



Delegates Assembly  
Member Services Report  
**July 30, 2025**

# Membership Update | Upgrading

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- **Mills & Petrie Memorial Library and Gymnasium | Lee County**
  - Upgraded from Union List to Basic Online at end of May

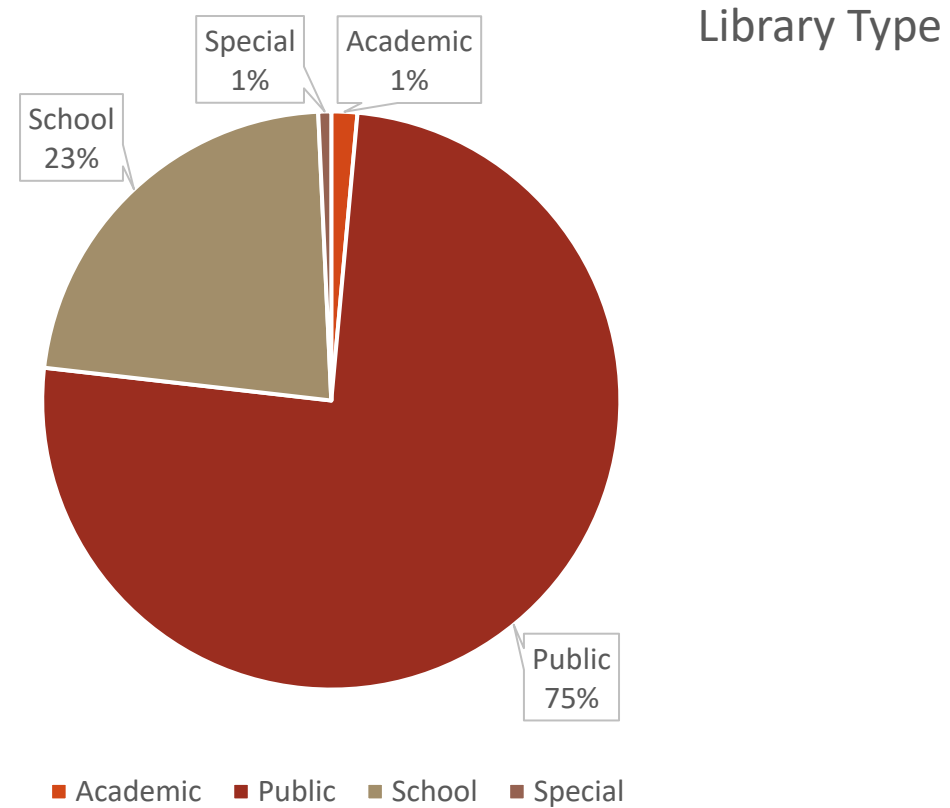


# 138 MEMBER LIBRARIES

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## By Library Type

- 104 public libraries
- 31 school agencies
- 2 academic libraries
- 1 special library



# 138 MEMBER LIBRARIES

## By Membership Level

### 82 Fully Participating

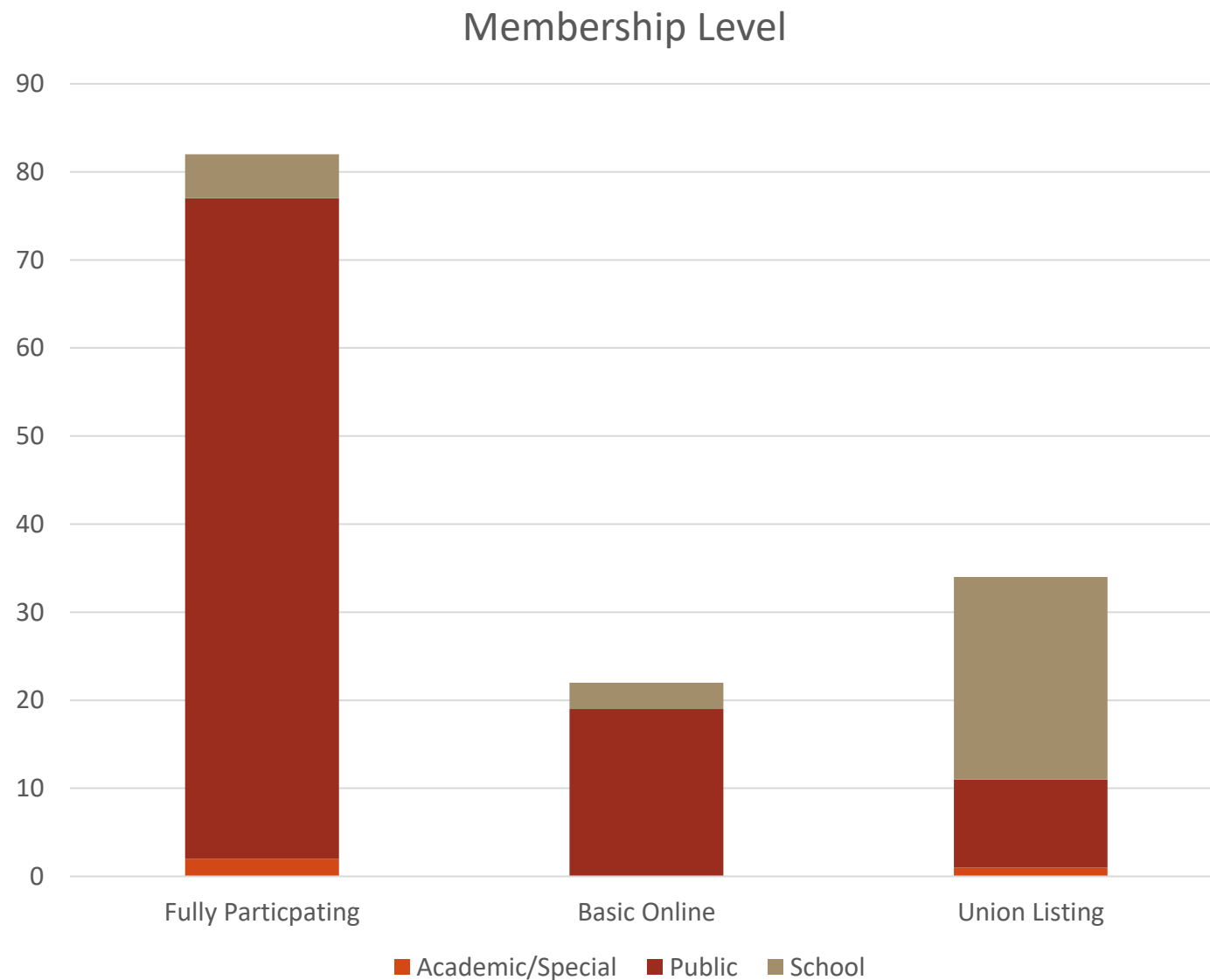
- 2 academic libraries
- 75 public libraries
- 5 school agencies

### 22 Basic Online

- 19 public libraries
- 3 school agencies

### 34 Union Listing

- 10 public libraries
- 23 school agencies
- 1 special library



# Delegates Assembly Meetings | FY26

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Wednesday, July 30, 2025 | Multiple Sites

Wednesday, October 29, 2025 | Multiple Sites

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 | Multiple Sites

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 | Senica's Oak Ridge Golf Club (Luncheon)

Meetings sites include: New Lenox Public Library District, Freeport Public Library, Princeton Public Library, RAILS Coal Valley Videoconference Room

Meetings scheduled from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

[Meetings listed on PrairieCat website.](#)

Update alternates as needed by contacting Chelsey Knippel [chelsey.knippel@prairiecat.org](mailto:chelsey.knippel@prairiecat.org).

# Member Events | Upcoming

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## **New Director Welcome**

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 10:00 – 11:00 am | [Online via Zoom](#)

## **PrairieCat Back to School Session**

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 2:00 to 3:30pm | [Online via Zoom](#)

# Training | IPLAR Q&A

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Got IPLAR questions? We can help! Drop in for an open Q&A. PrairieCat staff will be available during the sessions to assist with answering your questions about compiling your Sierra-specific statistics for the IPLAR. The sessions are via Zoom and the events are posted in L2 and on the [PrairieCat website](#).

[Please register in advance for your preferred Zoom session.](#)

**Monday, August 11, 2025      10:00-11:00 AM**

# Member Forums Now Available

- ❑ Peer-to-peer discussions
- ❑ Library related topics
- ❑ Log in to view and post
- ❑ Can subscribe to topics
- ❑ Please share with staff

[support.prairiecat.info/members/forums](https://support.prairiecat.info/members/forums)

## Members

Member Directory

Membership Information

Committees & User Groups

Site Visit Request

► Member Forums

## Member Forums

Forums are a place where PrairieCat members can discuss topics of interest within our consortium community. We encourage you to create forum topics for discussions and information sharing. Share your expertise and ask your fellow PrairieCat members for advice.

Forums are intended for peer-to-peer discussions around library service and PrairieCat related topics. Members must be logged in to view and post comments. Receive email notifications by clicking the Subscribe slider at the top of each forum page. Subscribe to a main forum category to be emailed when a new sub-topic is created. Subscribe to specific sub-topics to be notified of new comments.

To create a forum topic, select the appropriate category and select **Add a Forum Topic**.

Review the [Forum Policy](#) before participating.

### Search

Apply

Forum	Topics	Comments	Latest
<b>Adult Programming and Services</b> A forum to discussion adult programming and services.	0	0	
<b>Cataloging and Technical Services</b> A forum for cataloging and technical services topics.	0	0	
<b>Children's Programming and Services</b> A forum to discuss all things related to children's programming - tips, recommendations, any issues, etc.	0	0	

Members

News

Events & Meetings

Services

Training

Resources

About

Staff Intranet

Quick System Status:

● Sierra

● Vega Discover

● eCommerce

Home

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News

>

Subscribe To PrairieCat ENewsletter

News

Mailing Lists

PrairieCat eNewsletter

eNewsletter Archive

Read recent issues of the [PrairieCat eNewsletter](#).

Subscribe to PrairieCat eNewsletter

Email Address \*

First Name \*

Last Name \*

Library Affiliation

Position

# PrairieCat eNewsletter

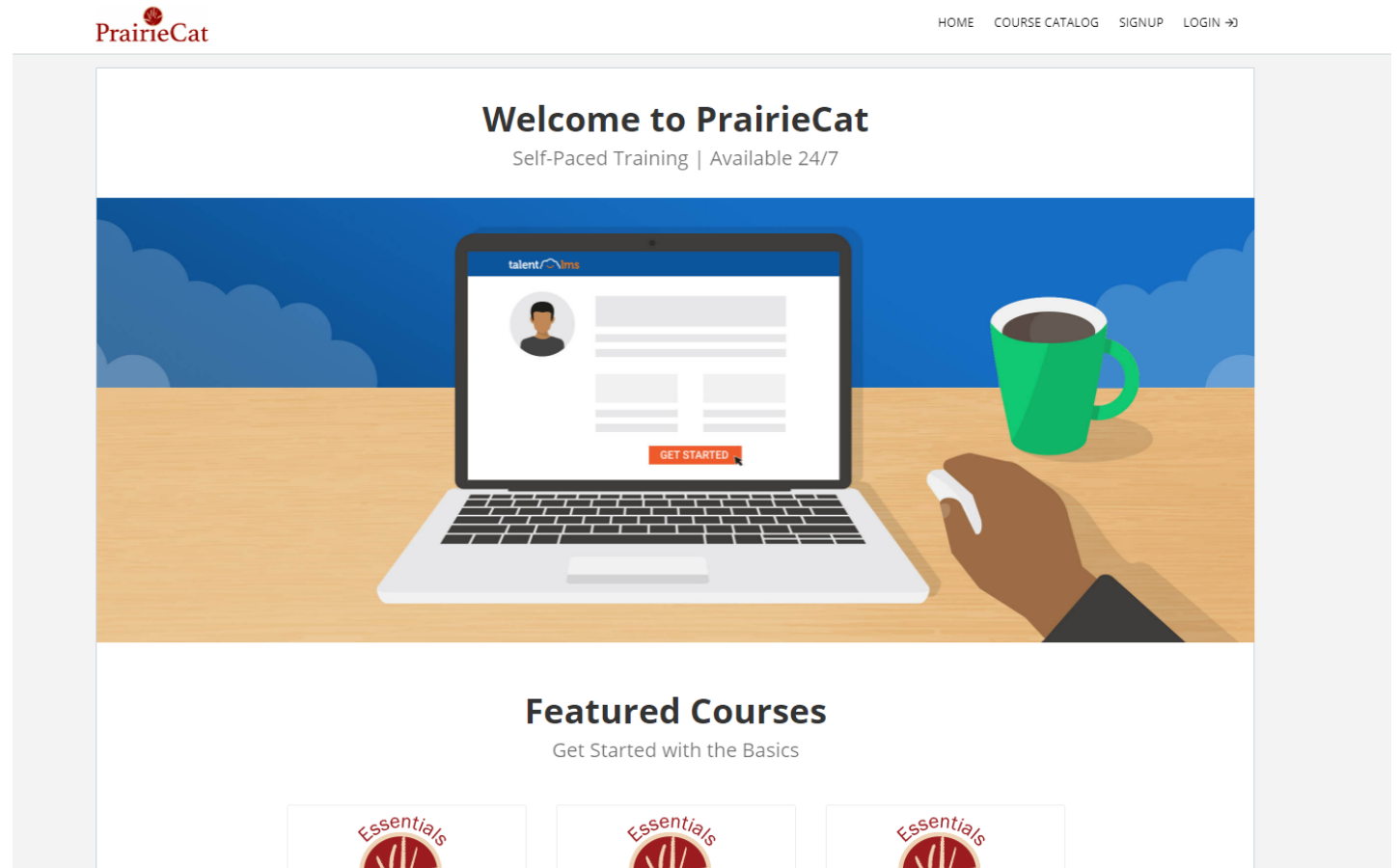
[Sign up for the monthly eNewsletter](#)

From the website – News > PrairieCat eNewsletter

# Training | TalentLMS

Past 30 days

- 22 New Users
  - 95 Logged In Users
  - 335 Log Ins
  - 249 Courses Completed
- 
- Always call, submit help desk, schedule on-demand training if you have questions.
- 
- NEW Users must complete email account verification within 24 hours



# Training | Vega Discover Courses

## Available Now on TalentLMS

- Vega Discover Basics
- Vega Discover Showcases
- Vega Discover Site Admin
- User Roles and Homepage Builder

The screenshot displays the 'Course catalog' page for Vega Discover. At the top, there is a blue header with 'Home / Course catalog'. Below the header is a search bar labeled 'Search courses' and two buttons: 'Name' and a grid icon. On the right side, there is a 'CATEGORIES' section with a 'reset' link. The categories listed are: A. Welcome (7), B. Sierra Essentials (9), C. Vega Discover (4) (which is selected), Circulation / Custom... (9), Reports (9), Sierra ILL Module (1), Technical Services (13), and Z. Resources (5). The main content area shows four course cards, each with a red circular icon containing a stylized leaf. The first card is 'Vega Discover Basics' (V0001) with the description: 'This course is an introduction to Vega Discover, PrairieCat's new OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog). Topics include basic searching, placing holds, my account, saving lists and other patron empowerment features. Membership Level: Union...'. The second card is 'Vega Discover Showcases' (V0101) with the description: 'Course Description: Showcases display a visual carousel of items to the library's specifications helping libraries promote their materials and encouraging virtual exploration. - Showcases can be used to customize your library's Vega...'. The third card is 'Vega Discover Site Admin' (V0201) with the description: 'Site Admins have additional customization options for their library's Vega Discover site(s). Site Admins can also create and/or promote staff users on Vega Discover. It is only necessary to take this course if you will become the Site Admin...'. The fourth card is 'User Roles and Homepage Builder' (V0202) with the description: 'To customize your library's Vega Discover collection and kiosk homepages, you must be assigned a specific User Role access level. At least 1 Site Admin is required for libraries who wish to utilize the Homepage Builder feature. Content Admin...'. Each card also has a 'You have this course' button.

Home / Course catalog

Search courses

Name

CATEGORIES [reset](#)

- ☐ A. Welcome (7)
- ☐ B. Sierra Essentials (9)
- ☒ C. Vega Discover (4)
- ☐ Circulation / Custom... (9)
- ☐ Reports (9)
- ☐ Sierra ILL Module (1)
- ☐ Technical Services (13)
- ☐ Z. Resources (5)

**Vega Discover Basics** (V0001)

C. Vega Discover

This course is an introduction to Vega Discover, PrairieCat's new OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog). Topics include basic searching, placing holds, my account, saving lists and other patron empowerment features. Membership Level: Union...

You have this course

**Vega Discover Showcases** (V0101)

C. Vega Discover / Showcases

Course Description: Showcases display a visual carousel of items to the library's specifications helping libraries promote their materials and encouraging virtual exploration. - Showcases can be used to customize your library's Vega...

You have this course

**Vega Discover Site Admin** (V0201)

C. Vega Discover / User Roles and Homepage Builder

Site Admins have additional customization options for their library's Vega Discover site(s). Site Admins can also create and/or promote staff users on Vega Discover. It is only necessary to take this course if you will become the Site Admin...

You have this course

**User Roles and Homepage Builder** (V0202)

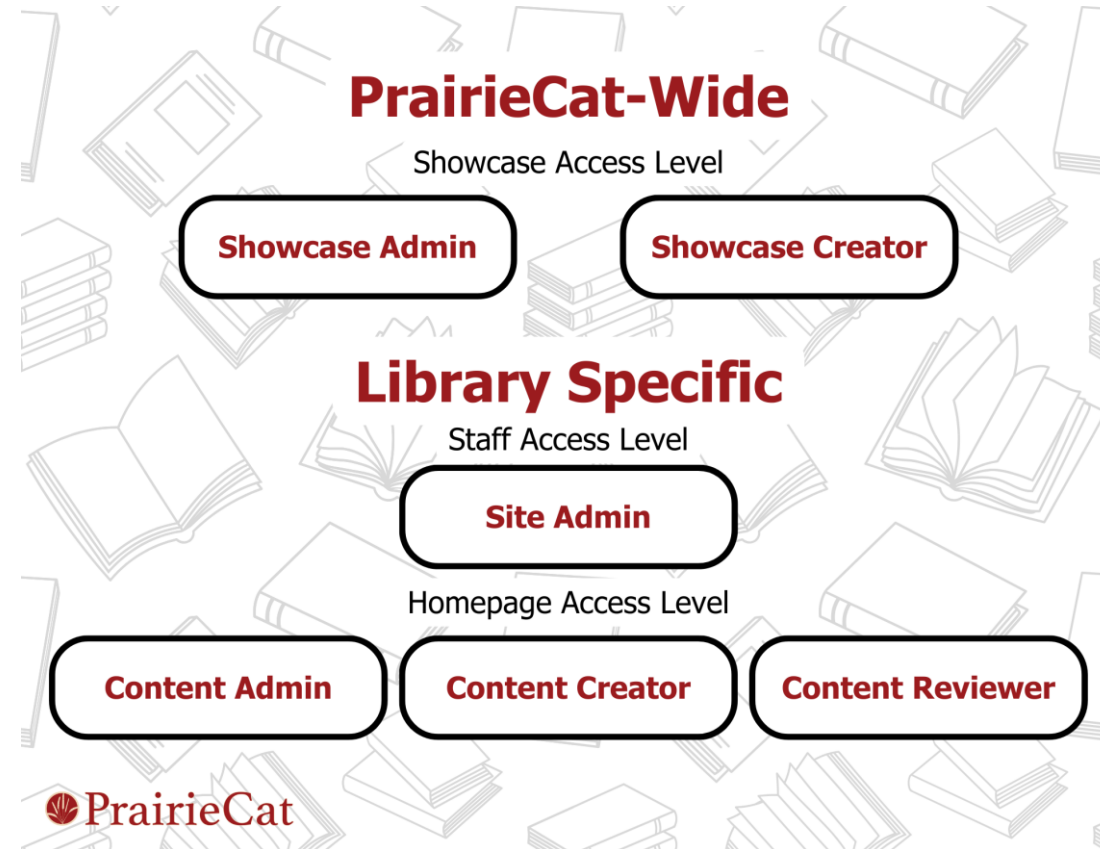
C. Vega Discover / User Roles and Homepage Builder

To customize your library's Vega Discover collection and kiosk homepages, you must be assigned a specific User Role access level. At least 1 Site Admin is required for libraries who wish to utilize the Homepage Builder feature. Content Admin...

You have this course

# Vega Discover User Roles

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Search

All 

[Take a tour!](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

## What's Happening at Reddick? April 25th-May 3rd

29

Apr

### Silent Book Club

Introverts unite! Bring whatever book you are reading and enjoy some quiet time with others. There will be snacks! This event is for teens in Grades 7-12.

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM | April 29 •

30

Apr

### Kid's Book Club

This month we will be discussing *Books Aren't for Eating* by Carlie Sorosiak. We will also create edible mini-books! This program is for children in Grades K-2.

4:00 PM - 4:45 PM | April 30 •

3

May

### Manga Club

Hey manga and anime fans! This month, we're talking *Madoka Magica*. This event is for teens in Grades 7-12.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | May 3 •

April 2025



National Poetry Month



Arab American Heritage Month



Earth Day

My Bookshelf

 Bookmarks





# Registration Open

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**When:** Friday, September 26, 2025

**Where:** Bend XPO | 922 Mississippi Parkway East  
Moline, IL 61244

[Program Details and Schedule](#)

[Register in L2](#)



# Call for Poster Sessions

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Poster sessions will be on display throughout the day.

This is a passive display for member libraries to share about special projects or initiatives.

Contact [Elizabeth Smith](#) if you are interested in displaying a Poster Session.

# Schedule at a Glance

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Registration Check-in and Networking + Coffee Service
<b>10:00 AM – 10:45 AM</b>	<b>Welcome from PrairieCat + Presentation from RAILS</b>
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Morning Break / Transition
<b>11:00 AM – 11:30 AM</b>	<b>Mini Sessions</b>
11:30 AM – 11:40 AM	Break / Transition
<b>11:40 AM – 12:10 PM</b>	<b>Mini Sessions</b>
12:10 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch
<b>1:15 PM – 2:15 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	Break / Transition
<b>2:30 PM – 3:30 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Sessions</b>

[Program Details and Schedule](#)

 **PrairieCat**  
presents:  
**Julie Jurgens**



Starring in:  
**Collection Development  
for Children and Teens**

**PUG**  
**Day**  
**2025**

**Coming Soon**  
**September 26<sup>th</sup>**



## Breakout Session Preview

After this session, attendees will:

Possess resources to help create effective workflows for aspects of collection development, including budgeting, ordering, weeding, managing displays, and more;

Have a solid understanding of different formats of materials for youth, including manga, graphic novels, audio, large type, etc;

Be equipped with tools and resources to effectively prioritize what to order and make ordering more efficient and cost-effective

 **PrairieCat**  
presents:  
**Julie Jurgens**



Starring in:  
**Readers' Advisory for  
Children and Teens**

**PUG**  
Day  
2025  
**Coming Soon**  
September 26<sup>th</sup>



## Breakout Session Preview

After this session, attendees will:

Have a tool-kit of a variety of ways to connect readers with the books they want, including passively and through outreach;

Be able to conduct readers' advisory conversations with youth, parents, and teachers confidently;

Have a robust list of readers' advisory resources to consult going forward in their work



presents:

**Corinne  
Vargas**



Starring in:

**The Evolution of a  
Printed Newsletter: One  
Library's Journey**



## Breakout Session Preview

This presentation explores the evolution of the Fox River Valley Public Library District's printed newsletter, from its origins and early design to the significant transformations made over the past year, including a new size.

It covers the reasons behind these changes, the process of developing an RFP for a three-year print contract, and the key decisions that shaped the current design and format.

Finally, it provides insights into our distribution strategy and how we ensure the newsletter effectively reaches our community. At the end of the presentation, there will be time for questions.



presents:

**Atticus  
Garrison**



Starring in:

**Innovation or Illusion:  
Navigating AI as a  
Library Professional**



## Breakout Session Preview

At the end of this session, attendees will...

Identify key limitations and risks associated with generative AI tools, including hallucinations, data privacy concerns, and overreliance.

Distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate uses of AI tools in public library workflows.

Critically evaluate the outputs of AI tools and apply this lens to both internal library use and patron support.

Recognize how generative AI is impacting online information systems and contributing to the spread of disinformation.

# There's more breakout sessions!

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## **Balancing the Scales: Maintaining a Public Library Work Life Balance**

Laura Youngstrum | Reddick Public Library District | Adult Services Librarian

## **The Accidental Health Services Librarian**

Emily Porter | OSF Healthcare | Medical Librarian

Hilaree Lombardo | OSF Healthcare College of Nursing | Medical Librarian

## **Bringing Your Library Mascot to Life: The Story of Reed the Iguana**

Rene Leyva | Fossil Ridge Public Library District | Executive Director

## **Book Hospital**

Ally Griffin | Woodstock Public Library | Library Assistant

## **Innovative Session: What's New in Vega Discover and Innovative Updates**

Dean Cooper | Clarivate | Innovative Senior Account Manager

Maria Laude | Clarivate | Innovative Senior Solutions Consultant

# And More!

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## **NAMI GMV: Mental Health in the Workplace**

Stephanie Phares | NAMI Greater Mississippi Valley | Volunteer

## **LIRE and the Power of Showing Up: Collective Advocacy in Action**

Stephanie Nissen | Rockford University | Library Director and Assistant Professor

Emily Porter | OSF Healthcare | Medical Librarian

## **Publish Your Writing Program**

Pubali Kundu | River Valley District Library | Assistant Director

## **All About Find More Illinois**

RAILS Staff

## **Streamlining Physical Processing & Cataloging Workflow**

PrairieCat Staff

← INNOVATE WITH US

## Vega Discover

### CATEGORIES

[All ideas](#)

[My feedback](#)

### JUMP TO ANOTHER FORUM

[ILS - Polaris](#) 304 ideas

[ILS - Sierra](#) 230 ideas

[INN-Reach](#) 10 ideas

[Innovative Mobile](#) 46 ideas

[Innovative Phone Alerts](#) 13 ideas

[LX Starter](#) 71 ideas

[Vega Discover](#) 303 ideas

[Vega Guide](#) 2 ideas

[Vega Program](#) 108 ideas

[Vega Promote](#) 15 ideas

[Vega Promote Web](#) 8 ideas

### How can we improve Vega Discover?

Enter your idea



HOT IDEAS

TOP

NEW

STATUS

122

VOTE

#### Facet Navigation and Display Improvements

Improve Facet display by better utilizing space in Refinement Panel and utilizing word wrapping when necessary to display full facet value.

In All Facet view display data in a single column of scrollable data and utilize word wrapping when necessary to display full facet value.

For Limited Value facets such as: format, location, collection, age group, language, donor; allow the full facet content to display in the refine panel when expanded and in all facet view by adding scroll.

# Idea Exchange | Innovative Enhancement Process

[Visit ideas.iii.com](#)

Browse ideas

Create an account to vote and comment

[FAQ about Idea Exchange](#)

Customers using any Innovative product are welcome to participate in [Idea Exchange](#) and are not required to be IUG members.

❖ Product Forums

ILS – Polaris

Explore the 547 ideas submitted



ILS – Sierra

Explore the 306 ideas submitted



INN-Reach

Explore the 16 ideas submitted



Innovative Mobile

Explore the 72 ideas submitted



Innovative Phone Alerts & SMS

Explore the 32 ideas submitted



LX Starter

Explore the 90 ideas submitted



Vega Discover

Explore the 458 ideas submitted



Vega Guide

Explore the 5 ideas submitted



Vega Mobile Worklists

Explore the 35 ideas submitted



Vega Program

Explore the 191 ideas submitted



Vega Promote

Explore the 36 ideas submitted



Vega WebBuilder/Donate

Explore the 10 ideas submitted



# Product Forums

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# Idea Exchange | Please Vote

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## Add a call number index for searching

Currently, call number searching is only available through the “All” search index. This enhancement would allow for a dedicated call number index.

## Include wildcard search option or browse option for call number searching

At present, call number searches must be entered exactly and completely. This enhancement would allow for wildcard or browse-style searching to improve usability.

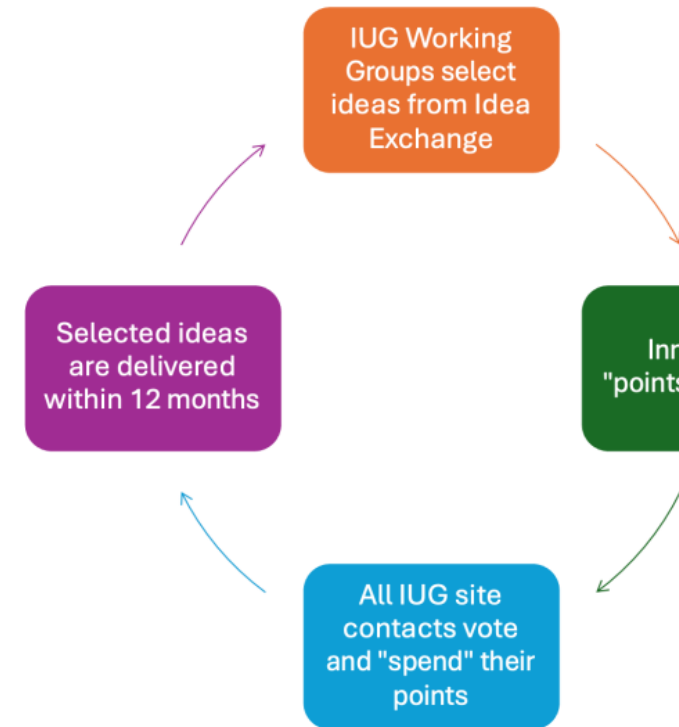
## Index volume record statements to be searchable

This proposal requests the indexing of volume record statements to make them searchable, as was available in Encore.

# IUG | Member Enhancement Process

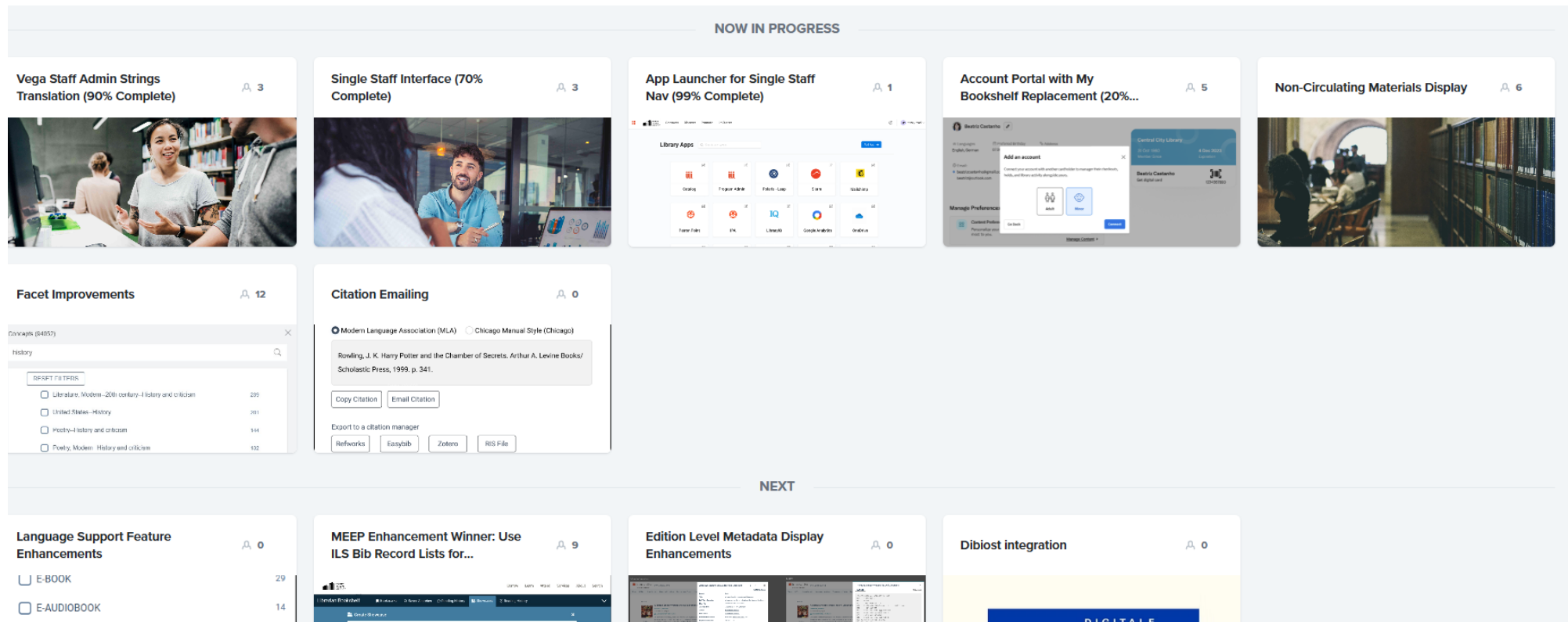
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- IUG member libraries vote to prioritize enhancements.
- Innovative commits to delivering the enhancement within a specified time and assigned to a release.
- Innovative will continue to use other market signals and information from additional sources to determine all the features to add to their products.
- PrairieCat has a IUG membership, but only gets one vote. Individual member libraries may elect to purchase their own IUG membership. (price ranges from \$121-165).
- **IUG Members, please vote in current round of MEEP voting!**
- [More information](#)



# Product Roadmaps

## Product Portal



# Edition Level Metadata Display | Next



## Edition Level Metadata Display Enhancements



SAMANTHA CUNNING | Posted on June 18

The edition information view is enhanced with additional field data. A MARC record view is added for librarians to view full metadata outside the ILS.

How important is this to you?

NOT IMPORTANT

NICE-TO-HAVE

IMPORTANT

CRITICAL

# Innovative Users Group | IUG

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Organization of **member libraries** who use the Innovative Interfaces, Inc library software  
Independent organization from Innovative Interfaces, Inc.

Our mission is to:

- ❑ Serve as a forum to influence the **development and improvement** of Innovative, Part of Clarivate, products for the benefit of IUG members.
- ❑ Foster and improve relationships and communication among members by maintaining an electronic forum and through other **networking opportunities**.
- ❑ Foster and improve relationships and **communication** between members and ILL.
- ❑ Gather and **disseminate information** on the use of ILL products among the users of the systems.



Innovative  
Users Group

# IUG | Membership

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**Your library's annual membership fee offers the following benefits.**

- Ability to subscribe and contribute to various IUG forums
- Membership is per institution, no need to pay for every staff member
- Access to online proceedings and program materials of the IUG Annual Meeting
- Eligible to register for the annual conference for all staff of member libraries
- **Opportunity to serve as a team member to help review and shape suggestions for product development and enhancements**
- **Site contact has one vote pertaining to IUG, a non-profit corporation**
- [Access to the IUG Clearinghouse Forum](#), which is a repository of locally developed resources such as tutorial, scripts promotional materials, and training documents
- Periodic emails detailing the group's services and upcoming events.

# IUG | Membership

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## **Consortia – PrairieCat has a membership**

- Membership allows staff from all member libraries to have a website login.
- Contact the PrairieCat Help Desk to get access to the IUG website.

## Annual Membership Fees

- Range from \$121-165 based on collection size
- Only 2 PrairieCat member libraries are IUG Members

## How to Join

# Innovative Users Group | IUG

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[innovativeusers.org/](https://innovativeusers.org/)

# Wisconsin Illinois IUG

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**Facilitate communication** and to help create **learning opportunities**, both online and in-person, for Innovative libraries in the area.

The group exists to **connect area staff** working with the Innovative system so that they may share their experiences, frustrations, ideas and training materials.

To this end, the group hopes to help **staff develop professionally** and to make the best possible use of Innovative products.

[wiliug.wordpress.com/](http://wiliug.wordpress.com/)



# Wisconsin Illinois IUG

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PrairieCat has a consortia membership  
2 PrairieCat members (Woodstock and Talcott Free) are on  
the Steering Committee

## **Library Member Fees**

\$40 annually

Hold office, serve on committees, and vote

Online learning opportunities

Annual in-person conference

[wiliug.wordpress.com/](http://wiliug.wordpress.com/)





# Any questions

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CONTACT [ELIZABETH.SMITH@PRAIRIECAT.ORG](mailto:ELIZABETH.SMITH@PRAIRIECAT.ORG)



# Brief RAILS Update

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# HB 1910 (Opioid Antagonists Amendment)

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Proposed by a high school student in Elgin, IL, this bill amends the Illinois Local Library Act



Approved by Legislature on 6/17, expected to be signed soon by the Governor



Requires all public libraries to stock opioid antagonists (like naloxone)



Requires that at least one staff member on duty at any time is trained to administer the medication

- 
- Illinois Department of Public Health will identify organizations qualified to offer training
  - Local Health Departments will supply the naloxone to libraries
  - Law includes liability protections for library staff acting in good faith when administering the drug
  - Questions remain regarding Library Districts, as this law amends the Local Library Act, but not the Library District Act
  - RAILS is following this situation closely and will provide legal and administrative guidance when the bill is signed and more is known
  - Text of bill:  
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=&SessionId=114&GA=104&DocTypeId=HB&DocNum=1910&GAID=18&LegID=159501&SpecSess=&Session=>





“RAILS Catalyst is a modern leadership development program that ignites RAILS libraries’ current and future leaders to drive progress, manage change with empathy, and solve problems that move their communities forward.”

# The Deets:

- Eight months, forty participants.
- Monthly virtual sessions and two in-person gatherings.
- Personalized and dynamic coaching from Certified Professional Coach Becky Thalmann,
- RAILS Catalyst participation for this inaugural year is supported by the Reaching Across Illinois Library System and provided to participants free of charge.
- In-person kickoff Thursday, October 16, 2025, 9 a.m. – noon, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center.
- Applications now open:  
<https://railslibraries.org/education/catalyst-2025>
- More information:  
<https://railslibraries.org/education/catalyst>
- **Deadline for applications: Aug. 15**

# Illinois Public Library Standards

New standards released!

- The standards are meant to be a **“guide to measure a public library’s success in fulfilling its stated mission and role in the community”**. (per Betsy Adamowski’s presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6OTcXa8HyZY>).
- Not published as a book, available online on the ILA website: <https://www.ila.org/publications/illinois-public-library-standards>.
- **Per Capita Grant announcement from the ISL will be coming soon.** “The Public Library Per Capita Grant assists public libraries in providing library services that meet or show progress toward meeting Illinois library standards”.
- “It is the goal of the Committee to continue the promotion of the IL Public Library Standards with holding information and training sessions throughout the state to educate public library staff on the importance of the standards and how to use them with success.”

# Tech CE from RAILS

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“Assessing your Tech Environment without IT Staff” using the Toward Gigabit Libraries toolkit Recording at: <https://railslibraries.org/education/archives/121501>

Presented by Carson Block, Carson Block Consulting

“Teaching Tech Skills without a Computer Lab”:

<https://librarylearning.org/event/2025-07-21/teaching-tech-skills-without-computer-lab>

Presented by Xandi Wright, Founder, Wright to Learn

# RAILS at PUG Day

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General Session:

**The Evolving Landscape of Libraries: A Statewide Perspective** presented by  
RAILS Associate Executive Director Joe Filapek

Mini Session:

**Strengthening Your Library Board for Long-Term Success** presented by RAILS Associate  
Executive Director Joe Filapek

Mini Session: **Getting the Most out of eRead Illinois Boundless** presented by RAILS  
E-Content Specialist Anna Behm

Breakout Session: **All About Find More Illinois**  
presented by RAILS staff

- Barb Miller, Consortial Services Supervisor
- Eric Bain, Technology Special Projects Coordinator
- Leila Heath, Director of Library Resources and Programs

# Call for Volunteers | Member Sharing

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## Delegates Assembly

- ☐ 10-15 minute presentation
- ☐ Topics could include special projects, challenges, or initiatives at your library
- ☐ Contact Carolyn or Chelsey to volunteer

## PrairieCat eNewsletter

- ☐ Member Spotlight
- ☐ Short profile about your library