PrairieCat

Delegates Assembly
Member Services Report
July 30, 2025

Membership Update | Upgrading

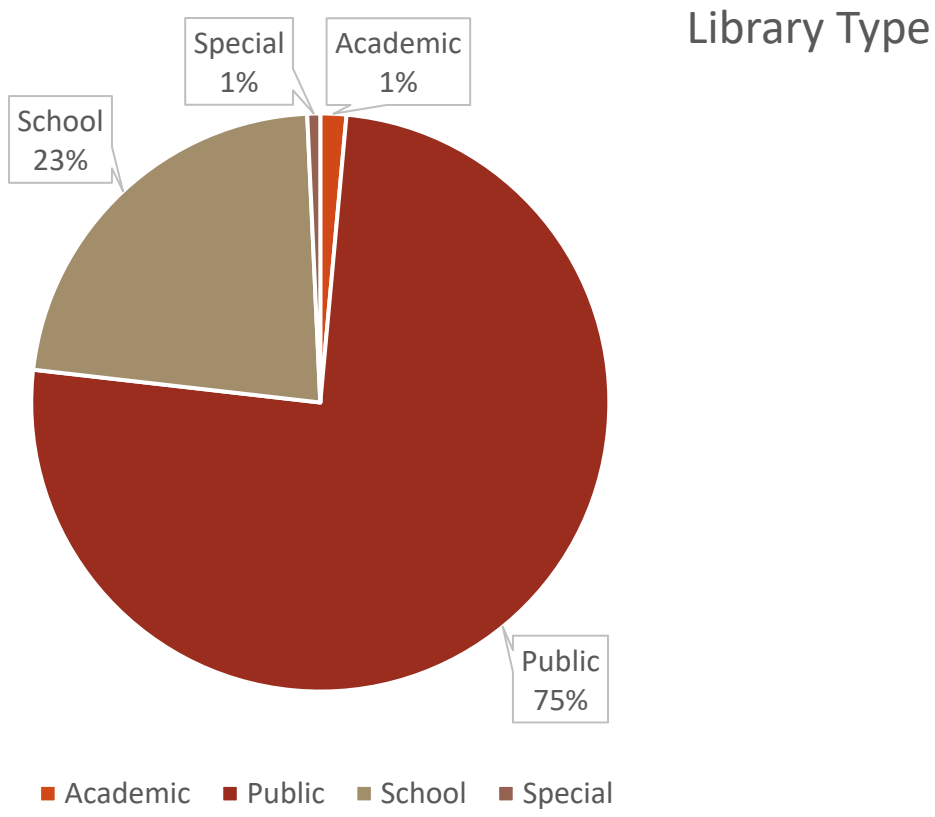
- **Mills & Petrie Memorial Library and Gymnasium | Lee County**
  - Upgraded from Union List to Basic Online at end of May

PrairieCat

138 MEMBER LIBRARIES

By Library Type

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



138 MEMBER LIBRARIES

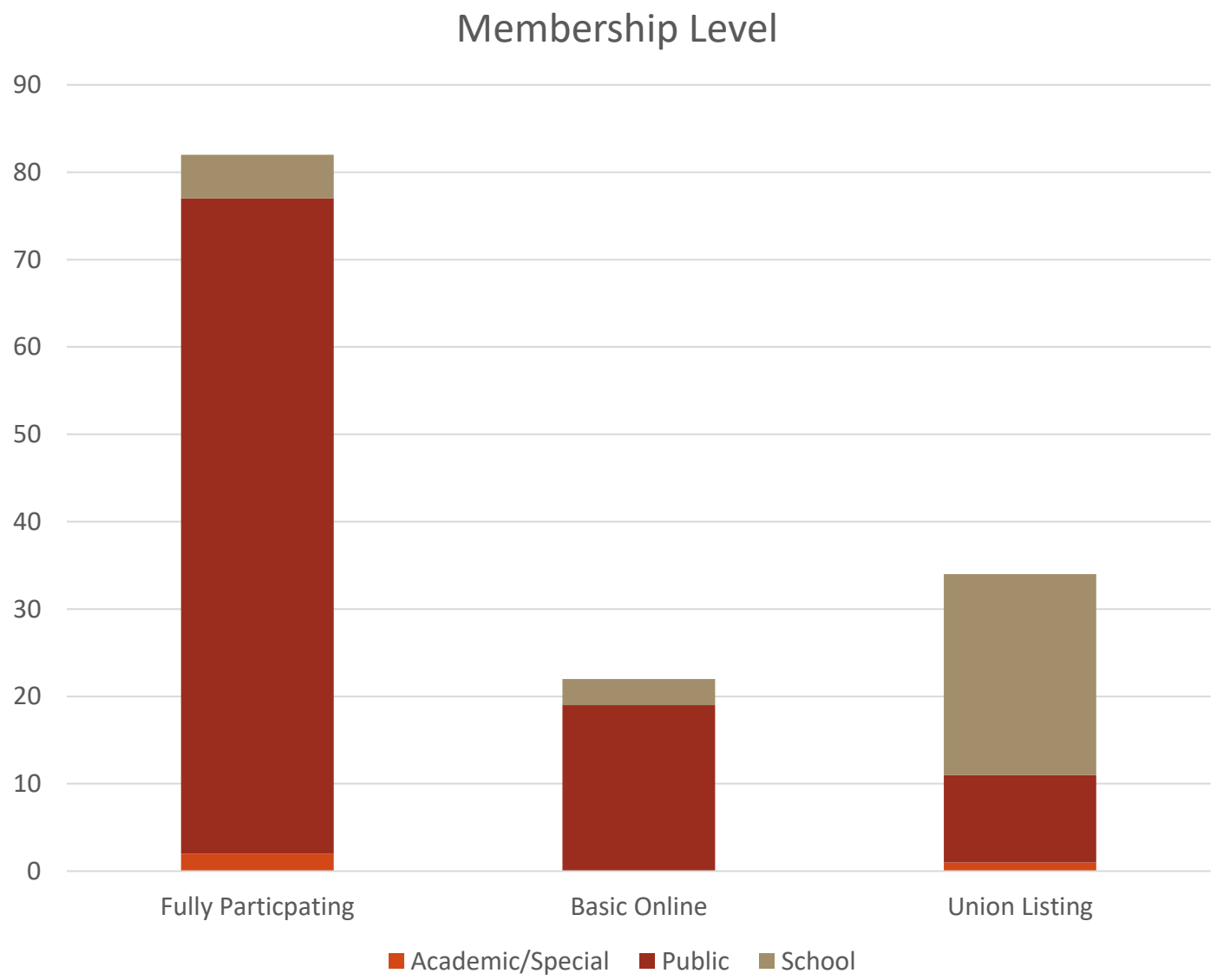
By Membership Level

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

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.

Member Events | Upcoming

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

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.

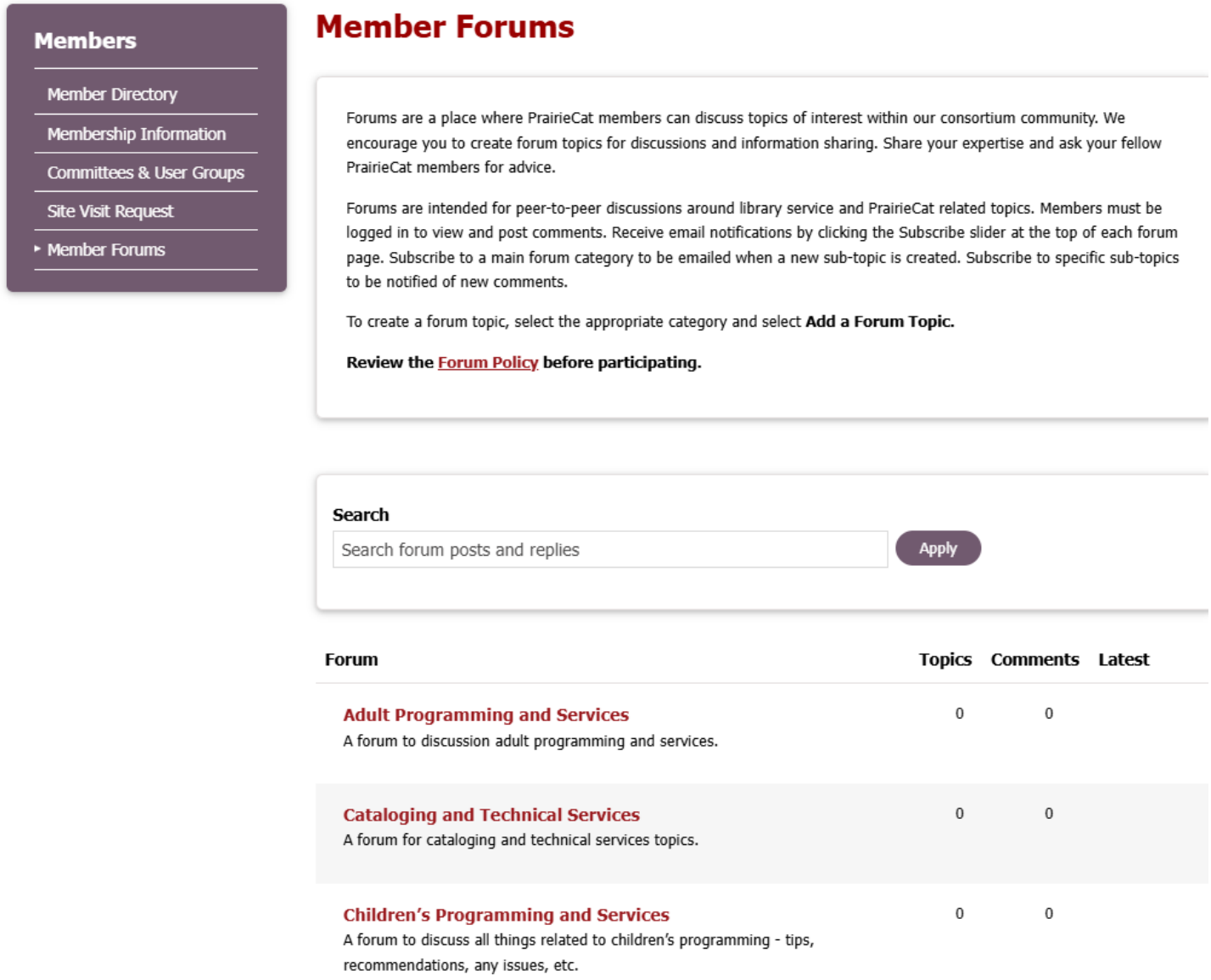
Please register in advance for your preferred Zoom session.

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

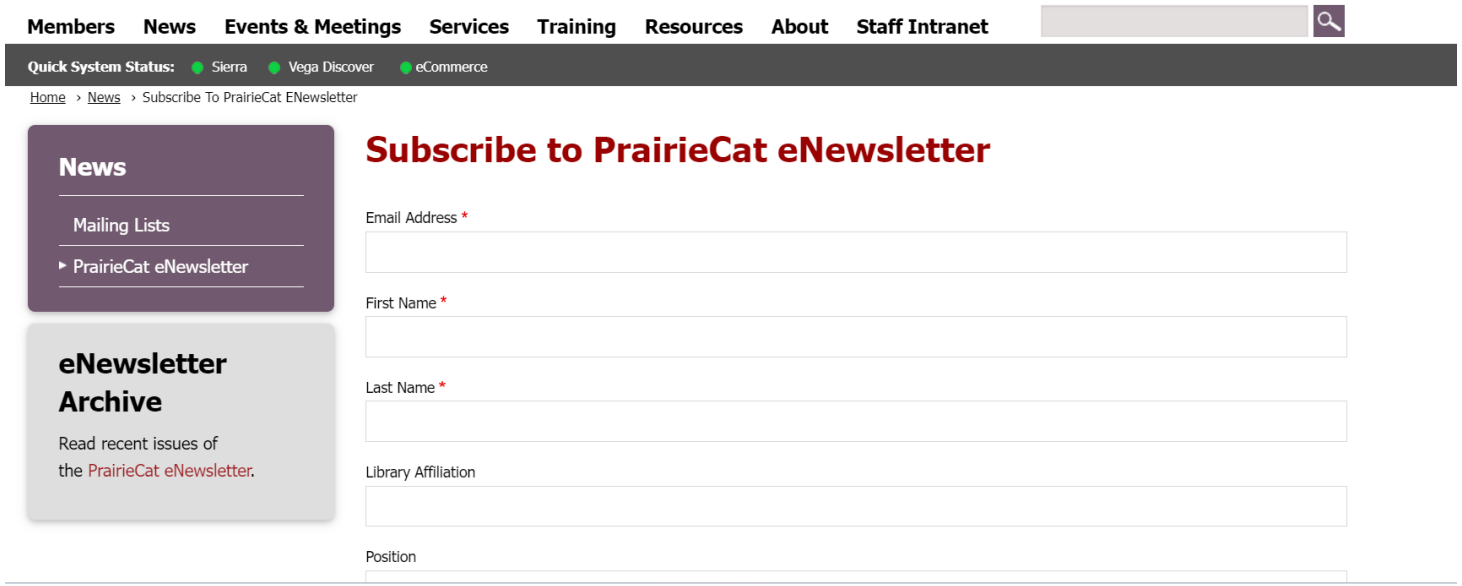
Member Forums Now Available

- 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



PrairieCat eNewsletter



[Sign up for the monthly eNewsletter]

From the website – News > PrairieCat eNewsletter

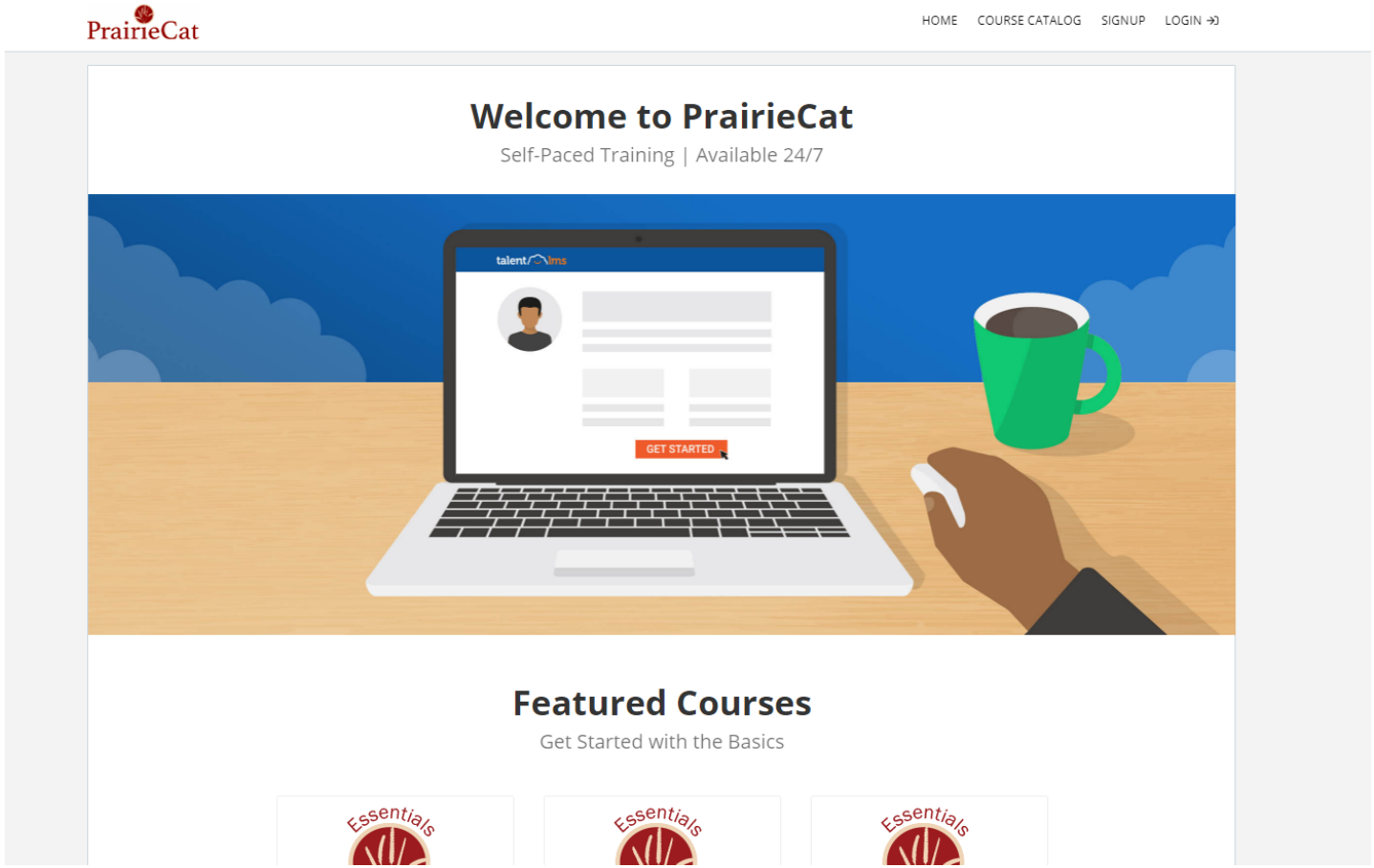
Training | TalentLMS

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.

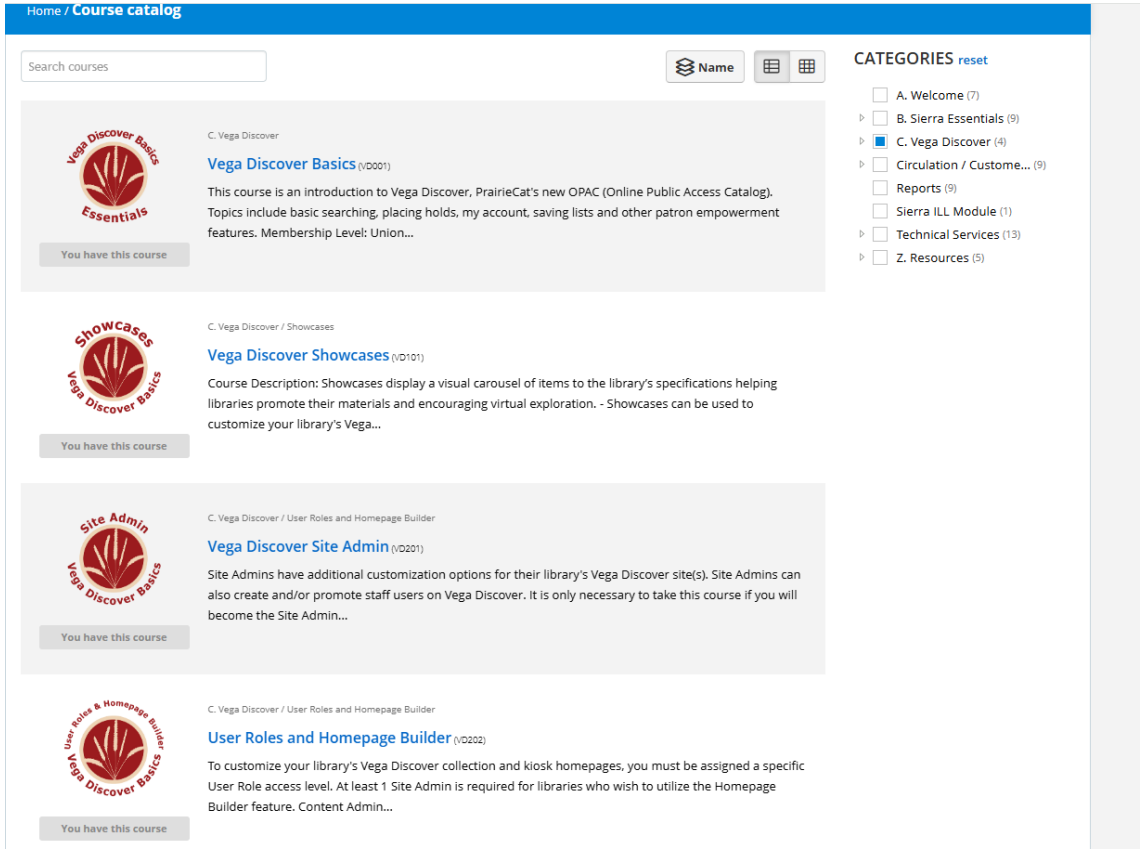
- NEW Users must complete email account verification within 24 hours



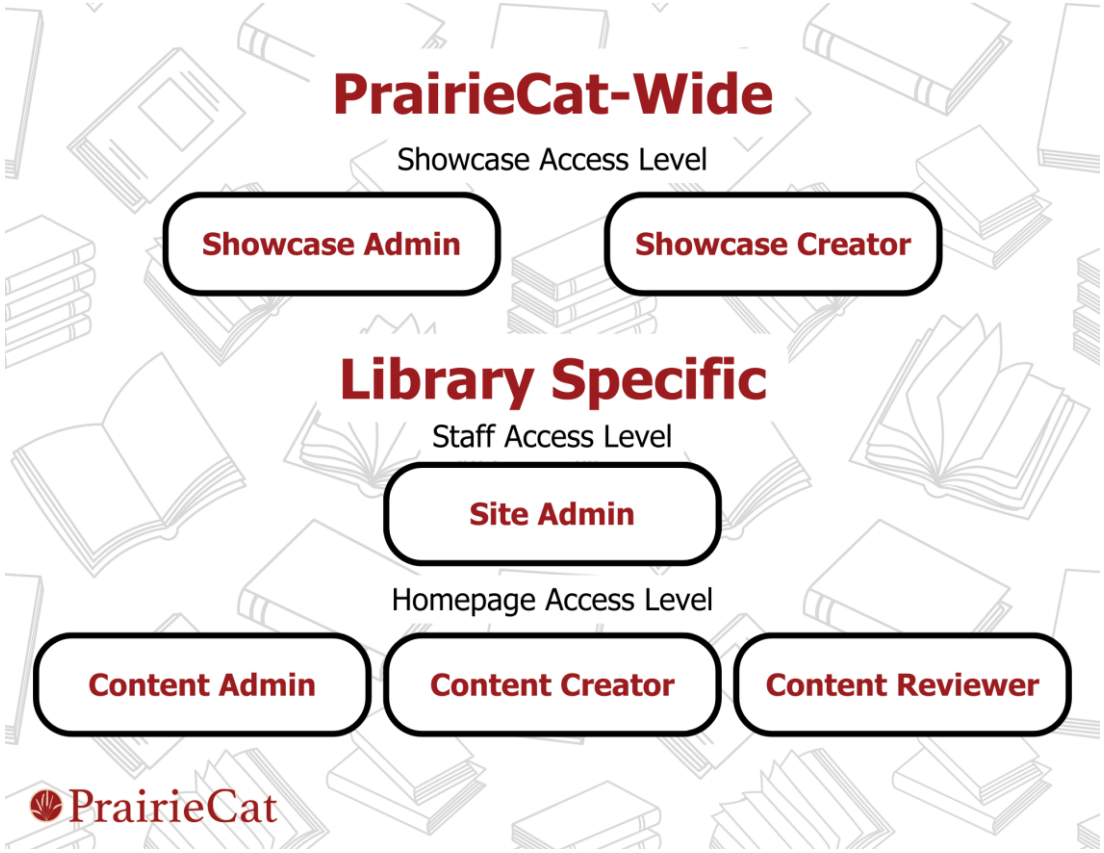
Training | Vega Discover Courses

Available Now on TalentLMS

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



Vega Discover User Roles



REDDICK PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT Reddick Public Library District

English (US) | Log in to My Account

All | Opt in to Text Alerts | Contact Us

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 •

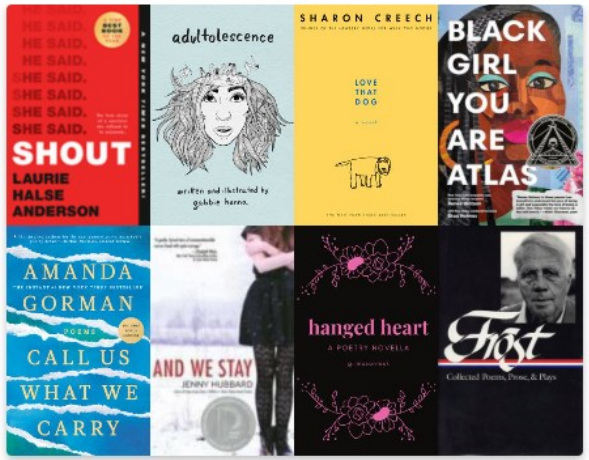
3 May

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

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

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
10:00 AM – 10:45 AM	**Welcome from PrairieCat + Presentation from RAILS**
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM	Morning Break / Transition
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	**Mini Sessions**
11:30 AM – 11:40 AM	Break / Transition
11:40 AM – 12:10 PM	**Mini Sessions**
12:10 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM – 2:15 PM	**Breakout Sessions**
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	Break / Transition
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	**Breakout Sessions**

Program Details and Schedule

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

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

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.

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!

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!

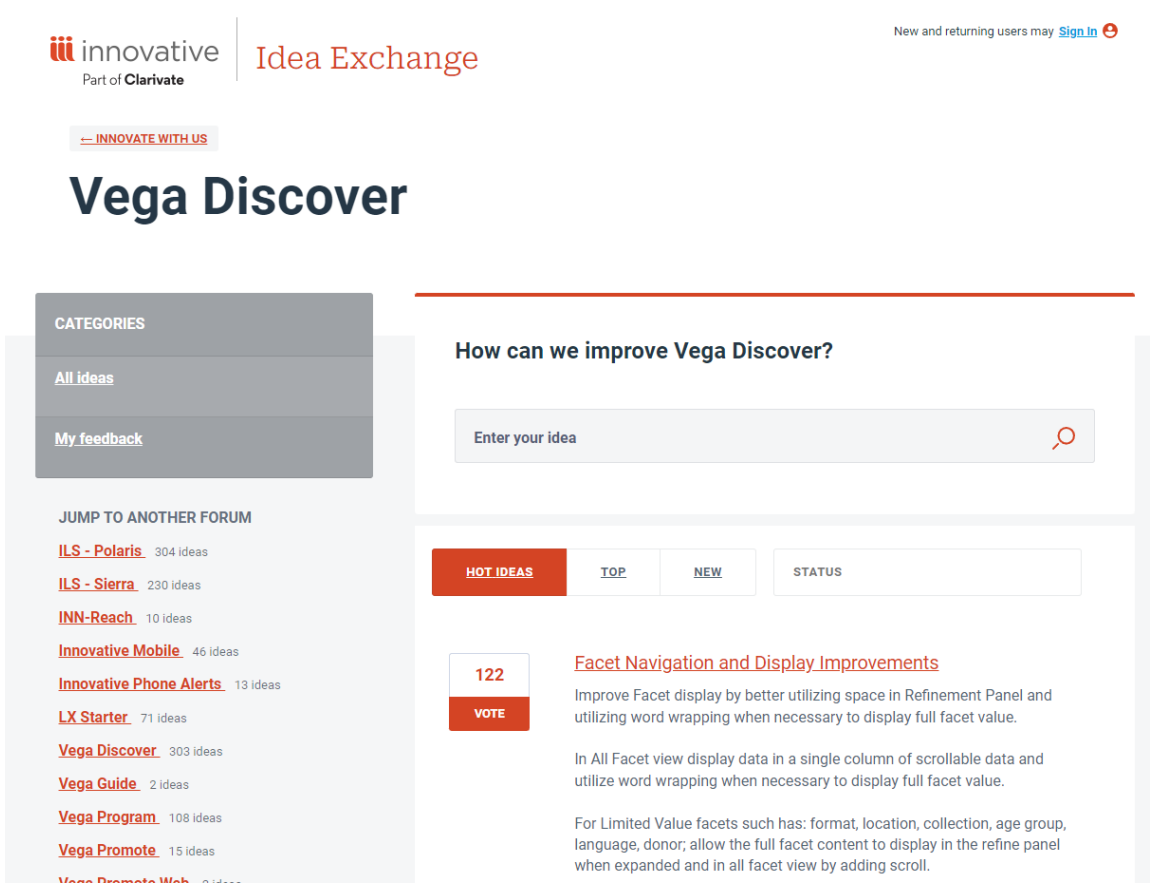
NAMI GMV: Mental Health in the Workplace
Stephanie Phares | NAMI Greater Mississippi Valley | Volunteer

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



Idea Exchange | Innovative Enhancement Process

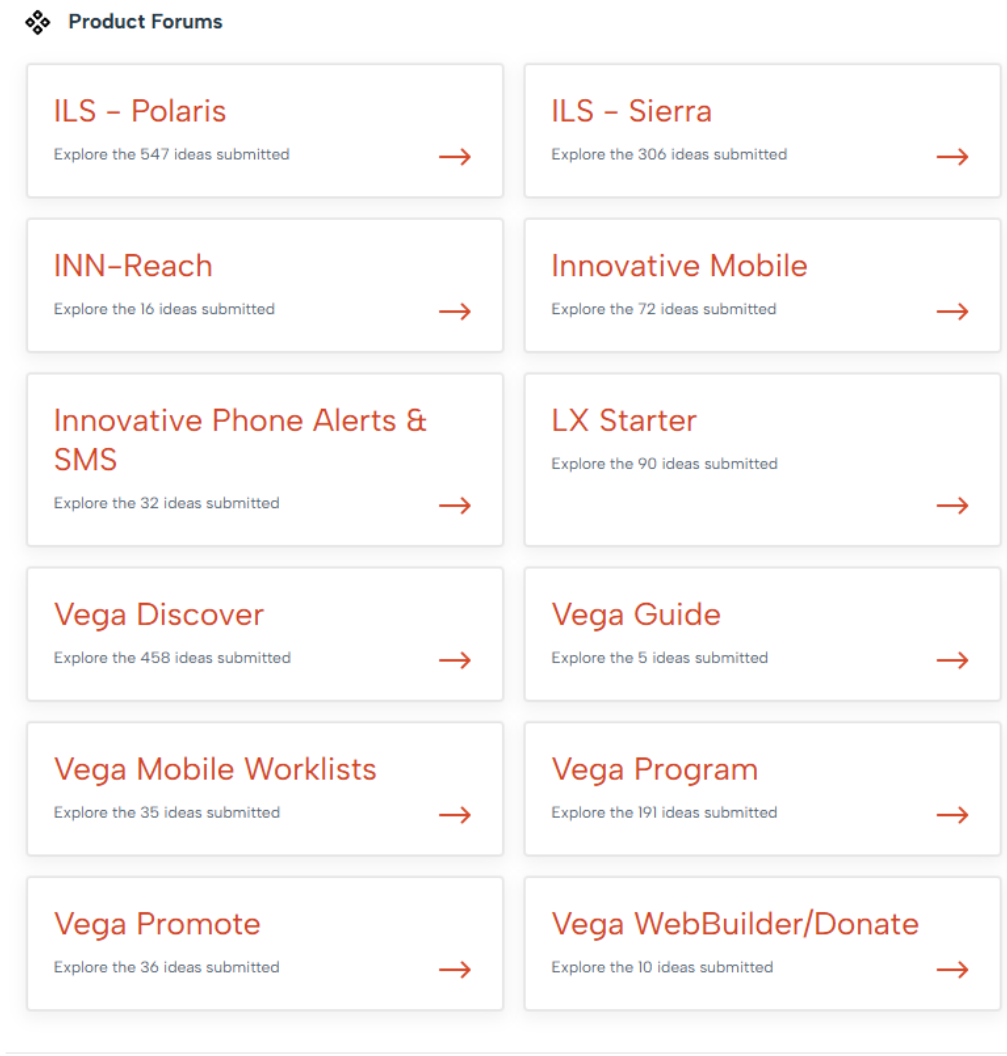
Visit ideas.iii.com

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

Idea Exchange | Please Vote

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

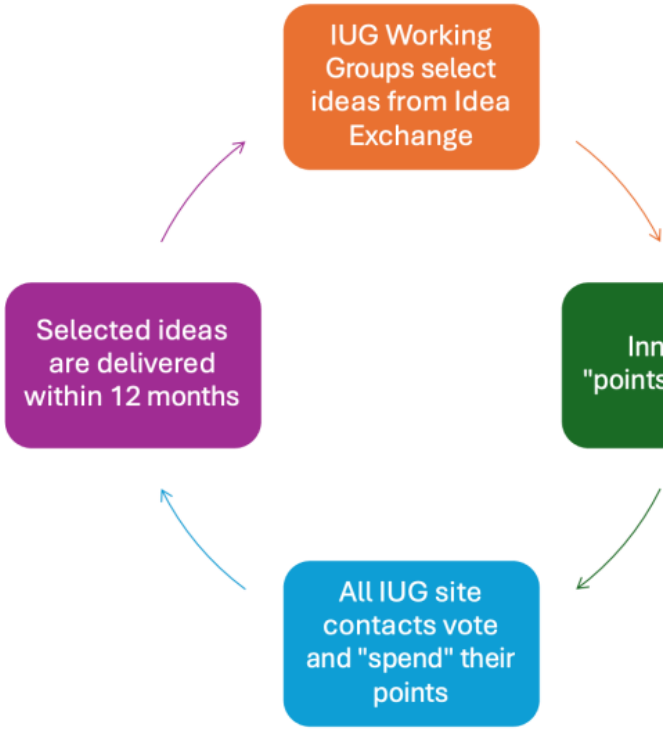
At present, call number searches must be entered exactly and completely. This enhancement would allow for wildcard or browse-style searching to improve usability.

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.

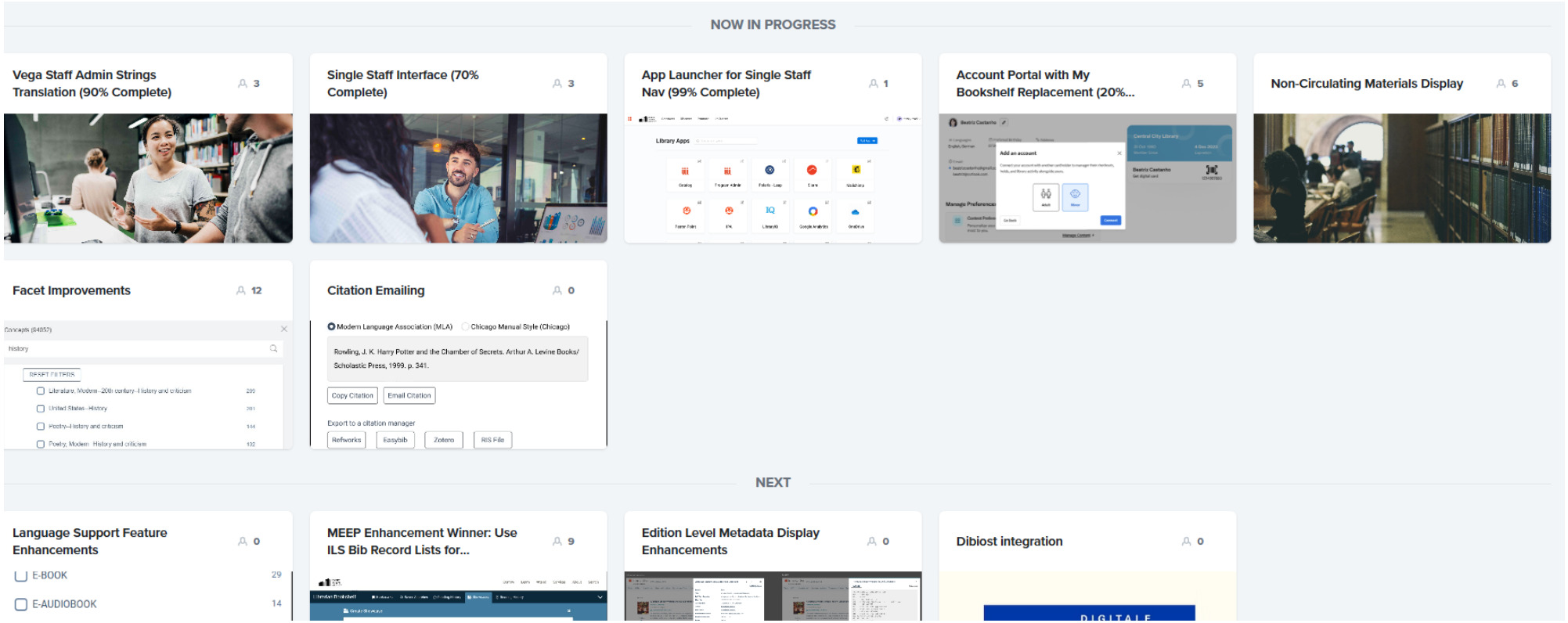
IUG | Member Enhancement Process

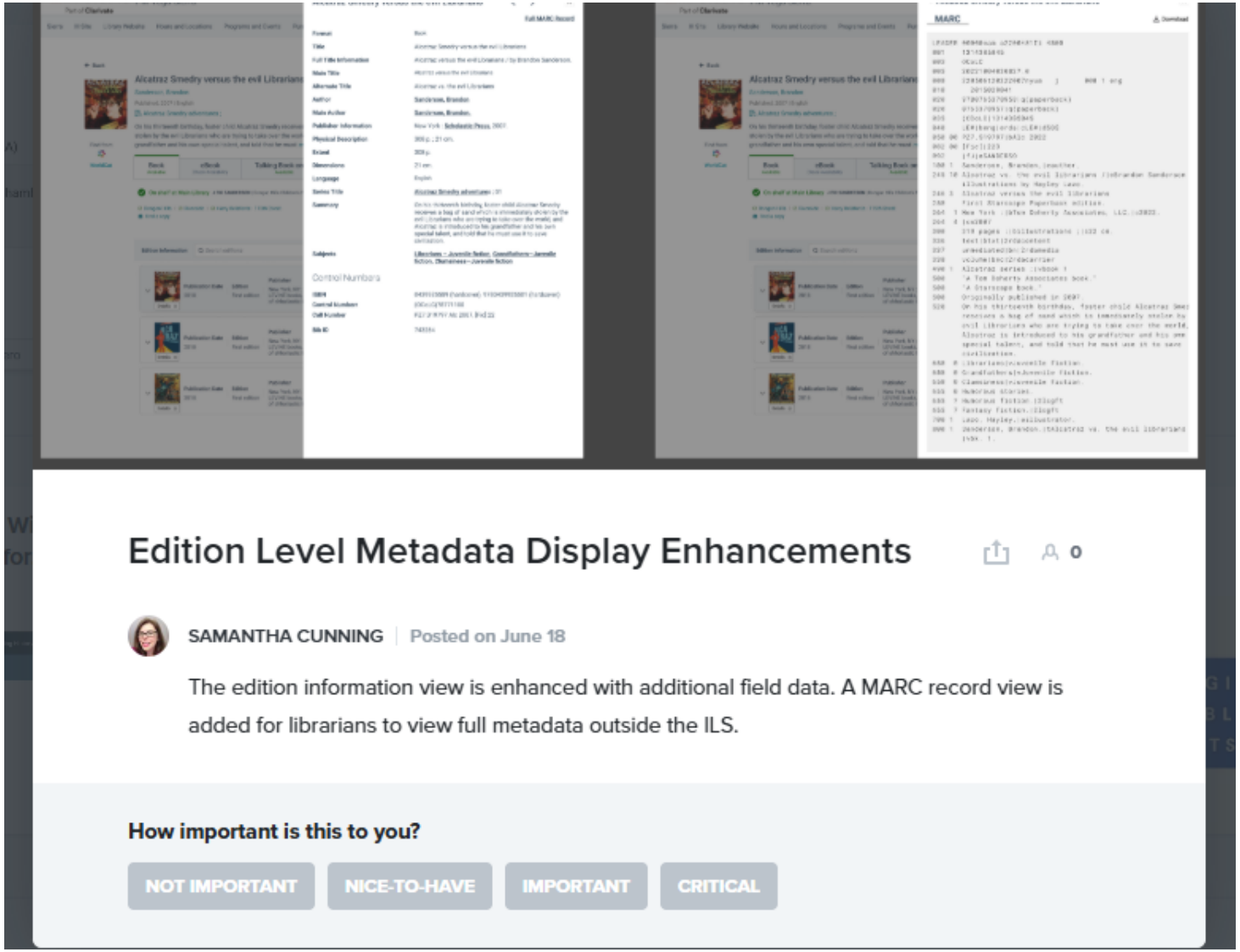
- IUG member libraries vote to prioritize enhancements.
- Innovative commits to delivering the enhancement within a specified time and assigned to a release.
- Innovative will continue to use other market signals and information from additional sources to determine all the features to add to their products.
- 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

Innovative Users Group | IUG

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 III.
- Gather and **disseminate information** on the use of III products among the users of the systems.

Innovative Users Group

IUG | Membership

Innovative Users Group

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

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

innovativeusers.org/

Wisconsin Illinois IUG

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
Wisconsin • Illinois
Innovative Users Group

wiliug.wordpress.com/

Wisconsin Illinois IUG

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
Wisconsin • Illinois
Innovative Users Group

wiliug.wordpress.com/

Any questions

CONTACT ELIZABETH.SMITH@PRAIRIECAT.ORG

Brief RAILS Update

RAILS
REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM

HB 1910 (Opioid Antagonists Amendment)

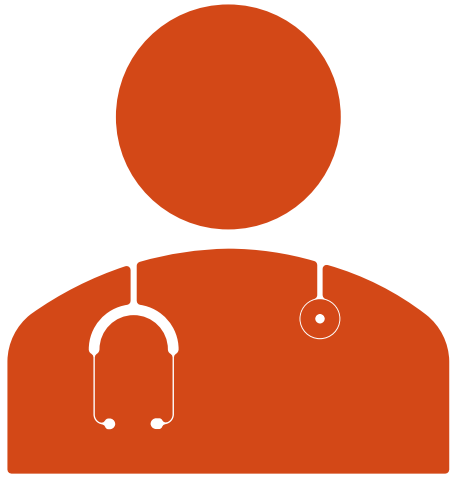
Proposed by a high school student in Elgin, IL, this bill amends the Illinois Local Library Act

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=



Catalyst
RAILS

“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

"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

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

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