

RAILS Support to LLSAPs

August 2026

Service of the Month

Contact



Anne Slaughter
Director of Technology
Services

Admin Support



Mary Kate Murray
Special Projects
Coordinator

LLSAP Support Grant Data



Grant Halter
Data Analysis Manager

WHAT IS AN LLSAP?

"Local Library System Automation Program [LLSAP] means an integrated library system open to membership by full library system members of all types developed by or receiving financial or in kind support from a library system."
(23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030)

Consortium or network of libraries that share catalog software and seamlessly share their collections and patron data with each other.

LLSAPs are major drivers of multitype resource sharing and essential partners in supporting RAILS member libraries' operations.

RAILS SUPPORT LOWERS BARRIERS TO LLSAP PARTICIPATION

LLSAP SUPPORT GRANT

- \$2.25M distributed annually
- Supplements membership fee revenue
- Evolved over time; many LLSAPs began as system departments

CATALOG MEMBERSHIP GRANT

- Covers many costs to join (vendor fees, tech equipment, cataloging)
- Since October 2014, 85 awards totaling \$2,222,000, connecting almost 2,000,000 Illinois residents

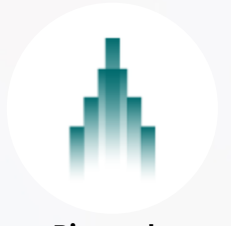
ONGOING PARTNERSHIP

- RAILS Board Consortia Committee
- Delivery service
- Deals & discounts collaboration
- Access to L2 platform & RAILS facilities
- ...and more

LLSAPS SERVE 32% OF RAILS LIBRARIES



Cooperative Computer Services



**Pinnacle
Library Cooperative**



PrairieCat



**Rock River
Library Cooperative**

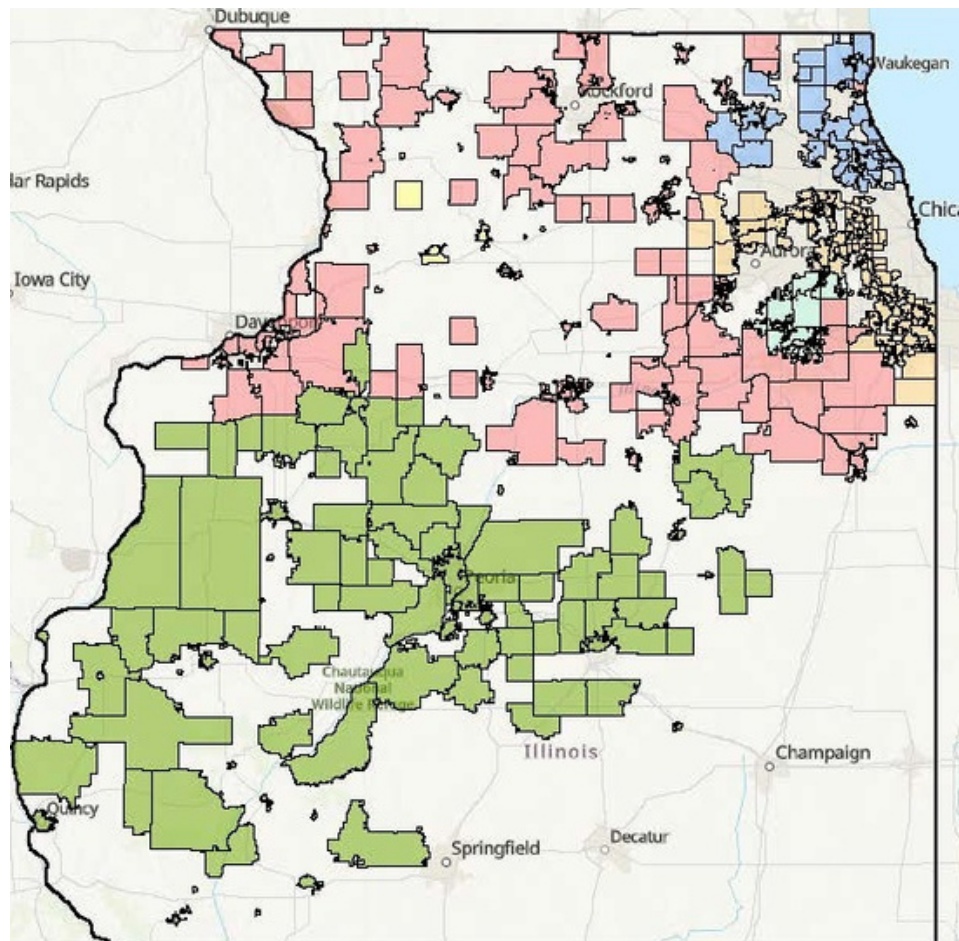


Resource Sharing Alliance



System Wide Automated Network

LLSAP	Members	Staff FTE
Cooperative Computer Services (CCS)	32	9
Pinnacle Library Cooperative (PLC)	6	1
PrairieCat	104	12
Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA)	130	12
Rock River Library Consortium (RRLC)	12	0
SWAN	100	17
Total	384	51



Public Library Service Areas

CCS

 PLC

 PrairieCat  SWAN

 RRLC RSA

RAILS LLSAP GOAL AND DEFINITION

Local Library System Automation Program (LLSAP) is a term used statewide and rooted in historical relationships between the regional library systems and consortia. 23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030 states: “Local Library System Automation Program means an integrated library system open to membership by full library system members of all types developed by or receiving financial or in kind support from a library system.”

The RAILS Board first approved a more detailed RAILS LLSAP definition on March 23, 2012, following work by the RAILS LLSAP Task Force. (The task force has since been replaced by the RAILS Consortia Committee.) The following revision was fully approved on January 22, 2016.

RAILS LLSAP SUPPORT GOAL

To foster resource sharing and make a library management system affordable for any interested member library, RAILS’ goal is to support shared catalog consortia in its service area. To enrich existing relationships while promoting collaborative ventures with new partners, the RAILS Board has approved this definition of LLSAPs (Local Library System Automation Programs):

RAILS LLSAP DEFINITION

Local Library System Automation Programs are shared library management systems that are supported by RAILS and that are open to membership by all types and sizes of RAILS member libraries. All LLSAPs affiliated with RAILS:

- 1) Support members whose primary service point is within the RAILS service area (Although non-RAILS members may belong to an LLSAP, they will not be included in allocation of RAILS support.)
- 2) Operate in a reciprocal contractual partnership with RAILS
- 3) Are supported by RAILS through in-kind and/or financial support
- 4) Maintain policies that broaden resource sharing throughout RAILS’ service area
- 5) Foster cooperation to support RAILS’ mission and to make library management systems affordable for every interested member library in RAILS, regardless of type or size
- 6) Work together to ensure the ability of all LLSAPs to meet the needs of their members, to increase the use of shared online catalogs by RAILS members, and to develop services that will further resource sharing throughout RAILS by providing staff, technical expertise, and assistance when needed

RAILS LLSAP definition—Revision approved by the Consortia Futures Subcommittee on November 9, 2015; by the Consortia Committee on January 18, 2016; and by the RAILS Board on January 22, 2016

RAILS LLSAP Support Grant: Annual Report

Due on July 31

LLSAP name: Cooperative Computer Services

Date of report: August 14, 2026

LLSAP staff member or representative preparing report

Name: Rebecca Malinowsk

Title: Executive Director

Email: rmalinowski@ccslib.org

Phone number: 847-483-8604

Submission: Please email the report as an attachment to anne.slaughter@railslibraries.org.

1. Describe how RAILS grant funds were used. Attach any applicable supporting documents (such as LLSAP budget, memos, etc.) demonstrating the use of RAILS funds.

In fiscal year 2025-2026, CCS used grant funds to provide Find More Illinois membership to all consortium members. All members were live except Mt. Prospect, Waukegan, and Vernon Area libraries. The total expenditure for FMI was \$88,550. The grant funds allow our members access to FMI without impacting their local budgets, allowing CCS to commit to a multi-year membership. During this period, CCS will evaluate the impact of CCS's FMI membership on CCS members and Illinois libraries.

The remainder of the grant funds (\$135,445) we used to offset other special software spending in FY 2025-2026 including Orange Boy Savannah and Bibliocommons.

CCS's total spending in special software, including FMI, was \$286,206. The RAILS grant covered 78% of the costs of these new tools and services for our members. The grant award makes it possible for CCS and membership to add services that may otherwise be cost-prohibitive.

Attached: FY25-26 Budget, June 2026 Financial Report

2. Please describe any significant LLSAP activities in the time period covered by the report, such as membership changes, new services or policies, ILS platform updates and changes, governance changes, etc.

Membership changes: Vernon Area Public Library went live in September 2025. Rolling Meadows and Wauconda libraries were approved as new member in November 2025 and will be live in October 2026.

New services: CCS began implementing OrangeBoy Savannah, BiblioCore, and LX Starter (enhanced patron notices) in FY 2026. These implementations will continue into 2027.

The Savannah platform is built and accumulating data from all CCS members. Our analytics service will be further built out in the coming year.

20 members launched BiblioCore in May and June 2026. The remaining members will launch by the end of October 2026. The CCS subscription with Bibliocommons includes only BiblioCore. Members may opt-in for other services from Bibliocommons.

5 beta libraries tested and launched LX starter in fiscal year 2026. Our members will move forward in waves throughout this fiscal year and into FY 2027. There is a significant time investment for members to design their new notices.

Policy changes: CCS continues to update policies to comply with State and local regulations.

Platform: CCS is currently using Polaris version 8.0

3. If optional in-kind services are used, please list services and describe any significant activities related to them. If your needs regarding these services have changed or you anticipate them changing, please describe how. (In-kind services include datacenter, delivery services to LLSAP facility, financial services, help desk ticket system, use of RAILS facilities for LLSAP staff, consortium staffed by RAILS employees, use of RAILS vehicles, and ILS phone notification dialer co-location.)

N/A

4. For the RAILS services listed below, please indicate the ones in which any or all of your member libraries participate, and describe any significant activities, changes, or needs related to the services:

☒ eRead Illinois

☒ Find More Illinois

CCS Governing Board approved a three-year membership in Find More Illinois in February 2026. The timeline will allow more data collection as the program grows before reanalyzing membership.

☒ Explore More Illinois

☒ Any other RAILS projects and group purchases that require ILS interoperability

CCS uses L2 as an authentication source for ccslib.org and reports.ccslib.org.

5. Do you have any questions, comments, or concerns you would like to share with us? *(optional)*

RAILS LLSAP Support Grant: Annual Report

Due on July 31

LLSAP name: Pinnacle Library Cooperative

Date of report: July 2026

LLSAP staff member or representative preparing report

Name: Matt Hammermeister

Title: Director

Email: mhammermeister@pinnaclelibraries.org

Phone number: 815-552-4277

Submission: Please email the report as an attachment to anne.slaughter@railslibraries.org.

1. Describe how RAILS grant funds were used. Attach any applicable supporting documents (such as LLSAP budget, memos, etc.) demonstrating the use of RAILS funds.

RAILS grant funds continue to support the consortium in two primary ways. Approximately half of the grant is applied towards personnel costs, helping offset the cost of maintaining two full-time staff members. This support allows the consortium to sustain staffing levels while minimizing the financial impact to member libraries.

The remaining grant funds provide flexibility to cover first-year expenses for new initiatives that have not yet been incorporated into the operating budget. During this reporting period, we have not implemented any new features, but we are inching closer to a launch of a new discover layer mid-FY2027.

2. Please describe any significant LLSAP activities in the time period covered by the report, such as membership changes, new services or policies, ILS platform updates and changes, governance changes, etc.

In Fall of 2025, the consortium launched a new website that combines the public website and staff intranet into a single platform. The redesign was guided by staff feedback and focused on creating a simpler, more streamlined experience that is easier to maintain and navigate. The new website is mobile-friendly, follows current accessibility standards and provides an improved user experience.

3. If optional in-kind services are used, please list services and describe any significant activities related to them. If your needs regarding these services have changed or you anticipate them changing, please describe how. (In-kind services include datacenter, delivery services to LLSAP facility, financial services, help desk ticket system, use of RAILS facilities for LLSAP staff, consortium staffed by RAILS employees, use of RAILS vehicles, and ILS phone notification dialer co-location.)

No in-kind services.

4. For the RAILS services listed below, please indicate the ones in which any or all of your member libraries participate, and describe any significant activities, changes, or needs related to the services:

☒ eRead Illinois

Fountaindale, Joliet

☐ Find More Illinois

☒ Explore More Illinois

All six Pinnacle libraries

☐ Any other RAILS projects and group purchases that require ILS interoperability

5. Do you have any questions, comments, or concerns you would like to share with us? *(optional)*

We appreciate RAILS' continued support of resource sharing. We look forward to another year of collaboration and working together to strengthen library services.

RAILS LLSAP Support Grant: Annual Report

Due on July 31

LLSAP name: PrairieCat

Date of report: 6/19/2026

LLSAP staff member or representative preparing report

Name: Carolyn Coulter

Title: Director

Email: carolyn.coulter@prairiecat.org

Phone number: 815-443-6016

Submission: Please email the report as an attachment to anne.slaughter@railslibraries.org.

1. Describe how RAILS grant funds were used. Attach any applicable supporting documents (such as LLSAP budget, memos, etc.) demonstrating the use of RAILS funds.

RAILS funds are leveraged in our budget as general revenue, and go towards the mission of PrairieCat by funding all aspects of our operations. This includes our software costs, member training, staffing and related expenses. I am attaching our FY26 budget, which shows the RAILS grant in our revenues, as well as our other sources of revenue and our expenses.

2. Please describe any significant LLSAP activities in the time period covered by the report, such as membership changes, new services or policies, ILS platform updates and changes, governance changes, etc.

[SEE FULL RESPONSE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES]

3. If optional in-kind services are used, please list services and describe any significant activities related to them. If your needs regarding these services have changed or you anticipate them changing, please describe how. (In-kind services include datacenter, delivery services to LLSAP facility, financial services, help desk ticket system, use of RAILS facilities for LLSAP staff, consortium staffed by RAILS employees, use of RAILS vehicles, and ILS phone notification dialer co-location.)

We intend to continue with the use of RAILS financial services in the future, as long as they are affordable. We value these services highly and believe the skill sets that we are able to leverage with RAILS accountants are far better than what we could afford elsewhere.

We continue to leverage the Coal Valley and Bolingbrook facilities for minimal file and equipment storage (Coal Valley) and to pick up and drop off cataloging materials (Bolingbrook). In FY27 we will continue moving our archived files to Burr Ridge, as we complete digitization of our important IGAs and contracts. As the Coal Valley building is no longer monitored for fire alarms, we felt that moving the materials to a monitored facility was prudent, and we appreciate RAILS allowing us storage space at Burr Ridge for this.

We appreciate the flexibility that RAILS allows with these spaces. In FY26, we removed last remaining server at the Burr Ridge data center. We have only a firewall device present in that facility.

[RESPONSE TO #2 ABOVE]

Below please find a list of significant achievements in FY26:

- In July, the Delegates approved revisions to our in-person quorum requirements for Delegates Assembly and the Finance Committee. On examination, PrairieCat encompasses over 4,500 square miles of service area. According to the existing statutes, we are large enough to qualify for the exemption which would allow us to meet at determined remote locations, as RAILS does. The first Delegates Assembly meeting under the new rules was held on July 30th. Remote sites vary, but have included the RAILS Coal Valley service center, the Princeton Public Library, the Freeport Public Library, Ida public library, and the New Lenox Public library.
- In FY 26, our existing OCLC/Capira mobile app contract expired and PrairieCat performed a review of existing options for replacement. The UX Team and members of staff and the Administrative Council participated in the team choosing a new mobile app. At the end of the process, Innovative Vega Mobile was selected. The contract was approved in April and 71 libraries opted-in to participate. On Oct. 2, PrairieCat officially launched the new app. PrairieCat surveyed the mobile app libraries about the implementation and received very positive feedback when asked about communication, training, resources, and responsiveness during the implementation phase.
- The Administrative Council approved a succession plan for our director in FY26, which details both short- and long-term procedures for covering director's duties and responsibilities, and outlines methods for replacing the director should that be necessary.
- In addition, all staff have developed backup and contingency plans for each position's primary duties and identified backups. Further cross training has been performed and documentation created to ensure smooth transitions should we experience any staff disruptions in the future.
- In-person staff meetings were held in October and June. Staff convene twice annually in person to discuss various topics of concern. In June, the staff had professional pictures taken to enhance our website per the instructions of the Administrative Council.
- PrairieCat administrative staff met virtually with representatives from the newly formed Wallace Township Library to discuss their needs and help with their questions regarding library service in Illinois. Although they are not ready to join a consortium at this time, we feel that we provided them some needed support and information regarding membership and library services in general.
- PrairieCat hosted a successful in-person PUG Day event with 260 attendees with representations from more than 60 member libraries. PrairieCat offered 28 sessions during this event and received positive feedback from event surveys.
- PrairieCat staff continue to host a New Directors Welcome meeting to connect with new directors. Staff also completed numerous member site visits within our service area.
- PrairieCat staff hosted online Member updates twice in FY26, providing information regarding ongoing projects and to maintain member contact.
- Two "ask me anything" sessions with the PrairieCat director were held online in FY26
- Multiple online sessions on IPLAR information were held in FY26 for membership.
- Several online "ask me anything" sessions regarding configuration options with Vega Discovery and the mobile app were held with membership.
- Several enhancements to our Discovery software, Vega Discovery, were effectuated in FY 26. The Encore catalog will be sunsetting on July 1, 2026. Innovative will no longer support this interface and it will not be made ADA compliant.
- Many PrairieCat staff members attended the Innovative User's Group (IUG) conference this year in Chicago. PrairieCat staff also attended ILA and ALA in FY26.
- A member of our Library Services Team, Melissa Landis, presented a 90-minute program at ILA this year.

- Several members of PrairieCat are involved in various committees with IUG, ILA, and WILIUG (Wisconsin/Illinois IUG). PrairieCat staff remain active members of our vendor community and our local library organizations.
- PrairieCat hosted our annual Back to School session for school member libraries. This virtual event allows school library staff to reconnect with PrairieCat at the start of the school.
- As a part of ongoing system maintenance, we regularly perform restoration tests from backup of PrairieCat files. In addition, we have put in place a redundant backup solution and continue to test automated restorations from this system.
- In FY26, Systems staff revised our existing disaster recovery plans to reflect the current state of our network.
- We replaced existing staff laptops with new laptops in FY26
- We have re-purposed our old TNS server to allow admin access in case of VPN failure
- Staff completed the annual patron purge, removing 23,843 out of 27,390 inactive patrons owing less than \$10. 1,611 out of 14,414 inactive patrons who owed more than \$10 were removed.
- Systems staff completed our annual IP verification and firewall cleanup project.
- Systems staff Investigated ways to make distributing Net Support Notify (our remote emergency notification system) simpler for members and to have automated confirmation of installation.
- In FY26, PrairieCat signed a three year agreement with Mitinet to leverage their BestMARC product as a replacement for MARCive to enhance our database record updates and ensure ongoing standardization.
- Several courses offered through TalentLMS have been revised to improve content and relevance. New courses concerning Vega Discovery and the mobile app have been added. New courses are being added concerning Vega Reports, a newly released enhancement to the Vega suite of products.
- John Slanicky, Jason Jensen, and Deborah Shippy worked collaboratively to address and resolve record duplication (fields: 019/001) resulting from the overlay of OCLC Connexion records into the database.
- Our annual Resource Sharing Summit was held in March. Our topic for FY26 was “Patron behavior policies and best practices”. A representative from Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins gave a presentation on building a policy followed by a panel discussion with several libraries about their policy process. In addition, a speaker from Rosecrance Behavioral Health gave a presentation to help library staff learn:
 - Trauma informed practices to better support library users facing barriers such as unhoused patrons or patrons who have mental health challenges
 - Deescalation techniques
 - Best practices for staff to respond to patrons in a timely and direct way that aligns with library policy (including behavior policies and safety and security policies) (While providing good customer service and protecting themselves from burnout)
- We worked with OCLC to consolidate one of our members’ multiple OCLC symbols into the one symbol that is actively used. Previously, the library used one of their three existing symbols. This will simplify their processes as well as save money by reducing the number of symbols that we pay for.

4. For the RAILS services listed below, please indicate the ones in which any or all of your member libraries participate, and describe any significant activities, changes, or needs related to the services:

☒ eRead Illinois

In FY23, the consortium voted for membership for all circulating members of the consortium. In FY24, we renewed that agreement for three years. In FY27, we will address the next three years of participation.

☒ Find More Illinois

Some members are participants

☒ Explore More Illinois

Some members are participants

☒ Any other RAILS projects and group purchases that require ILS interoperability

It varies. Some members leverage RAILS group purchases for several services.

5. Do you have any questions, comments, or concerns you would like to share with us? *(optional)*

RAILS LLSAP Support Grant: Annual Report

Due on July 31

LLSAP name: Rock River Library Consortium (RRLC)

Date of report: June 11, 2026

LLSAP staff member or representative preparing report

Name: Jennifer Slaney

Title: Director

Email: Jennifer.Slaney@sterlingpubliclibrary.org

Phone number: (815) 625-1370

Submission: Please email the report as an attachment to anne.slaughter@railslibraries.org.

1. Describe how RAILS grant funds were used. Attach any applicable supporting documents (such as LLSAP budget, memos, etc.) demonstrating the use of RAILS funds.

Grant funds were used to renew the following databases for the member libraries:
Gale in Context for the school libraries
Brainfuse for the public libraries
Novelist for all members

Funds were also used to renew the app myLibro for Public and Jr/Sr high school libraries.

The Library Corporation (TLC) held their annual users group meeting via webinar and RRLC members were encouraged to attend with the fee.

Members also approved using grant funds to pay 50% of the TLC annual invoice again this year.

2. Please describe any significant LLSAP activities in the time period covered by the report, such as membership changes, new services or policies, ILS platform updates and changes, governance changes, etc.

Chadwick Public Library joined RRLC consortium.
TLC software updates to Version 5.10

3. If optional in-kind services are used, please list services and describe any significant activities related to them. If your needs regarding these services have changed or you anticipate them changing, please describe how. (In-kind services include datacenter, delivery services to LLSAP facility, financial services, help desk ticket system, use of RAILS facilities for LLSAP staff, consortium staffed by RAILS employees, use of RAILS vehicles, and ILS phone notification dialer co-location.)

4. For the RAILS services listed below, please indicate the ones in which any or all of your member libraries participate, and describe any significant activities, changes, or needs related to the services:

☒ eRead Illinois

Chadwick, Dixon, Milledgeville, Rock Falls, and Sterling Public Libraries, Dixon, Sterling and Rock Falls High School libraries

☒ Find More Illinois

Chadwick, Dixon, Milledgeville, Rock Falls, Sterling Public Libraries, Sterling and Rock Falls High School libraries.

☒ Explore More Illinois

Dixon, Milledgeville, Rock Falls and Sterling Public Libraries

☐ Any other RAILS projects and group purchases that require ILS interoperability

5. Do you have any questions, comments, or concerns you would like to share with us? *(optional)*

RAILS LLSAP Support Grant: Annual Report

Due on July 31

LLSAP name: Resource Sharing Alliance

Date of report: 7 July 2026

LLSAP staff member or representative preparing report

Name: Kendal Orrison

Title: Executive Director

Email: kendal.orrison@librariesofrsa.org

Phone number: 866-940-4083

Submission: Please email the report as an attachment to anne.slaughter@railslibraries.org.

1. Describe how RAILS grant funds were used. Attach any applicable supporting documents (such as LLSAP budget, memos, etc.) demonstrating the use of RAILS funds.

- RAILS grant funds were used to cover the first 6 months of the RSA expenses for continued RAILS employment of our staff. These funds also covered the 6 months RAILS/6 months rental cost of the office space RSA inhabits. Any remaining funds help off-set the increased costs of staffing and supporting everything ourselves.
- Our full budget is available in the finance department, let us know if you have any questions about it. It contains the full breakout of all RAILS and RSA costs for staffing, staff benefits and support, contracts, etc.
- RSA has now had 14 school member withdraws over the past 3 years. While that's a painful hit in membership dues and decreasing RAILS support grant amounts, ultimately this was the best option for those libraries at this time. We especially worry about the loss of many supplemental RSA services like eRead IL membership, access to 80+ million open access journal, ebook, and database articles, and easy ILL access. We fear these things just go away and aren't replaced due to \$ issues.
- The RAILS grant overall has shrunk to about 37.5% of RSA's income, down from 54% in FY2020. We've done a lot of work to make ourselves stronger and more independent. Even so, RSA management and it's members would be hard pressed to absorb a large cut in grant funds without some fundamentally painful changes to RSA's membership, staff count and benefits, and overall services provided.
- Statewide delivery is absolutely essential to ALL RSA member libraries. Non-public members fill 96.7% of their holds through delivery. Smaller public libraries (<4K pop served) average 88.6% hold filled through delivery. Public libraries with great than 4K pop served average 68.8% of all holds coming via delivery. RAILS delivery support keeps many of our smallest, least-funded libraries alive and relevant.

2. Please describe any significant LLSAP activities in the time period covered by the report, such as membership changes, new services or policies, ILS platform updates and changes, governance changes, etc.

- Once again RSA lost a couple school members. Illini Bluffs High School withdrew this year, their Jr High School pulled out several years ago. AC Central dropped their Elementary school branch because they didn't use the system, but retained their Middle/High School membership. Bushnell-Prairie City CUSD #170 High School has finally withdrawn on our urging. They already had an automation system and didn't use RSA services but kept paying for them.
- We added a Grade School branch for Spoon River Schools and moved their items and students into it to separate it from the High School. Thanks for the grant to them!
- RSA assumed responsibility for all operations and staff as of 1 January 2026. As of 30 June, we have fully completed RSA independence. The list of things done to make this happen would not fit in this report, but are numerous.
- We upgraded to the latest version of Symphony in March. We upgraded, then reverted our online catalog due to issues with the new Cloudflare security layer. The combo caused timeouts, errors, and broke most kiosk setups in libraries.
- We finished our review and rework of all policy documents in RSA this year. Over the last two years we've completely revised every one of RSA's policies to make them simpler to understand and to combine all similar policy documents into larger, overall documents. We've also reworked about 60% of our standards and help docs.
- Finished independence project will all that involved.

3. If optional in-kind services are used, please list services and describe any significant activities related to them. If your needs regarding these services have changed or you anticipate them changing, please describe how. (In-kind services include datacenter, delivery services to LLSAP facility, financial services, help desk ticket system, use of RAILS facilities for LLSAP staff, consortium staffed by RAILS employees, use of RAILS vehicles, and ILS phone notification dialer co-location.)

- Staffing: Jul-Dec RAILS provided Staff to RSA, in Jan 26, all 9 existing RSA support staff members transferred to RSA employment.
- RSA was gifted the two 2014 Fusions primarily driven for RSA visits. Thank you.
- RAILS IT department has been super helpful both with the Jul-Dec support, but also in helping us get our O365 system/email/phones working correctly post January.
- Data center use in the Springfield hosting site: RSA has removed all equipment in Springfield and the RAILS contract there should have expired on 30 June
- RSA uses the East Peoria Office space. We've returned to 12 staff now and will be adding 2 additional staff in early January 2027. We'll fit the 2 additional staff into our current space which will max out the number of people we can house here.
- We appreciate RAILS working with us to add additional IP addresses to the EP network so we can host our backup firewall here.
- We use the RAILS network printer as part of the building rental agreement.
- RAILS HR assisted for 6 months; Sam was extremely helpful in the staffing process! She helped us understand many arcane things.
- We continue to be very happy to pay for RAILS Finance support and LOVE the outstanding work they do for us We will continue to utilize RAILS Finance support as long as it's offered.

4. For the RAILS services listed below, please indicate the ones in which any or all of your member libraries participate, and describe any significant activities, changes, or needs related to the services:

☒ eRead Illinois

All RSA members, except McLean County Historical Society which has no patrons, are part of RSA's overall eRead IL contract. We continue to talk to our schools about completing their setup and better utilizing this asset.

☒ Find More Illinois

Five RSA members are in Find More IL. They averaged 60 loans and 48 borrows a month. We don't hear anything from these members about the service.

☒ Explore More Illinois

Almost all RSA public library members participate in FMI. It appears to 'just work' as we don't ever hear anything about it from our members. RAILS contacts us whenever needed on the system integration end.

☒ Any other RAILS projects and group purchases that require ILS interoperability

It's been a slow year for these purchases. Maybe due to the independence work taking up all our time? We'd love to turn the RSA EnvisionWare group purchase over to RAILS so it can be expanded to non-RSA members.

5. Do you have any questions, comments, or concerns you would like to share with us? *(optional)*

This last 6 months has been a whirl-wind for RSA's management staff between all the unanticipated independence/staff work and the firewall falling victim to a world-wide zero day issue. We've been digging and digging and finally have our heads about ground level again. Now we've got about 9 months of 'real' work to catch up on, but we're finished with the hardest part and have resumed moving RSA forward again.

A note on our planned increase in staffing: we think we can put one more person, who will be a cataloger of some type, in the shared staff room by locking the door into the delivery area and putting a desk there. That space is exactly the right size while still leaving an exit on both ends of the shared workspace. The second new hire will be at the manager level and will be co-housed on one of the manager offices. That's the current plan. We don't want to re-purpose either of the Collaboration spaces as both are frequently in use at the same time.

Again we thank RAILS for the unexpected 6-month staffing extension and all the support while we hired staff and figured our stuff out. We look forward to working with you in a slightly different way moving forward.

RAILS LLSAP Support Grant: Annual Report

Due on July 31

LLSAP name: SWAN

Date of report: July 22, 2026

LLSAP staff member or representative preparing report

Name: Aaron Skog

Title: Executive Director

Email: aaron@swanlibraries.net

Phone number: 630-326-7022

Submission: Please email the report as an attachment to anne.slaughter@railslibraries.org.

1. Describe how RAILS grant funds were used. Attach any applicable supporting documents (such as LLSAP budget, memos, etc.) demonstrating the use of RAILS funds.

SWAN is a vital part of ILLINET, which per the Illinois Secretary of State, is defined as "the online consortial catalogs, known as Local Library System Automation Programs (LLSAPs) and the Illinois statewide Library delivery service (ILDS) funded by the Illinois State Library through grants to IHLS, RAILS and ILDS, [...] are key components of statewide resource sharing."

SWAN provides service to 25% of the library service population in RAILS and in turn fulfills 41% of the resource sharing occurring within RAILS. LLSAP funding to SWAN is awarded to all public member libraries to lower the annual membership fee to participate in the resource sharing consortium. Each public library in SWAN receives an equal amount of the LLSAP fund award. This equal distribution therefore favors libraries with limited funding.

For FY26, each public library in SWAN was awarded \$5,223 against their membership fees. A full explanation of SWAN membership fees for our multi-type consortium can be found online:

<https://swanlibraries.net/about/board/budget-membership-fees>

2. Please describe any significant LLSAP activities in the time period covered by the report, such as membership changes, new services or policies, ILS platform updates and changes, governance changes, etc.

SWAN provides a library services platform (LSP) to all member libraries which includes a shared ILS for resource sharing, which during FY26 facilitated 2.2 million ILL transactions, and over 2.1 million reciprocal borrowing transactions within the SWAN consortium.

SWAN's LSP integrates e-content for all member libraries to provide a single search interface for physical material, eBooks, eAudio, eStreaming, and subscription e-content from EBSCO, Gale, and other vendors.

SWAN provides a service at no cost to six participating LLSAPs through its OCLC Holdings Manager, where each month the 25 million holdings in WorldCat are updated for CCS, Pinnacle, PrairieCat, RSA, SHARE, and SWAN. The OCLC Holdings Manager contributes more to WorldCat holdings than any other organization, excluding national libraries. Accurate library holdings in WorldCat allows ILLINET to process Illinois interlibrary loan requests and respond to requests from libraries outside of Illinois.

3. If optional in-kind services are used, please list services and describe any significant activities related to them. If your needs regarding these services have changed or you anticipate them changing, please describe how. (In-kind services include datacenter, delivery services to LLSAP facility, financial services, help desk ticket system, use of RAILS facilities for LLSAP staff, consortium staffed by RAILS employees, use of RAILS vehicles, and ILS phone notification dialer co-location.)

No in-kind RAILS services are used.

4. For the RAILS services listed below, please indicate the ones in which any or all of your member libraries participate, and describe any significant activities, changes, or needs related to the services:

☒ eRead Illinois

SWAN coordinated with RAILS to ensure a smooth transition to the eRead Illinois platform with the Palace Project over the past year. Currently, 49 libraries within SWAN's 100 library membership participate in eRead Illinois. This eBook platform is integrated within SWAN's public catalog using Aspen Discovery. SWAN's mobile application integrates eRead Illinois collection using a SWAN managed platform called LiDA: Library Discovery App.

☒ Find More Illinois

One library in SWAN is using Find More Illinois.

☒ Explore More Illinois

SWAN established a connection to the Explore More Illinois service in July 2019 using SWAN's OpenAthens, thus ensuring patron's personally identifiable information is passed to EMI using an encrypted method. The number of libraries participating is not certain, as SWAN does not manage Explore More Illinois, but we estimate 75 SWAN member libraries are participating.

☒ Any other RAILS projects and group purchases that require ILS interoperability

During this past year, SWAN coordinated with RAILS and the Illinois State Library to integrate EBSCO database resources into a single search within SWAN's Aspen Discovery, providing online research to all 100 member libraries using SAML based authentication with a centrally managed service using SWAN's OpenAthens, and keyword indexes built in EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS). This arrangement provides the library patron with a seamless experience, where these online research tools are integrated into the SWAN catalog as a single search interface, using an active library card for access.

5. Do you have any questions, comments, or concerns you would like to share with us? *(optional)*

Of the 623 public libraries reporting in Illinois Public Library Annual Report, 538 are members of an LLSAP, which is 86% of the total. Resource sharing via ILDS by LLSAPs represents 93% of the total for Illinois. The RAILS financial grant to LLSAPs is an important component in the support of ILLINET. The success of ILLINET is built upon LLSAPs, library delivery, and the statewide catalog created using OCLC WorldCat Discovery and WorldShare ILL services.

We thank RAILS for the funding provided to allow widespread participation in the LLSAPs.