

RAILS SERVICES FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

PrairieCat Back to School Day

Tuesday, September 12, 2023





RAILS Member Center: School Libraries

RAILS supports over 551 school libraries in northern and western Illinois. All staff members at each of these libraries has access to RAILS programs and services.

Explore the information below to find out how RAILS supports school libraries and how you can make the most of your membership.

Initiate your involvement in RAILS:

New to RAILS or need a refresher? Any level of staff can start here!

- [Create/update your Library Directory & Learning Calendar \(L2\) account](#)
- [Attend or view professional development events](#)
- [Subscribe to RAILS E-News](#)
- [Network and share best practices with colleagues](#)

Contact



Contact Us

- [Email](#)
- [630.734.5000](tel:630.734.5000)
- [630.734.5050](tel:630.734.5050)



Janette Derucki
Data Research Specialist

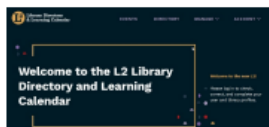
Message to School Librarians and School District Representatives

The Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) is a regional library system that provides services to libraries in the northern and west-central areas of the state of Illinois. We serve approximately 1,300 private, public, school, and university library members, which have a total of more than 4,200 library facilities in a 27,000 square mile area.

As a school librarian or a representative from a school district, there are many ways to take full advantage of everything the system has to offer. Here are a few ways to get started.

Create/sign in to your Library Learning (L2) account

[Library Learning \(L2\)](#) serves as both the RAILS membership directory and a statewide continuing education/events calendar. Having an account allows you to register for events and to find detailed information about other Illinois libraries. It also helps other libraries find you for networking and collaboration purposes.



If you already have an L2 account:

- RAILS will set your account with the appropriate affiliation and Role/Access Group that allows you to manage your staff list and depending on your role, edit library information.

If you do not have an L2 account:

- RAILS will create your account and set up the affiliation with your institution.
- You will receive an email from our L2 team with a link to reset your password within the next 24 hours.

To read about managing staff lists, instruction and information on L2 functions, or to contact the L2 Help Desk visit <https://librarylearning.org/help>.

Please note that your L2 username and password are used to login to the RAILS website. This is how you will access many RAILS benefits such as archived webinars, email lists, grants, deals & discounts, and more.

Subscribe to the AISLE Email List and Other Email Lists

The Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) is a nonprofit professional association dedicated to supporting school librarians. Anyone can subscribe to the AISLE email list for free. This is a great place to share news and ideas, as well as ask questions of your peers.

My School Library Is...



THE BEST SEARCH ENGINE

- School librarians prevent information overload. A single Google search can return billions of results with contradictory information. School librarians are trained professionals who help find the most trustworthy, accurate information. They can also help identify the difference between fake and real news.



- Google isn't always the best source of information—and it's not the only source. School libraries offer books, e-books, journals, DVDs, online databases, and other materials not easily available online. Even if they are available online, they are usually not free except through the library.

CENTRAL TO STUDENT SUCCESS

- Libraries are the heart of the school, serving students, teachers, administrators, and even parents and younger siblings. Everyone is welcome to use the school library with the school librarian as their guide.
- School libraries level the playing field for all students. They provide equal access to resources and technology and lessen the achievement gap between those who have or don't have those resources at home.



- Today's school libraries are more than just books: they are gathering places for all students and faculty to meet, create, investigate, study, tutor, mentor, and learn.

STAFFED BY INFORMATION EXPERTS

- Studies show that students with regular access to certified school librarians are better prepared to excel in higher education and/or in their career.
- With misinformation and "fake news" so prevalent today, students need to learn how to recognize valid sources of information. Certified school librarians teach critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will help students navigate the information world both in and out of the classroom.
- Employers want to hire people who can collaborate, problem solve, evaluate information, and think critically. Through group activities and the use of shared technology, school librarians foster these skills, necessary for both college and the workplace.
- The school librarian helps foster a love of learning and reading that can last a lifetime.
- Students rely on their school librarian for assistance with classroom assignments, technology help, and other advice.



RAILS New School Librarian Checklist

Welcome to RAILS! As a school library worker, please use this checklist to ensure that you are taking advantage of the many member benefits that RAILS has to offer.

My library participates in the following available to libraries without charge:

- Inkie.org - Statewide local content creation/publishing resource

My library participates in the following advantageously priced programs:

- Find More Illinois - Statewide ILL platform
- eRead Illinois - Cooperative e-book/audiobook program

I have:

- Created and/or updated my info on L2 (Library Directory & Learning Calendar)

My staff and I have:

Communications & Networking

- Explored the RAILS website using individual L2 account logins for full access
- Subscribed to the weekly RAILS E-News
- Subscribed to RAILS email lists of interest
- Joined RAILS networking groups of interest
- Used the member directory or event calendar in L2

Continuing education

- Used L2 to sign up for upcoming live RAILS webinars*
- Accessed archived RAILS webinars from the RAILS website*

Resource sharing

- Viewed the RAILS Deals & Discounts page*
- Used the RAILS Policies/Procedures/Plans/Job Descriptions collections
- Initiated or answered a RAILS Fast Facts Survey
- Used the RAILS Free/For Sale/Wanted section on the RAILS website

Delivery

- Used the RAILS Delivery Help Desk email

My Library Is...

- Used the My Library Is... website

* - Requires L2 login to access

Other RAILS communication channels & social media:

Sparks! Podcast | RAILS Facebook | RAILS Twitter | RAILS Instagram | RAILS LinkedIn | RAILS YouTube

Have a question? Contact us!

RAILS Communications, communications@railslibraries.info, 630.734.5000

Find out more about the many programs and services RAILS offers for all staff and trustees at all of our member libraries by:

- Visiting the RAILS website at railslibraries.org
- Subscribing to the weekly *RAILS E-News* at railslibraries.org/news
- Contacting the RAILS Communications Team at communications@railslibraries.org

RAILS connects members to important information

Find out how to demonstrate the value of your library through the My Library Is... campaign and share your success stories on the blog at mylibraryis.org. RAILS also offers grants to help libraries tell their stories more effectively.

Stay informed about the latest issues affecting all sizes and types of libraries via the Library Pulse Pages on the RAILS website. Featured issues include equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion; materials challenges; and universal service.

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

Our statewide school library data project gathers data about Illinois school libraries to better understand, support, and advocate for them.

RAILS holds regular member updates to share the latest RAILS news. Attendees are also welcome to share news from their libraries.

Looking for the perfect candidate for an open position at your library? Post it on the RAILS Jobs Board.



Reaching Across Illinois Library System
125 Tower Drive
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
railslibraries.org



RAILS connects libraries to deals & discounts

RAILS offers a wide variety of discounts and group purchases for all types of libraries.

RAILS administers the Career Online High School vocation-based high school completion program for libraries statewide. We also negotiate lower fees for the scholarships that participating libraries award to students.

RAILS partners with HR Source to offer a discounted membership program for public libraries with lower operating budgets.

The Free/For Sale/Wanted section of our website lists items members are giving away, selling, or items they are looking for that other members may have.

RAILS
REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM



The Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) serves nearly 1,300 academic, public, school, and specialized libraries across a 27,000 square mile area in northern and west-central Illinois. RAILS offers something for all staff at all levels at these libraries. We also offer services for public library trustees. There is no membership fee for a library to belong to RAILS.

Our mission statement is

We Connect Libraries

Read on to discover how...

View the online version of this brochure for links to more detailed information: railslibraries.org/about/brochure





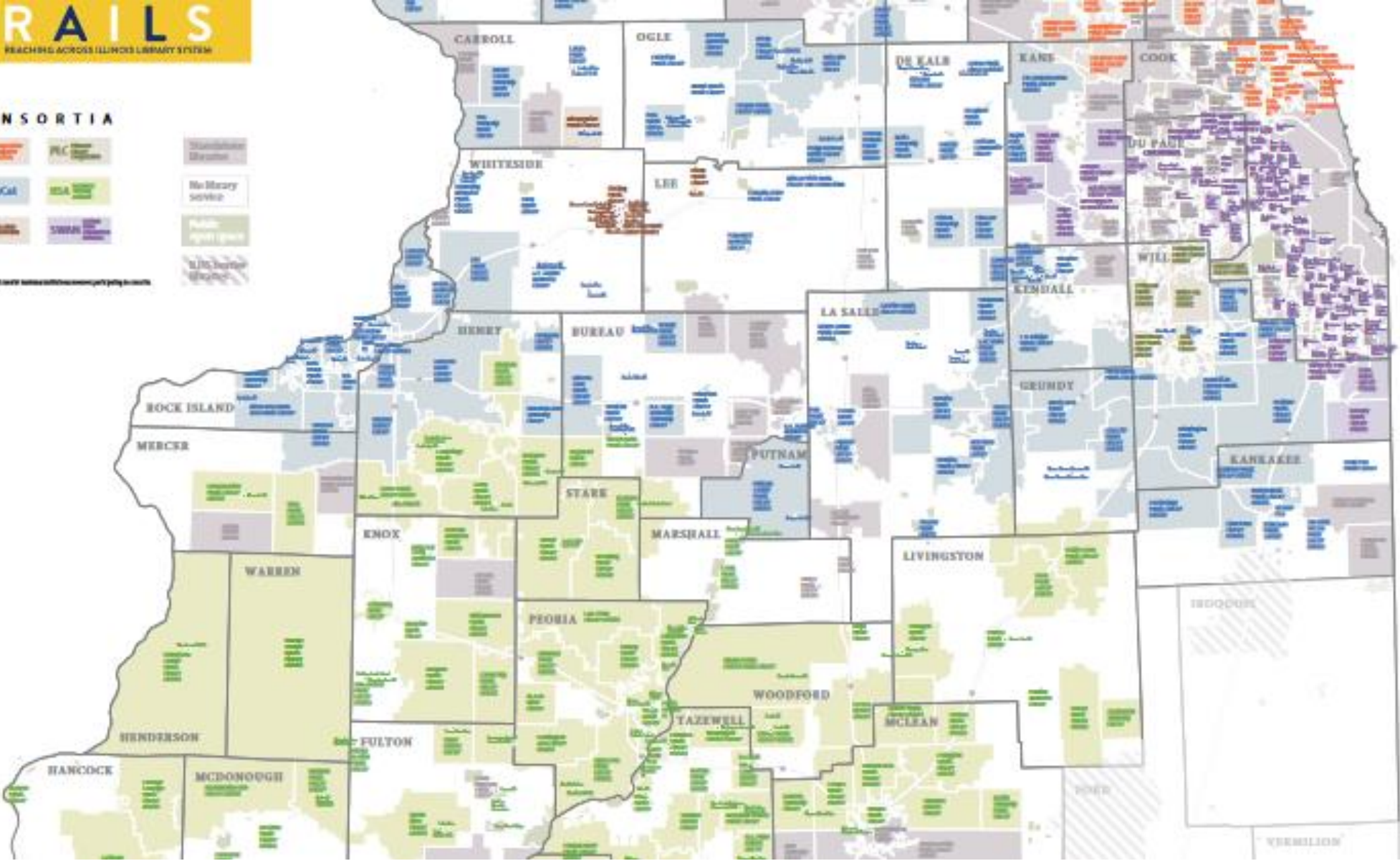
- Funded through the Illinois State Library (via the Secretary of State's Office)
- Mission includes resource sharing and cost savings for members
- Over 1,200 libraries across northern and western Illinois
- Serves academic, public, school, and specialized libraries
- Focus on interlibrary loan, continuing education, support for e-books, deals & discounts and more

- Funded primarily through membership and service fees
- Mission includes resource sharing and cost savings for members
- Over 170 libraries across northern and western Illinois
- Serves academic, public, school, and specialized libraries
- Focus on automated library services, catalog support, training, and more

RAILS

REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

CONSORTIA





INTERLIBRARY
LOAN DELIVERY



SUPPORT FOR E-
BOOKS



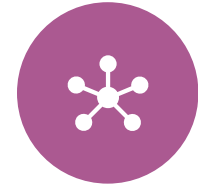
GRANTS



CONTINUING
EDUCATION &
TRAINING



DEALS &
DISCOUNTS



NETWORKING &
COMMUNICATIONS

RAILS Services for School Libraries

INTERLIBRARY LOAN DELIVERY



SUPPORT FOR E-BOOKS



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NETWORKING & COMMUNICATIONS



STAY IN TOUCH!

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Member Engagement Manager

RAILS

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