FY24 ANNUAL REPORT

PrairieCat
Connecting Libraries to Strengthen Communities

Annual Report July 2023 - June 2024

PrairieCat assists members in the successful sharing of resources and services, expanding the quality and quantity of information accessible to our library users.

At its core, PrairieCat exists to provide an integrated library system (ILS) to members—having a central ILS provides efficiencies to 138 member libraries.

Database Support

12 PrairieCat Staff
25 Monthly Statistical Reports
12 Reports with Further Processing by PC staff
1,078 Original Cataloging Records
46,550 Record Loads
28,280 Record Enhancement and Cleanup
554,709 Special Project Record Cleanup
20 MARC Catalogers from Member Libraries
1 Sierra Upgrade - v 6.0

Total Help Desk Tickets Processed: **3,507**

Resource Sharing Network

Access to more than **1.2 million** unique titles and **5.1 million** items.

4,771,368 Items Circulated
660,524 Interlibrary Loan Holds Filled
542,042 Reciprocal Borrowing Transactions Between PrairieCat libraries

Member Libraries

138 Member Libraries
83 Fully Participating Members
20 Basic Online Members
35 Union Listing Members

Multi-Type Consortium
104 Public Libraries
31 School Libraries
2 Academic Libraries
1 Corporate, Medical, or Other Special Libraries
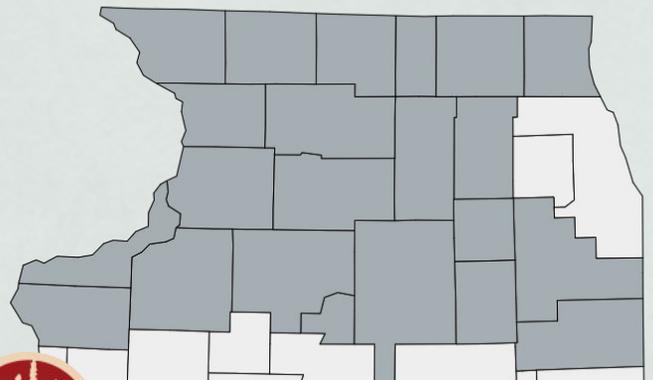
1(877) 542-7257 | support.prairiecat.info

Engagement

Members are actively engaged at all levels, which creates connections and advances the organization.

- PUG Day 2023 | Waubonsee Community College: **264** in person attendees from **67** member libraries (49% participation) | **20** live sessions
- Spring 2024 Member Updates: **1** virtual meeting with **49** attendees | **4** in-person meetings across the membership region with **43** total attendees
- **10** Governance and Standing Committees: **43** meetings throughout the fiscal year
- Site Visits with Member Libraries: **20** in-person site visits
- Resource Sharing Summit | Serving the Unserved: **40** participants
- New Director Welcome: **3** sessions with **18** total participants
- Union List Members Meeting: **9** participants from Union List members
- Back to School Session: **23** participants from school libraries

Training

Learning opportunities equip members to provide excellent service to end users.

PrairieCat Led Sessions	**Talent LMS Courses**
84 Live Training Sessions	51 self-paced courses
448 Attendees	2,950 courses completed | 445 users

- **TalentLMS:** Self-paced courses available 24/7 through PrairieCat's online training platform. The majority of PrairieCat trainings are offered online such as searching, holds, circulation, and cataloging. More advanced classes are offered as live, on-demand classes.
- **Item Entry Certification:** 35 library staff completed Item Entry Certification through TalentLMS. PrairieCat requires that any staff that adds new items to the PrairieCat database are item entry certified to help maintain the accuracy of the database.
- **Create Lists Training:** 22 library staff completed the training through TalentLMS. Create Lists is available to Fully Participating members and the training must be completed to use this Sierra function.

User Experience

Members are supported in their efforts to provide exceptional service to end users.

- **Innovative Interfaces:** PrairieCat transitioned to the new Vega Discover catalog. This included customization of the 138 individual collection sites including homepages, library branding, and ematerial integration. PrairieCat staff and members participated in beta testing and feedback for several features related to the Vega Suite.
- **Innovative Phone Alerts:** PrairieCat migrated phone dialer services to IPA. This provides patrons with automated phone messages for available holds and first overdue notices.
- **eRead Illinois:** The Delegates Assembly voted to approve eRead Illinois membership for the consortium for 3 years for circulating member libraries.
- **Fine Free Libraries:** 6 PrairieCat libraries went fine free during FY24 bringing the total to 58. PrairieCat staff provided system support and resources to make these changes possible.
- **Mobile App:** 57 PrairieCat libraries have opted in to provide a mobile option for their users.

Governance

Leadership is transparent, responsive, innovative, and accountable.

- **Delegates Assembly:** 85% voting member attendance rate
- **FY25 Administrative Council and Committees Election:** 58% member participation
- PrairieCat welcomed **19 new directors** at member libraries in FY24.
- **Membership Changes:** Winnebago Public Library joined as a new Fully Participating member. PrairieCat staff worked with Innovative and library staff on the 6-month migration project. Winnebago went live in January 2024. Putnam County Schools, a current Fully Participating member, added the primary school as a new location in January 2024. Mills and Petrie Memorial Library and Gymnasium is upgrading from Union Listing to Basic Online membership level. Oglesby Public Library District downgraded from Fully Participating to Basic Online membership level.
- **Sustainability:** RAILS grant funds accounted for approximately 28% of PrairieCat budgeted revenues in FY24 in addition to in-kind services.