ROI — Ella Johnson Memorial PLD

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.

Database Support

- 12 PrairieCat staff
- 19 monthly statistical reports
- 11 reports with further processing by PC staff
- 564 original cataloging records
- 35,310 record loads
- 30,315 record enhancement and cleanup
- 861,553 special project record cleanup
- 23 MARC Catalogers from member libraries
- 1 Sierra upgrade — v 5.0
- 1 Encore upgrade ǀ 2 Decision Center upgrades

Total Help Desk Tickets Processed: 2,732

Ella Johnson Memorial PLD Help Desk Tickets: 57

Member Libraries

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

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

Resource Sharing Network

Access to more than 1.2 million unique titles and 5.2 millions items.

4,366,937 items circulated
556,258 interlibrary loan holds filled
546,579 reciprocal borrowing transactions between PrairieCat libraries

Ella Johnson Memorial PLD interlibrary loan: borrowed 10401 items and loaned 9140 items.

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

Staff site visits to member libraries: 27

PUG Day 2019 at NIU-Rockford: 311 attendees from 69 member libraries (51% participation)

In Person FY20 Member Updates: 8 meetings across the PrairieCat service area

Virtual Member Updates and Meetups: 5 meetings with 723 total attendees

10 governance and standing committees: 52 meetings

FY20 Return on Investment
Connecting Libraries to Strengthen Communities

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

PrairieCat Classes

127 Live Classes

675 Attendees

Talent LMS Courses

39 self-paced courses

1,140 courses completed

394 users

TalentLMS: Self-paced courses available 24/7 through PrairieCat's online training platform. The majority of PrairieCat trainings are now offered online such as searching, holds, circulation, and cataloging. PrairieCat staff continue to create more course content and improve current offerings.

Item Entry Certification: PrairieCat finished moving our Item Entry Certification (formerly the barcode test) completely online through TalentLMS allowing for a more accessible training process.

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

Capira Mobile App: In the first year of the mobile app project, PrairieCat has 39 participating libraries. PrairieCat also added an optional curbside app from Capira to this project, and there are 14 participating libraries.

COVID-19 Response: During the initial stay-at-home order in March 2020, PrairieCat made significant system changes when RAILS delivery was suspended and libraries were closed. PrairieCat adjusted system settings when libraries resumed various levels of service to allow for better library customization. In anticipation of rolling closures, PrairieCat also created opening/closing forms to streamline the notification process.

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

Delegates Assembly: 90% voting member attendance rate

FY21 Administrative Council and Standing Committees Election: 51% member participation

Membership Changes: Lostant Community Library signed an IGA to join PrairieCat as a Basic Online member, and received an LLSAP/catalog grant from RAILS to do so.

Sustainability: RAILS grant funds accounted for approximately 32% of PrairieCat budgeted revenues in FY20 in addition to in kind services.

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