

RAILS Report – Consortia Committee

My Library Is Feature: North Pike District Library & RAILS Catalog Membership Grant

North Pike District Library, which received a 2025 Catalog Membership Grant recipient to support the addition of their new library branch to RSA, is [featured in RAILS' My Library Is blog](#). North Pike is expanding their services throughout the library district with a new location in Perry, IL. The building, which is being converted from a café in a project with multiple funding sources, will provide more space for library programming and collections. RAILS Member Engagement Specialist, Jessica Silva, and Administrative Assistant, Gwen Gemmell, interviewed Kimber Martin, North Pike District Library's Director of Library Services, about her experience as a grant recipient and the lead project manager for their new library building project.

Recent Delivery Changes

RAILS has learned that our outsourced delivery service provider, Continental Transportation Services (CTS), has been acquired by Best Courier of Vernon Hills. At this time, no operational changes are expected and the company has indicated it will continue meeting all service obligations under the contract signed in 2025.

CARLI, IHLS, and RAILS announced a change to the Illinois Library Delivery Service (ILDS) turnaround time, from a 24-hour to 48-hour expectation between delivery hubs, to support long-term sustainability, operational efficiency, and safety across the statewide delivery network. IHLS and RAILS libraries that do not participate in CARLI will see little to no change in their delivery turnaround times. This change will be effective Monday, June 29, 2026.

Library of Congress Cataloging Standards

At its March meeting, on a recommendation from its Advocacy Committee, the RAILS Board voted to endorse the position of ALA Core's SAC Working Group on \$v Retention regarding Library of Congress's proposed removal of certain form subdivisions from subject headings. Access the full report of the Working Group [here](#), and Library of Congress responses [here](#).

Removing these subdivisions could negatively impact library users across RAILS by making materials less discoverable, particularly for those relying on precise searches to find specific formats or types of content. While some libraries may have the capacity to manually reintroduce this cataloging information to records, smaller libraries throughout RAILS may lack the staffing, time, or cataloging expertise to do so. Maintaining intuitive access points as part of a user-centered approach to cataloging is critical to ensuring a positive and equitable user experience, and this aim fits within the framework of our strategic plan which charges RAILS to provide leadership for our member libraries in providing equitable and inclusive services.

L2 Feature Updates

In addition to backend upgrades and bug fixes, L2 received the following feature updates in April:

- "Add to Calendar" for events now functions effectively with Google, Office 365, Outlook.com, and classic Outlook.
- Users now have a "Save my selections" checkbox that can be applied to the filters for the Events calendar and list displays to make their search preferences persistent.
- The Manage > People > Search/Export People report that ISL, regional library systems, and catalog consortia personnel have access to now includes a date filter for "[Library] Affiliation Added Since." This was requested by SWAN for the purpose of identifying new employees at their member libraries.

L2 Onboarding Handout

In February, RAILS published a newly created [Library Directory & Learning Calendar \(L2\) onboarding handout](#) to help libraries of any type acquaint staff and trustees with the L2 platform and the benefits of creating an L2 account. The document includes information on creating and updating individual accounts and updating a library's profile. The PDF file can be printed or shared digitally and included in any onboarding or other informational packets.

RAILS 2025 Annual Report

RAILS is sharing last year's highlights in the [2025 RAILS Annual Report](#). View the report using the Canva link above or download the PDF to print and share with your staff and board. This year's report includes embedded hyperlinks, allowing readers to easily access additional information on RAILS services.

Strategic Planning Survey

As a first step in our strategic planning engagement activities, RAILS is asking staff at all levels from any type of library to [complete this anonymous survey](#) by Wednesday, April 22. As the process continues, we will be conducting several one-on-one stakeholder interviews with partner organizations, including LLSAPs.

Member Update on May 13

RAILS' next Member Update is on Wednesday, May 13. Registration is available at <https://librarylearning.org/event/2026-05-13/rails-member-update>, and the agenda will be posted once finalized.

Niche Academy for Library Staff

[RAILS recently announced](#) the launch of RAILS Academy, a new online learning platform designed to support the professional development of staff at RAILS member libraries. Powered by Niche Academy, RAILS Academy provides free, on-demand access to hundreds of tutorials on topics ranging from the ethics of artificial intelligence to youth readers' advisory, customer service, intellectual freedom, and technology. Event recordings previously listed in the CE Archives are now available through [RAILS Academy](#).