Agenda Item 6.3
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RAILS Report – Consortia Committee

Catalog Membership Grants

In November 2025, Rolling Meadows Library and Wauconda Area Public Library District were each awarded $53,050 Catalog Membership Grants to join CCS. The final deadline for FY2026 Catalog Membership Grants is April 15, 2026. If you have prospective members considering applying for a grant in FY2026 or beyond, please share any updates with Anne Slaughter to help inform RAILS' budgeting process.

Member Update on February 11

RAILS' next Member Update is on Wednesday, February 11 at 3:00 pm. In addition to presentations on American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II web accessibility and the Illinois Libraries AI Ambassador Program, American Library Association Executive Director Dan Montgomery will present on the future of ALA. We will give preference to questions submitted in advance via a question submission form by Monday, February 9, at 5 p.m. Register on L2.

Strategic Planning for 2027-2029

RAILS is beginning to map out the process of updating our current strategic plan which ends in 2026. We will be conducting several one-on-one stakeholder interviews with partner organizations, including LLSAPs. We look forward to connecting with our partners to help shape our objectives for serving our shared members and will reach out as the process gets underway.

2026 IPLAR Updates and Reporting Guidance

In two upcoming events, Laura Keyes, Library Program Specialist at the Illinois State Library, will be providing updates and answering questions about recent changes to IPLAR. A Zoom webinar will be offered on Tuesday, January 27 at 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm. A session on Monday, February 9 at 10:00 am - 11:30 am will take place in person only at the RAILS Burr Ridge location. Due to Illinois Secretary of State guidelines, neither event will be recorded.

L2 API Change

When L2 was initially developed back in 2020, we created an Application Programming Interface (API) and made it available to our partner organizations. In addition to retrieving data on events, users, and locations, the L2 API has provided the option for authorized API users to update L2. Over the last five years, this update feature of L2 has not been used by anybody except RAILS. As of February 1st, 2026, the ability to update information via the L2 API will be removed for non-RAILS users. This change does not affect the ability to retrieve information from L2, or to use L2 as a log in mechanism for websites.

If there is a project which would require updating a significant amount of data, please reach out via the L2 Help page at http://librarylearning.org/help. Please also reach out if you do not currently have L2 API access and would like to request it.

L2 Upcoming Development Priorities

Each Spring, RAILS applies for a grant from the Illinois State Library to support the ongoing development and maintenance of the L2 platform. At the February 3 meeting of the L2G2 statewide advisory group we will discuss and begin to prioritize feature requests and other development needs so we can prepare for our FY2027 funding request. All L2 users are welcome to submit requests at any time during the year, but this is a particularly good time to let us know if you or your staff have any requests in mind for changes or new features. Reach out to Anne Slaughter or Brian Smith directly, or via the L2 Help page at http://librarylearning.org/help.

Annual Library Certification

The annual library certification process is currently underway through March 31 on the L2 platform. As the deadline gets closer, we may reach out to consortia for help contacting members who still need to certify.

RAILS Board Adopts Free Speech Statement

The RAILS Board of Directors voted on Friday, November 21, to adopt *Free Speech Needs Free Libraries: A Joint Statement of CARLI, Orbis Cascade Alliance, and PALCI*. This statement was initially developed and approved by CARLI, the Orbis Cascade Alliance, and PALCI (Partnership for Academic Library Collaboration and Innovation) in October 2025.

Delivery Diary Blog Series

RAILS' My Library Is blog has recently been publishing a series of "Delivery Diary" interviews with our delivery drivers. Please check them out at https://www.mylibraryis.org/blog for a glimpse into the day-to-day of this bedrock service, and find out why an actual dog is on the list of unconventional items our staff have delivered.