

## Annual Report | July 2020-June 2021

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 137 member libraries.

## Database Support

- 12 PrairieCat staff
- 19 monthly statistical reports
- 11 reports with further processing by PC staff
- 499 original cataloging records
- 34,436 record loads
- 56,381 record enhancement and cleanup
- 446,164 special project record cleanup
- 24 MARC Catalogers from member libraries
- 2 Sierra upgrades — v 5.1 and v 5.2
- 2 Encore upgrades | 2 Decision Center upgrades

Total Help Desk Tickets Processed: 3,240

## Member Libraries

### 137 Member Libraries

- 81 Fully Participating Members
- 18 Basic Online Members
- 38 Union Listing Members

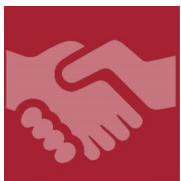
### Multi-type Consortium

- 101 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 5.1 millions items.

- 3,911,945 items circulated
- 682,215 interlibrary loan holds filled
- 417,643 reciprocal borrowing transactions between PrairieCat libraries



## Engagement

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

PUG Days 2020 Virtual: 643 attendees from 71 member libraries (52% participation) | 17 live sessions

Virtual Member Updates and Meetups: 3 meetings with 268 total attendees

10 Governance and Standing Committees: 43 meetings

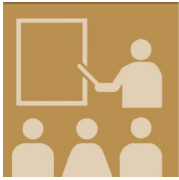
Virtual Site Visits with member libraries: 10

2 New Director Welcome Sessions: 17 participants

Strategic Planning Sessions: 9 sessions including listening sessions, member interviews, and team meetings with 60 total participants

# FY21 Annual Report

## Connecting Libraries to Strengthen Communities



### **Training** | Learning opportunities equip members to provide excellent service to end users.

#### **PrairieCat Classes**

36 Live Classes

149 Attendees

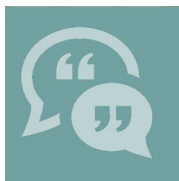
#### **Talent LMS Courses**

46 self-paced courses

3,068 courses completed | 382 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. More advanced classes and workshops are offered as live, on-demand classes.

Item Entry Certification: 59 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.



### **User Experience** | Members are supported in their efforts to provide exceptional service to end users.

Capira Mobile App: In the second year of the mobile app project, PrairieCat has 52 participating libraries. PrairieCat added an optional curbside app from Capira and there are 7 participating libraries.

COVID-19 Response: PrairieCat was faced, like all institutions, with challenges brought by the ongoing global pandemic. PrairieCat saw expanded needs for self-check services during this time, and an emphasis on online resources among our members. Our staff worked with third-party vendors to bring these services online for our members in a timely fashion for their patrons. Operations have stabilized somewhat, and PrairieCat continues to learn from this experience.

Fine Free Libraries: 13 PrairieCat libraries went fine free during FY21. PrairieCat staff provided system support and resources to make these changes possible.



### **Governance** | Leadership is transparent, responsive, innovative, and accountable.

Delegates Assembly: 88% voting member attendance rate

FY22 Administrative Council and Standing Committees Election: 47% member participation

Membership Changes: Marengo-Union Library District joined PrairieCat as a Fully Participating member and went live in June 2021. Marengo-Union serves a population of approximately 14,000 and migrated 62,000 items into PrairieCat. PrairieCat staff held more than 40 migration meetings with Innovative and the library to successfully complete the migration in 4 months.

Sustainability: RAILS grant funds accounted for approximately 30% of PrairieCat budgeted revenues in FY21 in addition to in-kind services. PrairieCat's participation in IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund) was approved and the transition was effective July 2021.

Strategic Plan: PrairieCat approved a FY22-FY24 strategic plan with input from members and staff.

Staffing: Twelve staff directly support PrairieCat's 137 libraries that are located in 14,000 square miles across northern Illinois.