

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](http://railslibraries.org)
- Subscribing to the weekly *RAILS E-News* at [railslibraries.org/news](http://railslibraries.org/news)
- Contacting the RAILS Communications Team at [communications@railslibraries.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://railslibraries.org/about/brochure)





## RAILS connects libraries to e-resources

eRead Illinois Axis 360 includes e-books and e-audiobooks for children and adults with very reasonable pricing for libraries.

Inkie.org is a suite of resources available to everyone in Illinois at no charge. It supports local authors with online creation and publishing tools and helps readers access locally-produced content.

The Inkie.org Library includes the Indie Illinois collection of self-published e-books by Illinois authors and RAILS Community Collections, featuring content added by local libraries.

Explore More Illinois is an online cultural and recreational pass program for cardholders from participating Illinois public and community college libraries.

## RAILS connects libraries through resource sharing

RAILS delivers millions of items between our member libraries each year based on need. Contact our Delivery Help Desk at [railsdelivery@railslibraries.org](mailto:railsdelivery@railslibraries.org) for more information.

RAILS offers support for shared online catalog consortia, including membership grants to help new libraries join these consortia.

Find More Illinois connects standalone and shared online catalogs from all types of libraries, allowing anyone to search all of these catalogs at once. Users from Find More Illinois libraries can request materials via interlibrary loan.

Our statewide World Language Cataloging Services Program provides original and copy cataloging for library materials in a variety of worldwide languages.



## RAILS connects members to CE and consulting services

RAILS offers virtual and in-person continuing education (CE) at no cost to member library staff and trustees. Visit the Library Directory & Learning Calendar (L2) at [librarylearning.org](http://librarylearning.org) and select your type of library from the home page to find targeted opportunities.

View recordings of hundreds of workshops in the CE Archives on our website.

RAILS also offers online training for public library trustees statewide.

Libraries, networking groups, and consortia can apply for a RAILS CE Event Grant to plan events of interest to a wide range of member library staff.

Illinois public library directors and Freedom of Information Act/Open Meetings Act officers can use our FOIA/OMA Hotline to receive free legal help for basic questions.

Our Consultants Directory includes information supplied by consultants who provide services for libraries.

## RAILS connects members to colleagues at other libraries

Take advantage of a wide variety of networking opportunities for all levels of staff at all types of libraries, including online roundtables and in-person meetings.

Share best practices and ask for advice from those who share your interests/position/library type via a variety of RAILS email lists.

Find a networking group of interest via the directory on our website—about 100 to choose from!

Quickly poll other members on a wide variety of topics with a Fast Facts survey.

Share your library news on the RAILS website and find out what other libraries are doing.

Interact with RAILS and other members on our social media pages.

