September 2025, anyone who creates a new L2 account will be automatically entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

L2 is the statewide calendar of library-related events and a membership database. Creating an L2 account allows all levels of staff and trustees the opportunity to register for webinars, workshops, networking, and other library-related events in Illinois. L2 account holders can also use the directory to find colleagues at other libraries. Only staff and trustees from RAILS member libraries are eligible to win. The L2 account must be new to the individual or new to the library. A winner will be selected at random and notified by the first week of October.

RAILS Welcomes Kortni Springer as Library Resource Specialist

Kortni Springer joined RAILS on Wednesday, September 3rd, as a Library Resource Specialist.

Kortni has worked in various positions in public libraries for almost ten years, most recently as the Adult Services Manager at Acorn Public Library in Oak Forest. As the Library Resource Specialist, Springer will help identify quality products and services for RAILS member libraries, maintain and analyze data related to purchasing, and process finalized deals.

Interlibrary Loan Statistical Survey Now Open

The ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey documents interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing activity from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Since this is required prior to completing annual certification, RAILS member libraries should **submit by December 31, 2025**. The ILLINET Interlibrary Loan & Reciprocal Borrowing Statistical Survey is available on the [Secretary of State website](#).

Libraries are required by administrative rule to complete the Illinois State Library's annual survey of interlibrary loan traffic [23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030.200 (a) (2) (O)]. The ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Code [23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030 Exhibit A] governs interlibrary loan among ILLINET member libraries. ILLINET member libraries should review the ILL Code to ensure that the library continues to meet resource sharing requirements that are necessary for continued system membership.

Northern Illinois University Brings Two Million Items to FMI

RAILS is excited to announce that the Founders Library at Northern Illinois University (NIU) is bringing over two million items to the Find More Illinois platform. By joining as a lender-only, Northern Illinois University will bring a collection that includes over 820,000 unique titles that did not exist in the current Find More Illinois collection. There are currently more than 80 libraries participating in Find More Illinois. With the addition of Northern Illinois, the total number of items in the collection is now over 8.5 million.

Find More Illinois, RAILS' statewide interlibrary loan platform, allows anyone to search multiple Illinois library catalogs in a single discovery interface. Patrons and staff of participating libraries can log in to place interlibrary loan requests. Participation is open to any interested Illinois library of any type, and fees are subsidized by RAILS to make participation affordable for all sizes and types of libraries.

Explore More Illinois Update

On May 1, Explore More Illinois debuted its new logo after almost a year of planning. New printed materials were sent to all participating libraries across the three library systems. Digital files of these materials, along with social media templates, logos, a coloring page, and a word find, will be available on the Explore More Illinois website.

Special Grants Submitted to ISL

RAILS staff submitted applications for special grants to the Illinois State Library for FY26. These grants support the World Language Cataloging program and the ongoing development and maintenance of L2.