



R A I L S

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

What is RAILS?

The Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) offers continuing education, delivery, e-resources, support for shared online catalogs, group purchases/discounts, networking opportunities, grants, and other innovative services to nearly 1,300 academic, public, school, and special libraries in northern and west-central Illinois and beyond.

Find out more:

Visit the RAILS website at railslibraries.info.

Subscribe to the weekly *RAILS E-News* or our periodic e-newsletters for academic, school, or special libraries at railslibraries.info/newsletters.

Request a visit to your library by a RAILS staff member at railslibraries.info/membership/visit-request, or request an online visit railslibraries.info/membership/online-visit-request.

Contact the RAILS Communications Team at communications@railslibraries.info.

Call our toll-free number: 866.940.4081.

RAILS helps our members...

Learn/Stay Informed

RAILS offers continuing education (CE) training and workshops for all types of libraries (academic, public, school, and special) in person and via videoconference, streaming video, and webinar.

Search for upcoming CE by date, library type, topic, and more at railslibraries.info/events/ce.

View recorded presentations 24/7 via the CE Archives at railslibraries.info/services/ce-archives.

View statewide CE on the Library Learning (L2) calendar at librarylearning.info.

RAILS also offers statewide training for public library trustees at railslibraries.info/services/trustee.

RAILS offers grants for individual libraries, networking groups, and consortia that offer CE to RAILS members at railslibraries.info/services/ce-grant.

RAILS consulting services (railslibraries.info/services/consulting) include:

- ▶ Online consulting directory
- ▶ Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Open Meetings Act (OMA) Hotline
- ▶ Discounted HR Source benefits

Quarterly member update sessions

feature the latest RAILS news.

[railslibraries.info/membership/
networking-events](https://railslibraries.info/membership/networking-events)

**Our *Sparks* podcast features interviews
on current library issues and trends.**

railslibraries.info/sparks

Everyone's favorite link! railslibraries.info/jobs

Stay informed about the latest issues affecting libraries via the Library Pulse section of the RAILS home page. railslibraries.info

Connect with Colleagues

Search for RAILS members by library name, director's name, library type, county, delivery code, catalog, and more.

railslibraries.info/membership/member-directory

Share best practices, war stories, and more with those who share your interests/position via a wide variety of email lists.

railslibraries.info/membership/email-lists

**Quickly poll colleagues on a variety of topics
with Fast Facts.** railslibraries.info/fast-facts

Connect with colleagues at RAILS member meetups and online roundtables.
railslibraries.info/membership/member-engagement

Find an in-person networking group best suited to your interests.
railslibraries.info/membership/groups

Share your library news and photos via the RAILS website.
railslibraries.info/membership/news

Interact with RAILS and other members via our social media pages.
facebook.com/railslibraries
twitter.com/railslibraries
instagram.com/railslibraries
linkedin.com/company/railslibraries

Keep your library and personal contact information up-to-date so colleagues can easily find you. librarylearning.info



My Library Is...

RAILS' My Library Is... campaign will help all types of libraries tell their stories and prove their value to different stakeholders.

The campaign includes:

- ▶ Talking points, toolkits, and templates to help you tell your story
- ▶ Training
 - In-person events
 - Live and recorded webinars
- ▶ Videos you can share via your library website, social media, etc.
- ▶ A blog where RAILS and members will share helpful information

Visit mylibraryis.org for more information.

While you're there, share what has worked for you in telling your story in the Sharing Showcase. mylibraryis.org/showcase

Share/view what others have shared: library stories, marketing plans, videos, print publicity materials, press releases, and more.

RAILS offers My Library Is... grants for libraries of different types (academic, public, school, and special). This grant program provides an opportunity for libraries to focus on projects that help tell the library story and that increase visibility and support for all types of libraries.
railslibraries.info/services/my-library-grants

Share Resources

RAILS delivers millions of items annually between member libraries based on need.

railslibraries.info/services/delivery

Delivery Help Desk: railsdelivery@railslibraries.info

Report missing items, misrouted materials, damaged items, library closings, or any other delivery feedback.

RAILS offers support for shared online catalogs including membership grants at railslibraries.info/services/catalogs.

Find More Illinois aims to provide library users with seamless access to the online catalogs of participating consortia and standalone libraries.

findmoreillinois.org

E-Resources

Explore More Illinois is a program for free/discounted admission to cultural attractions in Illinois. exploremoreillinois.org

eRead Illinois Axis 360: the collection includes e-books and e-audio for adults and children with very reasonable pricing. ereadillinois.com

BiblioBoard: Our partnership with BiblioBoard provides access to Popup Picks, Recovering the Classics, Open Educational Resources (OER), and other e-book collections through geolocation-based authentication, and at no cost to anyone in Illinois. There are no holds and no limit on simultaneous use. railslibraries.info/services/biblioboard

Inkie.org: A suite of resources available to everyone in Illinois at no charge that supports local authors with online creation and publishing tools and allows readers to access locally-produced content. inkie.org

Save Money

RAILS offers discounts and group purchases for all types of libraries. railslibraries.info/deals

View free/for sale items from other libraries or post your own. railslibraries.info/membership/classifieds

Funding for the Reaching Across Illinois Library System is provided through the Illinois State Library and the Secretary of State from revenue appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly or granted under the federal Library Services and Technology Act.