



PrairieCat

Connecting Libraries to Strengthen Communities

FY26 Annual Report

Annual Report July 2025 - June 2026

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 member libraries.

Member Libraries FY26

138
Member Libraries

81
Fully Participating
Members

23
Basic Online Members

34
Union Listing Members

Database Support

12 PrairieCat Staff

30+ Monthly Statistical
Reports

1,178 Original Cataloging
Records

43,568 Record Loads

22,992 Record
Enhancement

585,359 Special Project
Record Cleanup

36 MARC Catalogers from
Member Libraries

2 Sierra Upgrades v 6.4
and v 6.5

Total Help Desk Tickets Processed: 3,860

Multi-Type Consortium

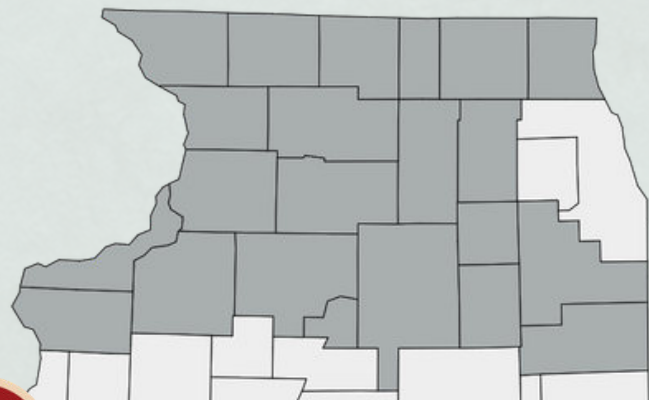
Member libraries from **22 counties** in Illinois

104 Public Libraries

31 School Libraries

2 Academic Libraries

1 Special Library



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Resource Sharing Network



360,000+ cardholders have access to more than **1.2 million** unique titles and **5 million items**.



Member libraries have a combined service population of more than **1,105,000**.

138

Member Libraries

658,240

Interlibrary Loan Holds Filled

4,532,630

Items Circulated

644,371

Reciprocal Borrowing Transactions

Engagement

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

PUG Day 2025

260

total attendees

60 member libraries
28 sessions



Governance and Standing Committees

40



Meetings

1,100



Participants

Virtual Member Updates

47 attendees in the Fall
43 attendees in the Spring

Site Visits with Member Libraries

28 in-person site visits

Resource Sharing Summit

40 participants
Topic: Patron Behavior Policy

New Director Welcome

4 sessions
25 total participants

Union List Members Meeting

10 participants from
Union List members

Back to School Session

12 participants from
school libraries



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Training

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

PrairieCat Led Sessions



63

live training sessions



340

attendees

Online Courses



65

self-paced courses



2,468

courses completed



462

users

TalentLMS: Self-paced courses available 24/7 through PrairieCat's online training platform. PrairieCat trainings offered online include searching, holds, circulation, cataloging, online catalog and mobile app customizations.

Vega Discover: One new course, Vega Reports, was added to the series of Vega Discover courses. 39 libraries have completed courses allowing for customizations of their Vega sites.

Vega Mobile: With the launch of the new Vega Mobile app, PrairieCat provided 7 live trainings with 138 attendees and recorded training videos for members and end users.

Item Entry Certification: 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. 37 library staff completed Item Entry Certification through TalentLMS.

Create Lists Training: 21 library staff completed this reports training through TalentLMS.

IPLAR Q&A: PrairieCat offered 3 IPLAR Q&A sessions that 25 members attended.



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User Experience

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



Mobile App

71 member libraries opted in to the new Vega Mobile App. The PrairieCat Libraries Mobile app launched in October 2025. The new app allows for extensive library customizations and individualized branding.



Vega Discover

Innovative Interfaces continued with monthly updates of the Vega Discover catalog including fixes and enhancements. The Vega Reports feature launched in June 2025, allowing library staff to view usage and interaction data on their catalog sites.



Bibliographic Services

PrairieCat signed an agreement with Mitinet for bibliographic services to improve database record updates and maintain Consistent standardization. A database with effective search results is dependent upon adherence to strong cataloging practices.

Governance

Leadership is transparent, responsive, innovative, and accountable.

83%

Delegates Assembly Attendance Rate

29

New Directors

23%

Election Participation



Delegates Assembly: In response to member needs, the Delegate Assembly revised rules allowing for several in-person meeting sites across the service area for the quarterly Delegate Assembly meetings.



Sustainability: RAILS grant funds accounted for approximately 25% of PrairieCat budgeted revenues in FY26 in addition to in-kind services. Member fees had an average increase of 3.4%.



Membership Changes: Dakota CUSD 201 withdrew Union Listing membership. UnityPoint Health - Trinity medical library closed and subsequently withdrew Union Listing membership.



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