
April 20, 2026

TO: RAILS Board Consortia Committee
FROM: Grant Halter, Data Analysis Manager
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SUBJECT: Community College Library Survey

The RAILS Universal Service Committee requested we conduct a short survey of community college libraries to better understand how they currently serve residents within their districts. Community College service areas cover the entire state, so the survey has a special focus on individuals who are not enrolled students and are living in an area unserved by the local public library. The survey was designed to help inform the committee's ongoing discussions about expanding access for nearly one million Illinois residents who live in areas without public library service.

Of the 32 community college districts in RAILS, we received 21 responses (66%). The results revealed that only a small number of community college libraries currently track information about patrons' public library affiliation, and a relatively small percentage actively promote their services either to public libraries or to residents within their districts more broadly. These findings provide useful context to address potential strategies for expanding access to library services for the unserved.