
RAILS Report – Resource Sharing Committee

RAILS Launches New Resource Sharing Map

RAILS is excited to announce the launch of its new Resource Sharing Map, a powerful tool designed to help libraries explore, analyze, and advocate for libraries across Illinois. Built on the advanced ArcGIS software platform, this updated map is now publicly available and offers more features and flexibility than ever before. The new map allows users to search and filter by features like consortia buildings, public library service areas, system service areas, and Illinois counties, creating a more dynamic user experience. Whether viewing the map on a statewide scale or narrowing the focus to specific details, users can access a comprehensive and customizable view of Illinois' library landscape. This digital map replaces the previous printed version, which had not been updated since 2019. With its new digital format, RAILS will be able to update the map more frequently, ensuring users always have access to the latest data.

eRead Illinois & Inkie.org Update

On Monday, October 6, Baker & Taylor announced they were effectively going out of business and winding down operations by the end of the year. This directly impacts the eRead Illinois program which is accessed via Baker & Taylor's Boundless platform. RAILS Director of Library Resources and Programs Leila Heath and RAILS E-Content Specialist Anna Behm met with several e-content vendors and determined the Palace Project by Lyris would be the best option for eRead Illinois moving forward.

Leila Heath and Anna Behm hosted a meeting between the Palace team and administrators of several OverDrive consortiums. Tara Carpenter from Lyris described the process of aggregating OverDrive collections into the Palace Project app and answered questions from the group.

Leila Heath and Anna Behm met regularly with the team from Palace Project to discuss progress with onboarding libraries and transferring the eRead Illinois collection to the Palace Project. On October 27, RAILS announced that the eRead Illinois program would transition to the Palace Project by the end of the year. Timeline and other details can be found on the eRead Illinois website at <https://ereadillinois.com/transition>.

RAILS Offers New Narcan in Libraries Resources

To help libraries learn more about the use of Narcan (Naloxone) in libraries, RAILS has created the new [Narcan in Libraries Pulse Page](#). In addition to information about the new law, Public Act 104-0056, signed by Governor Pritzker, the page contains background information, events, and links to other resources. We will update it as new information becomes available.



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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 at https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/library/libraries/ill_survey.html.

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.

Cook County Digital Navigator Network Partnership Kicks Off

Our collaboration with Cook County to implement a Digital Navigator Network among the County's suburban libraries formally kicked off in August. Led by Anne Slaughter, RAILS staff from the Data, Communications, Administrative, and Finance teams have been working with their team to establish the necessary financial and administrative structures for the project and to develop our plan for program design and implementation.

Initial activities included recruiting a Guiding Team of library staff and other stakeholders to participate in the co-design of a program to support interlibrary collaboration and provide direct capacity-building funding to libraries. This program sought 12-15 library representatives to bring unique perspectives to the new collaboration. The Guiding Team reflects the diversity of Cook County's public libraries and library workers across factors like position titles, geographic location, community size, cultural representation, and funding levels. Participation was confirmed by October 24, and the first meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 5. Project activities continue through November 2026.

New Library Equalization Aid Grant Formula Announced

On November 5, Joe Filapek participated in a press conference at the North Chicago Public Library with Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias to celebrate a new funding formula for Library Equalization Aid grants. These grants are designed to support libraries that do not meet adequate funding thresholds due to low local tax bases, resulting in fewer available tax dollars. The new formula will significantly expand the program's reach, making ten times more libraries eligible for funding, including many across the RAILS service area. Other participants included ILA Executive Director Cyndi Robinson, IHLS Executive Director Leslie Bednar, and Park Forest Public Library Director Mary VanSwol.

Discussions with IHLS and CARLI on IDLS Contract

Representatives from RAILS, IHLS and CARLI met on October 9 to discuss the ILDS (Illinois Library Delivery Service) contract. This contract provides for delivery service to member libraries within CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois). A focus for this meeting were details pertaining to delivery turnaround time as we move forward with subsequent contracts.