



Winter 2019

What's New at RAILS?

All RAILS Libraries Required to Complete Membership Standards Form

RAILS has been working on revised system membership standards to help all types of libraries (academic, public, school, and special) provide the best possible service to their community of users. To determine what help libraries might need to meet the new standards, RAILS is requiring all members to complete a form on the RAILS website by March 31, 2019.

We are only collecting data at this time. Your responses will not affect your RAILS membership in any way. Visit standards.railslibraries.info for details.

New BiblioBoard Popup Picks Collection Coming Soon!

Developed through a partnership between RAILS and BiblioLabs, Popup Picks are hand-curated, front list e-books available to everyone in Illinois free of charge and without the need of a login or library card. There are no holds or waiting for titles, and items can be read by multiple users at the same time. Watch for a new Popup Picks collection coming in January. Visit popuppicks.com to learn more.

Helping Libraries Tell Their Stories

RAILS will be working on a campaign in 2019 to help all types of libraries (academic, public, school, and special) articulate their value to users, potential users, funders, elected officials, and other stakeholders. There will be a special website, a social media component, many opportunities for members to share best practices, and more. Stay tuned to the *RAILS E-News* for further details coming soon. Subscribe at railslibraries.info/subscribe.

RAILS Winter Continuing Education (CE) Lineup

RAILS is offering CE on a wide variety of topics this winter, including:

- January 14-27: Marketing for Librarians (two-week online course)
- January 17: Goal Setting and Management webinar by HR Source
- January 22: 101 Great Kids Books webinar
- February 6: Levying Workshop in Burr Ridge
- February 20: Delivering Difficult Performance Feedback webinar by HR Source
- February 26: Cataloging Non-Traditional Items webinar
- March 14: Paying Attention to Pay Equity Webinar by HR Source

View details at librarylearning.info. Find additional events at railslibraries.info/events.

RAILS Continuing Education Event Grants

RAILS offers grants to RAILS libraries, networking groups, and library consortia to offer CE that will be made available to all RAILS members and of interest to a wide range of library staff. Upcoming application deadlines are January 31 and March 29. Visit railslibraries.info/services/ce-grant.

Find More Illinois Makes Resource Sharing Easier

Find More Illinois enables anyone to search multiple catalogs at once. Patrons and staff of participating libraries can also place interlibrary loan requests. All libraries are eligible to participate, regardless of size, type, or catalog status. To search and to find out costs and how to join, visit findmoreillinois.org.

Take the Find More Illinois Scavenger Hunt!

All RAILS members are invited to participate in our Find More Illinois Scavenger Hunt, from January 28-March 10. Each week, we will post a challenge on the RAILS Facebook page (facebook.com/railslibraries) and ask you to search the Find More Illinois catalog for something specific. (Anyone can search Find More Illinois on findmoreillinois.org, whether your library is a member or not.)

RAILS members can enter by posting a screenshot of their search on Facebook or by emailing their entry to communications@railslibraries.info. We will have weekly drawings for a small prize, and one grand prize drawing for a \$50 gift certificate. Watch for details in the *RAILS E-News* in early January.

Winter Networking Opportunities

Warm up the winter months with some library networking! On Wednesday, January 16, RAILS will host a Member Meetup at Fondulac Public Library in East Peoria. On Tuesday, February 12, RAILS will host a Member Meetup at the Hewes Library on the campus of Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois. All staff from all RAILS member libraries are invited. Register at librarylearning.info.

Keep current on all our upcoming networking plans at railslibraries.info/membership/networking-events.

RAILS School Library Tune-ups

RAILS now offers school libraries the opportunity to meet one-on-one via GoToMeeting to discuss obstacles or challenges they face. The “tune-ups” are 30 minutes and discussion topics include continuing education, grants, and e-book resources. To participate, please contact RAILS Member Engagement Manager, Dan Bostrom, dan.bostrom@railslibraries.info.

RAILS Sparks Podcast

Episodes of *Sparks* recently released or coming this winter include interviews about the Library of Things (LOT) and sexual harassment in libraries. Find out more/subscribe at railslibraries.info/sparks.

For more information about what's new at RAILS:

- Subscribe to the weekly *RAILS E-News* at www.railslibraries.info/subscribe
- Visit the RAILS website at www.railslibraries.info
- Contact Mary Witt, RAILS Communications Director, at mary.witt@railslibraries.info