
DATE: June 12, 2026
TO: RAILS Board of Directors
FROM: Monica Harris, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Board Development

As we look ahead to planning our calendar for the upcoming fiscal year, we want to ensure that our monthly meeting agendas continue to support your vital work and leadership. We would love your feedback on the educational and development topics we prioritize for FY2027.

As a reminder, our monthly meetings typically feature two distinct learning opportunities:

Service of the Month: A deeper dive into specific RAILS departments, operations, and the teams driving our day-to-day work.

Board Development: A broader focus designed to support your growth as trustees, ranging from deep dives into new, critical services to general topics that strengthen our collective governance and strategic insight.

To help spark your thinking, a list of topics we have covered over the last two years is included below. However, we welcome any new ideas, emerging trends, or specific areas of library service and professional ethics you would like to explore further. Our goal is to ensure you feel fully equipped and supported in your role guiding RAILS.

Please take a look at the history below and let us know what areas you would like to prioritize, or what new subjects you are most interested in exploring this coming year.

- Agencies of Impact data study
- Illinois Library Association overview
- Legal practices for boards around social media
- Best practices in online safety
- Equity Diversity Inclusion & Accessibility best practices
- Digital accessibility
- Library advocacy for trustees
- Engaging potential trustees
- Overview of school libraries
- RAILS Resource Sharing map
- Cybersecurity for libraries
- Overview of academic libraries
- Overview of special libraries
- Library advocacy at the state and national level
- Sustainability in libraries
- RAILS Library Demographic profile project

Thank you for your continued dedication, collaborative spirit, and commitment to our shared mission. I look forward to your thoughts and perspective.