Return on Investment

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 very core, PrairieCat exists to provide an integrated library system (ILS) to members. Having a central ILS provides efficiencies to 136 member libraries.

Support

- 12 PrairieCat staff
- 19 MARC Catalogers from member libraries
- 30,468 record loads
- 13,296 bibliographic record enhancement and cleanup
- 572 original cataloging records
- 2,105,466 other special project record cleanup
- 19 regular monthly reports and statistics
- 11 reports with further processing by PC staff
- 2 Sierra upgrades — v 4.3 | v 4.2
- 3 Encore upgrades | 3 Decision Center upgrades

Member Libraries

136 Member Libraries
- 80 Fully Participating Members
- 18 Basic Online Members
- 38 Union Listing Members

Multi-type Consortium
- 2 academic libraries
- 100 public libraries
- 32 school districts
- 2 corporate, medical, or other special libraries

Resource Sharing Network

Access to more than 1 million unique titles and 4.6 millions items.

- 5,316,451 items circulated
- 649,187 interlibrary loan holds filled
- 776, 272 reciprocal borrowing transactions between PrairieCat libraries

Total Help Desk Tickets Processed: 3,387

Engagement

PrairieCat members are actively engaged at all levels, which connects members and advances the organization.

Staff site visits to member libraries: 62
PUG Day 2018: 258 attendees from 62 member libraries (49% participation)
Two FY19 Member Updates: 147 attendees from 69 member libraries (50% participation)
10 governance and standing committees: 35 member libraries participated (36% circulating member participation)
FY19 Return on Investment
Connecting Libraries to Strengthen Communities

Training  |  PrairieCat is committed to providing regular and effective training opportunities.

PrairieCat Totals:
Classes: 127
Attendees: 795
Contact Hours: 2,086

PrairieCat offers 12 different training classes for member library staff. Class offerings range from basic classes Sierra Essentials and Encore Basics to advanced classes Sierra Create Lists and Sierra Acquisitions. Classes are regularly scheduled and also available in-person, online, and on-demand. Through PrairieCat’s Talent LMS site, members can take classes 24/7 365 days a year at their own pace.

User Experience  |  PrairieCat commits to excellence in serving our end users.

Syndetics Unbound — Syndetics Unbound was implemented as a replacement for Novelist Select, to provide enriched catalog content such as series list and author information.

iTiva Phone Notification System — Upgraded and improved phone notification systems were installed in FY19. These systems enable patrons to call and check holds status, and also receive calls when materials are available or coming due.

Website Redesign Project — The new PrairieCat website, which provides a simpler interface and much better organization launched in FY19.

User Experience Committee — The UX Committee began reviewing vendors for a mobile application.

Logo Project — Members voted and chose a new PrairieCat logo in November 2018. PrairieCat staff worked with the logo designer to put together a brand manual and updated PrairieCat materials with the new logo.

Service Improvements — PrairieCat moved its production servers to a hosted environment through the AWS cloud. This change has provided a more stable environment with improved uptime and redundancy.

Governance  |  PrairieCat provides leadership that is transparent, responsive, innovative, and accountable.

Delegates Assembly: 98% member participation
FY20 Administrative Council and Standing Committees Election: 57% member participation

Membership Changes: Byron Public School District joined as a Union Listing member. The former 8 NIC consortium libraries joined as Fully Participating members, adding an additional 235,000 unique titles and 927,000 new items to the PrairieCat catalog.

Staffing — Twelve staff directly support PrairieCat’s 136 libraries that are located in 14,000 square miles across northern Illinois.