FY25 ANNUAL REPORT

PrairieCat
Connecting Libraries to Strengthen Communities

Annual Report July 2024 - June 2025

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
30+ Monthly Statistical Reports
1,207 Original Cataloging Records
45,043 Record Loads
24,422 Record Enhancement and Cleanup
501,192 Special Project Record Cleanup
28 MARC Catalogers from Member Libraries
1 Sierra Upgrade - v 6.3

Total Help Desk Tickets Processed: **3,225**

Member Libraries

138 Member Libraries
81 Fully Participating Members
23 Basic Online Members
34 Union Listing Members

Multi-Type Consortium
104 Public Libraries
31 School Libraries
2 Academic Libraries
1 Corporate, Medical, or Other Special Libraries

Resource Sharing Network

Access to more than **1.2 million** unique titles and **5 million** items.

4,704,080 Items Circulated
682,704 Interlibrary Loan Holds Filled
577,749 Reciprocal Borrowing Transactions Between PrairieCat libraries
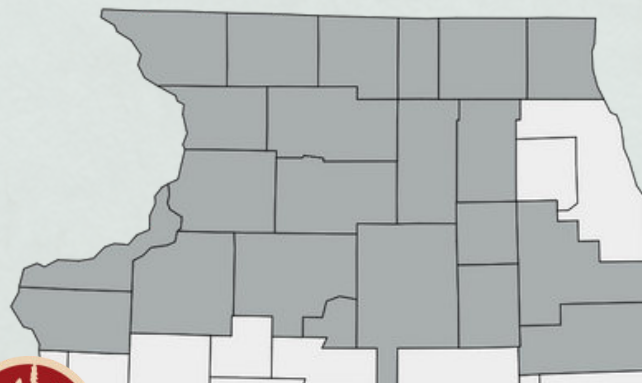
Engagement

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

- **PUG Day 2024 | Virtual:** 603 total webinar attendees from 74 member libraries (54% participation) | 15 live virtual sessions
- **Spring 2025 Member Updates:** 1 virtual meeting with 29 attendees | 4 in-person meetings across the membership region with 31 total attendees
- **10 Governance and Standing Committees:** 46 meetings throughout the fiscal year
- **Site Visits with Member Libraries:** 26 in-person site visits
- **Resource Sharing Summit:** Marketing Your Library | 47 participants
- **New Director Welcome:** 4 sessions with 25 total participants
- **Union List Members Meeting:** 10 participants from Union List members
- **Back to School Session:** 18 participants from school libraries

Training

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

PrairieCat Led Sessions	Talent LMS Courses
69 live training sessions	61 self-paced courses
219 attendees	2,963 courses completed	519 users

- **TalentLMS:** Self-paced courses available 24/7 through PrairieCat's online training platform. PrairieCat trainings offered online include searching, holds, circulation, and cataloging.
- **Item Entry Certification:** 48 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.
- **Vega Discover:** 4 new Vega Discover courses were launched with 298 course completions. The Showcases and User Roles courses allow for library customizations of their Vega sites.
- **IPLAR Q&A:** PrairieCat offered 4 IPLAR Q&A sessions that 29 members attended.

User Experience

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

- **Innovative Interfaces:** PrairieCat staff beta tested and launched the User Roles and Permissions feature in Vega Discover allowing for library customizations using showcases and homepage builder.
- **Mobile App:** The User Experience Committee reviewed vendors for the mobile app and after thorough review made a recommendation to use Innovative Vega Mobile. The Delegates approved the mobile application contract with implementation scheduled for FY26.
- **Website Member Forums:** PrairieCat launched website member forums for peer-to-peer discussions around library services.
- **Fine Free Libraries:** 3 PrairieCat libraries went fine free during FY25 bringing the total to 61. PrairieCat staff provided system support and resources to make these changes possible.

Governance

Leadership is transparent, responsive, innovative, and accountable.

- **Delegates Assembly:** 85% voting member attendance rate
- **FY26 Administrative Council and Committees Election:** 49% member participation
- **New Directors:** PrairieCat welcomed 11 new directors at member libraries in FY25.
- **Membership Changes:** Manhattan-Elwood Public Library District opened a new branch in November 2024. Mills and Petrie Memorial Library and Gymnasium went live as a Basic Online member in May 2025. Maple Park Public Library District moved from a Fully Participating to Basic Online membership level.
- **Strategic Planning:** The Delegates approved the new Strategic Plan, which was updated based on staff and member feedback.
- **Sustainability:** RAILS grant funds accounted for approximately 28% of PrairieCat budgeted revenues in FY25 in addition to in-kind services.