RAILS
REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD
RESOURCE SHARING COMMITTEE MEETING
December 8, 2025│10:00am
RAILS Burr Ridge
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome and Call to Order
   Hovanec called the meeting to order at 10:02 am

2. Roll Call of Committee Members
   Present in Burr Ridge: Dr. Marlo Barnett, Guillermo Gasca, Jennifer Hovanec, Laura Long, Beth Ryan, and Karen Voitik
   Present via Zoom:
   Absent: Laura Golashewski and Jesse Henning

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
   Guests at Burr Ridge: Monica Harris, Joe Filapek, Leila Heath, Barb Miller, Kortni Springer, Maggie Thomann, Gwen Gemmell (designated notetaker), Stacy Palmisano, Alice Grabowski
   Guests via Zoom: Mary Kate Murray, Ryan Hebel, Anna Behm, Anne Slaughter, Grant Halter, Leslie Bednar, Mark Hatch

4. Public Comments
   There were no public comments.

5. Consent Agenda
   5.1 Adoption of the Agenda
   5.2 Approval of the RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Minutes of September 15, 2025
   Long moved to approve consent agenda. Voitik seconded.

6. Reports
   6.1. RAILS Report
   Filapek reported on the Community College Library Survey that was recently sent out to approximately 30 RAILS libraries at the behest of the Universal Service Committee. The survey is based on a 2018 survey from the Resource Sharing Committee. Community Colleges may fill a gap in library services for unserved Illinois residents. Responses to the survey will be collected through the end of January. The Communications Team and L2G2 group are promoting L2 usage through events and the creation of new marketing materials to encourage L2 signups, including a new flyer. The L2G2 group has been working on new documentation to support L2 users and help them understand how to access and utilize the website's full functionality, including tie-in resources such as trustee training.
   6.2. Find More Illinois Report

Agenda Item 5.2

125 Tower Drive
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
630.734.5000
630.734.5050
railslibraries.org

Miller, Consortial Services Supervisor, gave a brief overview of Find More Illinois (FMI) and recent initiatives. FMI is an interlibrary loan fulfillment platform that provides access to all participating libraries' holdings in a seamless interface. FMI currently has 71 public, 11 schools, 1 special, and 7 academic libraries participating. The current catalog has 9.1 million items. Previously, RAILS held focus groups, in collaboration with CARLI, to determine how to proceed with academic library participation in FMI. In June 2025, the Academic Lender-Only pilot project launched, and it currently has 7 participating libraries and 2 more onboarding: Knox College & Illinois College. University of Illinois at Chicago has been a member since the FMI launch in 2018. The academic libraries participating in FMI also include Bradley University, McHenry County College, North Central College, Northern Illinois University, Northwest Suburban College, and North Suburban College.

Hovanec asked how many academic libraries exist within Illinois, and Miller stated that there were 148, counting some with multiple branches. Heath expressed excitement for the ability to diversify the collection with the addition of this program.

7. Legislative Update
Filapek and Harris gave an update on recent legislation in the state of Illinois. Filapek noted that the ILA legislative meetups recently wrapped up. The ILA legislative priorities for the upcoming year include advocating for reasonable eBook pricing, trustee training requirements, and funding for open educational resources. Additionally, ILA is prioritizing advocacy for increased allocations for per capita grant funding to offset the cost of inflation. On the federal front, on November 21, a federal judge issued a statement in favor of the 21 states (of which Illinois is included) who brought a case against the dissolution of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This is a permanent injunction. Congress is still debating the funding of IMLS for FY 2026, but there is a proposed budget in the House and Senate that includes nearly full funding. On December 3, the reinstatement of all terminated federal IMLS grants resulted in the disbursement of those funds to grant recipients. The future of funding and stability of the IMLS is important, and Harris noted that we should be proud of what the advocacy for IMLS has led to, including the influx of "Dear Appropriator" letters, but continue to advocate for full funding in the coming months. The January 30 budget deadline for funding will determine the state of funding for IMLS next year. Filapek spoke of the Secretary of State's changes to the Equalization Grant Formula for public libraries, which allows for greater eligibility for grant funds: Potential eligibility rose from 17 public libraries to 110 public libraries in Illinois, which includes an increase from 4-5 RAILS member libraries to 40-50 RAILS member libraries.

8. New Business
   8.1. eRead Illinois Update
   Behm covered the closing of Baker & Taylor and the status of the eRead Illinois collection. The eRead collection is being transferred to the Palace Project by Lyrasis, which will allow for the purchasing of additional content. Palace is a content aggregator; the platform allows for

Agenda Item 5.2

125 Tower Drive
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
630.734.5000
630.734.5050
railslibraries.org

content purchased from other vendors to be usable to patrons in one app. The closing of Baker & Taylor was announced on October 27, which resulted in an expedited transfer process of the eRead Collection, prioritizing minimal disruptions and barriers to access. All checked out content was returned on November 17 to begin the transfer. Library onboarding is occurring concurrently with the transfer. Public and special library content went live starting December 2. The process for academic libraries is ongoing, and school libraries will be onboarded in the next few months. Behm has begun ordering new content for the collection, and there have been several webinar training sessions held to assist with the transition. There is currently a mailing project in progress to distribute promotional print materials. Onboarding for new libraries will begin in February 2026.   Sometime in 2026, libraries will have the option to utilize the Palace Project to access collections outside of eRead Illinois. Behm clarified that the collection itself will still be called the eRead Illinois collection, but that the Palace Project is the app where patrons can access material. Hovanec asked about Audible integration. Behm recommended that any feedback or requests for additional apps and vendor integrations be expressed directly to Palace and the applicable vendors to encourage development of this type of functionality. Dr. Barnett asked about SOPPA compliance. Behm answered that the Palace Project is now compliant, and that more guidance and instruction will be distributed shortly.

8.2. Deals & Discounts Overview
Thomann and Springer presented an overview of current Deals & Discounts programs. The Deals & Discounts team builds relationships with vendors to allow for greater savings for member libraries. The team gauges member library interest in new programs and has begun conducting pilot groups for new vendor products on a trial basis; the Blinkist app is a recent example of a product that has gone through this process, as well as the Chicago Tribune Digital Pilot. The Deals team addresses discounts for the entirety of RAILS member libraries, including K-12 discounts, which present a different set of needs and concerns than other library types. A current area of focus has been working with physical print vendors due to the closing of Baker & Taylor, which previously supplied print materials for many libraries. Springer spoke of their effort to expand the offerings for print material purchasing. They have recently held several well-attended webinars for print suppliers, and are currently working with Ingram, Barnes & Noble, Bound to Stay, and Libraria for upcoming webinars. Filapek asked about deals for libraries who have an already established relationship with vendors, and whether that precludes their eligibility. Thomann responded that they only pursue deals that are applicable to all members, regardless of pre-established relationships with vendors.

8.3. Overview of Resource Sharing Map
Halter, Data Analysis Manager, presented an overview of the new Resource Sharing map. The map uses ArcGIS mapping software, and allows for selection of library buildings and 'toggle on' layers of data, which is updated with information from L2. Users can isolate the view by libraries participating in each of RAILS resource sharing programs, which may be of interest to this committee. New layers will be implemented in the new year, potentially including information on ILS vendor and OPACs.

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Meeting on March 9, 2026

The March meeting agenda will include a summary of data from the Community College Library Survey and additional updates on the eRead Illinois collection. More information on Deals & Discounts may be presented at the next meeting.

10. Adjournment

Final vote or action may be taken at the meeting on any agenda item subject matter listed above unless the agenda line item specifically states otherwise.