RAILS Update July 2023

PrairieCat Delegates Assembly

Introduction

Nice to meet you!

RAILS Members

Library Type	Main Agencies	Buildings/Branches
Academic	117	162
Public	412	485
School	560	2,911
Specialized	179	186
Total	1,268	3,744

RAILS Services

- Delivery service
- Deals and Discounts program
- L2 – Statewide Library Directory and Continuing Education Calendar
- eRead, Find More Illinois, Explore More Illinois programs
- Networking meetings and email lists
- Continuing education and trustee education
- E-News

RAILS FY2024 Highlights

New Associate Executive Director and Staff Transitions

- Revised org chart
- Succession Plan
- In person staff day 2024
- Benchmarking by HR Source
- IT Infrastructure

Statewide Online Resources

- $5 million in Secretary Giannoulias' budget for FY2024
- Modeling programs from Michigan and New York
- Input and discussion from all Systems and at ISLAC

Delivery

- Purchase of new delivery vehicles for aging fleet
- Implementation of mobile app for tracking delivery volume and other functions

Library Programs

- Deals & Discounts
- eRead Illinois
- Explore More Illinois
- Find More Illinois

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

- Freedom Lifted – coming in Fall 2023
- World Language cataloging program
- Full equity audit of RAILS personnel manual
- Continued work from the RAILS EDI Board committee and the internal Climate Team

Advocacy

- Support for the ISL on HB2789 (banbookbans.com) and the License to Read Act
- Ex officio on the ILA Public Policy Committee
- RAILS Advocacy Committee

Grant Support for Members

- My Library Is... Grants
- Continuing Education Grants
- Catalog Membership Grant
- LLSAP Support Grant

Collaboration with Statewide Partners

- AISLE Partnership
- Broadband and Digital Equity Initiatives (IHLS and CARLI)
- ISLAC
- IHLS/RAILS Joint Staff Meeting (August) and Joint Board Meeting (2024)
- Regular meetings with CPL, CARLI, IHLS, ILA, ISL
- Regional Response Team

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Questions?