
REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MEETING

RESOURCE SHARING COMMITTEE

Monday, June 8, 2026 | 10:00 AM
RAILS Burr Ridge and Videoconference Sites
125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Welcome and Call to Order
Hovanec called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
2. Roll Call of Committee Members
Present in Burr Ridge: Guillermo Gasca, Jennifer Hovanec, Laura Long, Kelly McCully, and Karen Voitik

Present on Zoom: Jesse Henning (in a private office)

Absent: Dr. Marlo Barnett and Laura Golaszewski
3. Recognition of Guests and Announcements
Guests at Burr Ridge: Joe Filapek, Monica Harris, Mark Hatch, Leila Heath, Barb Miller, Kortni Springer, and Gwen Gemmell (designated notetaker)

Guests on Zoom: Leslie Bednar, Ryan Hebel, and Suzanna Jones

3.1. Introduction of New Committee Member, Kelly McCully (discussion only) – Joe Filapek
Filapek introduced the new Resource Sharing Committee member, Kelly McCully, Director at Bourbonnais Public Library.
4. Public comments
There were no public comments.
5. Consent Agenda
 - 5.1. Adoption of the Agenda
 - 5.2. Approval of the RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Minutes of March 9, 2026
Long moved to approve the consent agenda, Voitik seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
6. Reports
 - 6.1. RAILS Report

Filapek gave the RAILS Report. The RAILS Strategic Plan Survey results are in and will be reviewed by the Strategic Plan Steering Committee, the RAILS Board, and the RAILS Executive Team, with finalized results available by the end of the year. Additionally, an update on the RAILS board election results will be announced in the coming weeks. Last week, RAILS' Monica Harris attended the Illinois State Library Advisory Committee (ISLAC) meeting, where a brief overview was given of the survey sent out earlier in the year by the state library; The committee discussed continued priorities and challenges. An update was given on the security grants available for public libraries through the Illinois State Library. There were many applications for this grant cycle. A new working group will be convening as a part of ISLAC that will address the issue of unserved residents in Illinois. This new group will meet during August or September of this year. The committee discussed recent visits to CPL and IHLS to view their automated sorting systems.

6.2. Find More Illinois Report

RAILS Consortial Services Supervisor, Barb Miller, gave an update on the Find More Illinois Program. There are currently 71 public, 12 school, 1 special and 11 academic libraries enrolled in Find More Illinois. Three more members are in the process of onboarding. Renewals occurred in May, with only 1 library declining to renew their contract. Two additional member libraries have signed participation agreements. New outreach materials have been sent to participating libraries, and PDFs of the flier will be available soon. Find More Illinois will have a new logo sometime this fall.

7. Legislative Update

Filapek and Harris detailed current state and federal legislation. HB 5236, the Digital Library Protection Act, which provides more favorable terms for eBook pricing, has passed the House and is caught in legal review in the Senate. It cannot proceed through the Senate Committee while the Senate is out of session, but will hopefully get picked up in the fall. Much advocacy work has gone into this bill, and Harris shared of NPR affiliate programming and WBEC's 45-minute interview with Illinois librarian Kate Hall. Voitik asked why it has not passed. Harris noted that legal language was a holdup, but that continued effort and support is expected to continue through the summer. HB 4261, which would amend the Library System Act to offer increased funding for per capita and per mile grants to account for inflation, passed the House quickly but has stalled in the Senate Appropriations Committee. This is another contender to be picked up in the fall veto session. HB 3411 to increase the funding for Open Educational Resources (OER) is not progressing. CARLI is offering grant opportunities for OER initiatives.

8. Unfinished Business

8.1. Community College Survey Results (discussion only)—Joe Filapek

Joe Filapek shared the results of the Community College Survey, carried out at the behest of the Universal Service Committee. The Resource Sharing Committee surveyed community colleges in 2018 or 2019. The goal of the survey is to understand how community college libraries are providing services for district residents, specifically to residents unserved by a public library. Every community college is a library system member in Illinois, and every Illinois resident is covered by a community college district. The survey had a 66% response rate. There are 19 community college districts within RAILS. The survey showed that community colleges are not often tracking whether users have a public library card or access to a public library. The survey also revealed that community college library access is not commonly promoted to district residents. These programs are not widely advertised or included in outreach, even though many districts have some form of access for district residents. Increasing outreach is a possible avenue to explore. Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) between the community college and other libraries were not common.

Gasca discussed serving district residents from his library, and services like study rooms that are used on a first-come, first-served basis. Gasca noted that community colleges librarians may be looking to expand their collection with more popular materials, such as popular fiction and children's books. Community colleges are rethinking their collections to appeal to a wider audience. The committee discussed the importance of making connections between library types that overlap in patron base, such as between public and community college librarians who serve the same, or an overlapping area. Hovanec suggested that a summit or another event could aid in building these relationships.

9. New business

9.1. Statewide Database Overview (discussion only) – Suzanna Jones, Illinois State Library
Suzanna Jones, Library Program Specialist from the Illinois State Library, gave an update on the Statewide Database Program. The program has been named Illinois Reliable Information Sources, or IRIS, and is going into its third year. After the completion of the third-year contract, the State Library has the ability to extend the contract for 1 year, seven more times, which would result in a 10-year program with the same package. Suzanna provided the static link to the program site: www.ilsos.gov/departments/library/iris.html.

Most of the resources provided can be searched from the website's search bar and sorted by audience. The program can now be widely shared and promoted. There has been promising usage of the program with an inflated statistic of 47 million database sessions in April 2026 and 44 million database sessions in May 2026. The State Library is seeing steady and increased usage, although there is currently not a way to pull usage from patrons in areas unserved by a public library. There will be a press release soon from the State Library.

Harris inquired about the plan for promotional materials. The State Library has not published a promotional plan, so libraries are free to promote materials in their own ways. In the most recent survey from the state library, school libraries listed IRIS as the most important resource available from ISL.

9.2. FY2027 Resource Sharing Committee Composition (discussion only) – Joe Filapek
Filapek provided a list of who is rolling off the committee and emphasized the goal for a broad representation across library types.

9.3. FY 2027 Resource Sharing Committee Draft Schedule (action requested)—Joe Filapek
Voitik moved to approve the draft schedule, McCully seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

10. Meeting Recap and Agenda Building for the Next RAILS Board Resource Sharing Committee Meeting on September 14, 2026 – Jennifer Hovanec
Filapek extended gratitude to outgoing committee chairperson Jennifer Hovanec, and outgoing committee members, Laura Long, Guillermo Gasca, Laura Golaszewski, and Dr. Marlo Barnett, for their continued service. Filapek acknowledged the passing of former committee member, Beth Ryan, Director of the Johnsburg Public Library.

The next Resource Sharing meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2026, and will include the introduction to new committee members and coverage of committee priorities for FY2027.

11. Adjournment—Jennifer Hovanec
The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 am.