
DRAFT Minutes

RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites

125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527 | 630.734.5000

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Vancina called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call of Members

Burr Ridge: Elizabeth Clarage (CARLI), Kate Hall (CCS), Jennie Mills (Pinnacle), Michelle Krooswyk (PrairieCat), Alex Vancina (RAILS) Aaron Skog (SWAN, arrived at 10:01 a.m.)

East Peoria: Kendal Orrison (RSA)

A quorum was present.

3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements

Guests at Burr Ridge: Joe Filapek, Nincy George, Alice Grabowski, Grant Halter, Leila Heath, Monica Harris, Matt Hammermeister, Mary Kate Murray (designated note-taker), Anne Slaughter, Kortni Springer

Guests at Coal Valley: Carolyn Coulter

Guests at East Peoria: Antony Deter

Guests on Zoom: Eric Bain, Anna Behm, Magda Bonny, Janette Derucki, Gwen Gemmell, Megan Gove, Grant Halter, Mark Hatch, Ryan Hebel, Rebecca Malinowski, Barb Miller, Stacy Palmisano, Jennifer Slaney, Maggie Thomann, Laura Van Cleve

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Adoption of the Consent Agenda

5.1. Adoption of the Agenda

5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Consortia Committee Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2025

Hall moved and Clarage seconded the approval of the consent agenda as presented.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

6. Reports

6.1. Chair Report

No report is available at this time.

6.2. Consortia Reports

Hall congratulated RSA on their progress in their transition to independence from RAILS.

6.3. RAILS Report

Slaughter reported that the Illinois State Library is supportive of RAILS consortia integrating the statewide database package with their catalogs. Contact Suzanna Jones or Ryann Franklin with any questions.

6.4. Resource Sharing Committee Report

Filapek reported that the last Resource Sharing Committee meeting in December included the eRead Illinois transition to The Palace Project, Deals & Discounts, and the new interactive RAILS Resource Sharing email. A survey in 2017 on Community College Libraries reviewed how these libraries serve nonstudent residents of the community. A revised updated survey has been sent.

7. Unfinished Business

7.1. Updates on legislation and funding

Harris discussed federal funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and announced that the IMLS FY26 grant funding cycle opened on January 13. The ILA Public Policy Committee (PPC) identified several legislative priorities for the year, including a public library trustee training requirement, open educational resource funding, and greater financial accessibility of eBooks; a subcommittee of the PPC is working on strengthening the language of the Library Records Confidentiality Act. Harris shared that the Illinois State Library is considering meeting with RAILS and IHLS to discuss serving the unserved across the state.

7.2. Data project updates

Halter stated that more standardized data is needed to explore the feasibility of an automated delivery count. A working group focused on delivery data was suggested and supported. Halter is currently working on organizing, cleaning, and expanding the data on the RAILCAR dashboard. Halter thanked the Admin Team for cleaning up ILS, OPAC, and vendor data on L2 so it can be added to the Resource Sharing map. Yolanda Everson, the new data analysis intern, will be working on a library demographic profiles project.

7.3. Cataloging Services

7.3.1. Cataloging training updates and planning

George shared that RAILS provides foundational and advanced cataloging training that is relevant and accessible, covers the essentials, and keeps up with current trends. Training can be accessed through one-time, recorded Zoom webinars on specific topics, or detailed 4-week or 6-week asynchronous courses through Moodle. In FY25, RAILS offered 46 hours of cataloging training and received overall positive feedback. George shared upcoming training opportunities, including a new, self-paced course on cataloging for non-catalogers that will launch in April and a new series of webinars on trending topics including AI in cataloging, cataloging objects, and upcoming changes in RDA. George noted that RAILS is creating high-level reference procedures on cataloging Library of Things items or

AI-generated materials. The committee provided feedback on what LLSAPs and libraries might need and examined the benefits of having a single training platform like Niche Academy available to all LLSAPs.

7.3.2. Best Practices for Consortial Cataloging document

The Best Practices for Consortial Cataloging document, created in 2018 and updated in 2020, includes basic standards in cataloging, encourages consistency, and focuses on the changes that will have the biggest impact on library users.

7.3.3. Cataloging Staff Competencies document

The Cataloging Staff Competencies document is a guide for libraries for training in cataloging or planning new cataloging roles. The document is intended to be adapted to each library's local practices and staff.

Both the Best Practices for Consortial Cataloging and Cataloging Staff and Competencies documents are scheduled for review and revision to update outdated links and references, improve accessibility, and ensure content includes the current cataloging practices.

7.4. eRead Illinois transition to The Palace Project

Filapek reviewed the progress of the transition from Boundless to The Palace Project, highlighting the tremendous amount of work by both The Palace Project team and RAILS eRead team. Heath reported on the complexity of onboarding the 552 school library buildings. The eRead team is working with the Data team to consolidate needed data, including communication channels, authentication information, and implementation needs. Heath thanked the LLSAPs for their support and commended libraries for their patience. Behm reviewed the work needed to successfully complete the transfer to The Palace project with consideration for the Student Online Privacy Protection Act (SOPPA). A temporary solution for schools was created in three collection instances: one platform for all elementary schools, all middle schools, and all high schools. The committee offered kudos to the eRead team for all their hard work.

8. New Business

8.1. Use of Artificial Intelligence

Slaughter led a discussion on the emerging uses and impacts of AI across RAILS and its member consortia. RAILS is introducing an internal Microsoft Copilot pilot focused on staff training, data security, and alignment with its ethical AI policy before any broader rollout; the committee recommended cautious internal experimentation and drafting procedures for use. Consortia are at varying stages of developing internal and external AI policies. The discussion highlighted key concerns such as uncertainty about appropriate use cases, tool limitations, resource constraints, evaluating multiple platforms, data privacy (particularly patron information), costs, legal considerations, and staff comfort levels. Members also noted potential efficiencies in administrative tasks, reporting, cataloging support, and accessibility, while emphasizing the need for human review and validation.

9. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building

The next Consortia Committee meeting is on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 10:00 am.

10. Adjournment – Alex Vancina

Vancina adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

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