

Consortial Reports

January 26, 2026

Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI)

Staff

- Laurie Blandino has been named CARLI Director.

I-Share

- CARLI has been working with RAILS staff to assist as needed to implement Find More Illinois for additional I-Share members. As of December, there were eight I-Share libraries that have signed up for this program. *Editor's Note: As of January 16, nine I-Share libraries have signed up for the lender-only program.*
- The [CARLI I-Share Annual Statistics webpage](#) has been updated so that I-Share members may easily complete the Association for College and Research Libraries (ACRL) annual statistics as the Academic Library Survey is no longer part of IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) data collection.

Other

- Trinity Christian College and Trinity International University have both announced that they will close by June 2026.
- CARLI continues its plan to implement TeamDynamix (TDX) for its email support ticketing system. This transition will happen in February 2026.

Cooperative Computer Services (CCS)

Rolling Meadows and Wauconda

The incoming libraries, CCS staff, and Innovative have agreed on Tuesday, October 20 as our target go live date. CCS received feedback that, while reducing time offline during a long weekend is beneficial, promoting library card signup month and then starting September in offline mode was challenging.

This schedule would tentatively put CCS libraries offline beginning October 16 (to be finalized in late August/early September).

Administrative onboarding is largely complete. Project team kick off will be February 5.

Rolling Meadows and Wauconda were both awarded Catalog Membership Grants from RAILS. These funds are instrumental in making consortium membership accessible to libraries given the high cost of vendor migration services.

Find More Illinois Analysis

Monica Harris, Joe Filapek, and Leila Heath attended the November Governing Board meeting to speak with CCS directors about Find More Illinois. Following the November Governing Board meeting, CCS is compiling additional information related to Find More Illinois. This work includes:

- Updating the existing Tableau dashboard with activity data from July–November 2025.
- Analyzing OCLC data to identify which libraries and types of materials are being borrowed and lent through that platform.
- Reviewing time tracking data to compare the time spent processing Find More Illinois requests versus OCLC requests.
- Compiling a brief FAQ based on questions raised during the November Governing Board meeting. CCS will request written responses from RAILS where needed.

This work will be completed in January and shared with both RAILS and Governing Board ahead of the February 2026 Governing Board vote.

OrangeBoy Savannah Implementation

Initial training for member library staff will begin in February. Configuration of additional data sources will continue through July, with updated training offered between April and July.

Bibliocommons Implementation

Database Management discussed and voted on a number of system configuration elements for BiblioCore. BiblioCommons is building individual CCS sites. Installation continues through February 13.

Polaris Contract Renewal

With the new discovery layer selected, CCS can now continue with contract negotiations with Innovative for our Polaris renewal. Our existing contract expires at the end of April 2026.

Polaris 8.0 Release

The CCS training server was upgraded to Polaris 8.0 on Tuesday, January 6. CCS staff will complete in-depth QA testing during January and February. We anticipate upgrading our production server to version 8.0 in March, pending successful QA testing.

New features available to CCS with the coming upgrade will include those available in both Polaris 7.8 and 8.0:

- Ability to import student records in Leap
- Receipt printing improvements in Leap
- Improved process for display item handling
- Support for patron code aging process
- Marc export in Leap

Prior to the production upgrade, CCS staff will work to identify which new settings and features require documentation or Advisory and Technical Group decisions.

Member Engagement Analysis

Debra Wischmeyer is leading an analysis of member engagement within CCS. The analysis will bring together data on:

- Meeting attendance
- Training attendance
- Training evaluations and quizzes
- Library visits

- Newsletter engagement
- Help desk tickets
- Listserv use

and more to create an engagement score for each member. The findings from her analysis will inform a long-term engagement strategy.

Technology Infrastructure Changes In Process

CCS will be transitioning from our physical phone server and analog phone lines for patron notices to a cloud-based service. Once the transition is complete, we will decommission that server and our dedicated fiber circuit in favor of shared business fiber for our main office. This will result in a significant cost savings that reflects our reduced need based our remaining local server and hybrid workplace. This work should be complete by early Spring 2026.

Enhanced Notice Options Coming

CCS will begin implementation of LX Starter, an email notice service included with our Polaris subscription. These enhanced notices allow more customization to the look and feel of notices which will be more reflective of patron expectations regarding email communication. CCS has partnered with five beta libraries to test these new options.

Website Accessibility Audit

Website accessibility remediation continues. CCS is working with our web site consultants to identify what tasks need to be outsourced and what can be completed internally.

Pinnacle Library Cooperative (PLC)

Innovative Director's Day Summit

Along with other LLSAP Directors, Matt attended Innovative's Director's Day Summit in Rosemont in December. The meeting brought together consortia directors and public library directors using iii products to discuss Clarivate's strategic vision for the future. Topics included navigating changes in Acquisitions and the use of AI in ILS products.

LX Starter

In January, the Lemont Library went live with LX Starter - the replacement product for email notices. At this time, we only have two libraries still using the ILS' default notices. We will be working with them in 2026 to transition to LX Starter.

Strategic Plan Meeting

In mid-January, Pinnacle will hold its annual strategic plan meeting. Every January, this meeting brings together key staff from member libraries, as well as committee chairs, to discuss Pinnacle's goals for the coming year. As we are nearing the end of our current strategic plan, we will also begin making plans for the next iteration.

PrairieCat

PrairieCat has been busy with many activities over the course of the last few months. Please see below for some highlights.

Member Services and UX

- PrairieCat's new mobile app, Vega Mobile, was brought live in October for 71 member libraries who opted in to join the project.
- PrairieCat welcomed 11 new directors this quarter and hosted a new director welcome meeting as well as providing direct outreach.
- PrairieCat hosted a virtual member update with more than 50 attendees to provide end-of-year project updates and to connect with members.
- User Experience staff created short video tutorials for the PrairieCat Libraries Mobile app.
- PrairieCat surveyed the mobile app libraries about the implementation and received very positive feedback when asked about communication, training, resources, and responsiveness during the implementation phase.
- PrairieCat began preparing for upcoming changes to Vega Discover including Account Portal and Account Linking.

Library Services

- Library services team has conducted multiple training sessions, including one-on-one sessions via Zoom.
- Multiple courses delivered through TalentLMS are undergoing revisions to improve content accuracy and relevance.
- Our team has processed numerous original cataloging requests, merged duplicate records, overlaid records, created volume entries, and linked items to their corresponding volume records. We have also managed the submission of records from various libraries through the PrairieCat bib-loading process, ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the database.
- John Slanicky, Jason Jensen, and Deborah Shippy worked collaboratively to address and resolve record duplication (fields: 019/001) resulting from the overlay of OCLC Connexion records into the database.
- We are approaching a final determination regarding the adoption of Mitinet as a replacement for MARCive, in order to strengthen database record maintenance and support ongoing standardization efforts.

Systems

- Staff solved problems with redundant backups failing. Principal backups are backed up a second time on another remote hosted location. These backups were failing, but this issue has been resolved.
- Finalized requirements for Net Support Notify iOS rollout.
- Worked with member libraries to upgrade three self check machines and add access to two new databases.
- Worked on improving skills with custom Sierra templates.
- Finalized and submitted the final set of instructions for the IP cleanup project
- Investigated ways to make distributing Net Support Notify (our remote emergency notification system) simpler for members and to have automated confirmation of installation.

Rock River Library Consortium (RRLC)

Grants to Consortia (Thank You)

Thank you to the RAILS staff and Board for approving grants to the consortia. RRLC greatly appreciates these funds, which help offset the costs of essential resources such as databases (including NoveList, Gale databases for schools, and the MyLibro app) and assist with paying annual ILS fees.

This fiscal year, RRLC allocated a portion of the grant to hire Mitinet for a comprehensive database cleanup. Our database has needed attention since RRLC's inception, when records from three public libraries were combined—some of which contained brief or inaccurate information. Because the consortium does not have a full-time cataloger, these issues have persisted. Mitinet will help correct these records and enhance them by adding missing series names and volume details. The first upload of updated records is scheduled in the coming weeks.

Chadwick Library

Chadwick Library continues its work to integrate its collection into the consortium. They have completed the juvenile collection, adult inspiration titles, and the 800–900 section, and are actively adding new books as they arrive. Patrons have been added to the system and are beginning to learn how to search the catalog and request materials from other consortium libraries.

Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA)

RSA Activity Report October - December 2025 or 'Let Chaos Reign'

RSA's Staff Independence Project (RIP) from RAILS "Complete"

RSA has done everything required, as far as we know, to employ, pay, and cover with appropriate benefits the staff transitioning from RAILS to RSA employment on 1 January 2026. We also completed the process to fill our 3 open positions, all of whom will start on 5 January 2026. Special note, as of this writing, we've paid various healthcare expenses, made our first payroll, and started training our 3 new employees.

In addition to staffing-related changes, we also purchased and set up 12 new laptops in late December, transitioned from Zoom to Teams, setup a new phone system, and setup a new Office 365 system and migrated our data off the RAILS O365 system into RSA's O365 system. RAILS IT was a HUGE help in the O365 setup/transition. We're still tracking new additional software and hardware solutions to completely move off everything RAILS owned by the end of June.

We're at the point where we expect to start finding the 'Unknown Unknowns' of employing staff. We'll deal with those as they come along.

RSA's new email domain is first.last@librariesofrsa.org. I'm now kendal.orrison@librariesofrsa.org.

In late November the Cisco router zero-day flaw hit us hard, with our firewall going down sometimes minutes after we got it back online. After a couple weeks of work, we finally nailed down the correct system settings to stop all the attacks that were triggering the firewall to go offline. We're in the process of building a new pfSense firewall which we'll deploy soon to get out of Cisco world.

Staff not involved in the big push to transition to direct RSA employment continued to support our member libraries in all the various ways they do so. They've all been troopers to put up with the chaotic

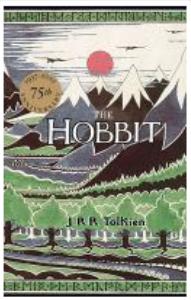
nature of a transition like this. I think we'll all be happy when we finally get to our new normal in a month or two.

System Wide Automated Network (SWAN)

Aspen Format Display

The 25.09 release introduced a new, optional change to the format display in the catalog. SWAN conducted testing with patrons from the Oak Park Public Library to investigate using the new display. Formats for titles display left to right instead of listed top to bottom. SWAN is conducting usability testing of the display to assess its readiness.

This new display in Aspen was sponsored software development by Gail Borden Public Library District.



1) The hobbit, or, There and back again

Author	Tolkien, J. R. R. (John Ronald Reuel), 1892-1973
Series	The Lord of the Rings Middle-Earth Universe Lord of the rings More Series...
Language	English
Appears on these lists	Staff Picks January 2021 Staff Picks July 2021 2023 Read Widely: Off the Map More Lists...

★★★★★

Book
ON SHELF
Large Print
AVAILABLE FROM ANOTHER LIBRARY
eBook
AVAILABLE ONLINE
AVAIL ➤

This Book is currently on shelf
2012. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt First Mariner Books edition, 75th anniversary edition. 300 pages : illustrations, maps ; 21 cm

Place Hold

Downers Grove Public Library
- 2nd Floor - Adult
SF/F TOLKIEN, J.R.R.
1 of 1 available
View All Locations

Aspen keyword search filters

The 25.11 release included work that SWAN sponsored, based on work with the SWAN Discovery and User Experience Working Group to evaluate areas where keyword searching could be improved.

Aspen now has the ability to automatically apply filters based on keyword searches; for example a search for “pride and prejudice dvd” would strip the term “dvd” from the keywords and apply a format filter for DVD. This feature is very configurable, and SWAN can decide which keywords and filters to apply (or intentionally exclude).

Palace Project & Symphony authentication created

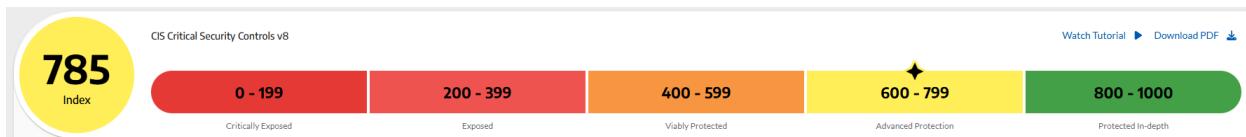
All SWAN eRead libraries are now live on the Palace Project app! The Boundless platform was officially retired on November 17th, and during the final two weeks of the November, the eRead collection was

migrated to the Palace Project app. SWAN eResources Consultant Olivia Montolin worked closely with SWAN IT & System Support and Lyrasis to ensure our preferred Web Services authentication method functioned correctly and helped to troubleshoot test barcodes for app access and checkout. The Web Services authentication method for Symphony and The Palace Project did not exist prior so congratulations to SWAN staff involved in creating this authentication method. Now other libraries using Symphony can connect securely to The Palace Project.

Arctic Wolf & Cybersecurity Assessment

A year ago, SWAN created a baseline assessment of our cybersecurity using preparedness using a tracking tool provided by Arctic Wolf, our security and managed awareness vendor. The Cyber Resilience Assessment measures security against Center for Internet Security (CIS) Critical Security Controls version 8's security categories and provides a score. Since establishing the baseline, our Network Security Administrator and IT & System Support Manager have been working to shore up our security according to the recommendations of the assessment.

Since starting this project, we have significantly increased our cybersecurity preparedness. Our score as of December 2024 was 468, putting us in the Viable Protected category. As of December 2025, we are at a score of 785, towards the top end of the "Advanced Protection" range.



Besides the security monitoring and the assessment tool, Arctic Wolf provides a service called Managed Security Awareness that provides security training to SWAN staff on a bi-weekly basis and phishing simulations. Response to these trainings have been positive, and staff are largely up to date on the program. We hope that this level of knowledge further protects SWAN's and our members' sensitive information.