RAILS Consortia Committee

Membership

Committee Members:

Two (2) RAILS Board Members
Representatives from each shared catalog within RAILS that chooses to participate (Maximum 2)

Ex officio members include the RAILS Board President; RAILS Executive Director; RAILS Director, Technology Services; one representative from the Illinois State Library; and one representative from the Illinois Heartland Library System, as designated by the IHLS Executive Director.

The RAILS Board President shall annually appoint two voting members from the RAILS board. Each consortium shall annually designate one voting representative and optionally one alternate who may vote in the absence of the voting representative. Appointment of representatives for successive terms is strongly encouraged to provide more continuity. The representative does *not* need to be an officer on the consortium's board. New representatives are seated at the first meeting after the beginning of the RAILS fiscal year in July. Interim appointments may be made when necessary to fill vacant seats. Voting representatives and alternates are encouraged to attend all meetings to ensure excellent communication and information flow.

Quorum and Voting

A quorum consists of the majority of voting members. Ex officio members do not count towards a quorum and do not vote.

Charge

The committee will investigate and recommend ways to improve and increase consortial services in Illinois, particularly among member libraries in RAILS, to provide the best library services to Illinois residents and optimize the use of tax dollars. This includes:

- Serving as a means of communication among consortia and with RAILS
- Making recommendations on how RAILS can support consortia to ensure continuity of services, enhance services to consortial members, make membership more affordable, promote the advantages of consortial membership, and foster cost-effective resource sharing among Illinois libraries
- Provide feedback on consortial implications of other RAILS projects, such as authentication needs for vendor offerings through group purchases
- Discuss current and emerging trends and technologies that may affect shared catalog consortia
- Work together to ensure consortia provide cost effective and efficient services to libraries

- Creating and overseeing working groups as needed on specific topics related to consortia, such as:
    - Collaborative approaches to shared needs, such as cataloging, training and documentation
    - Costs and benefits of multiple integrated library system platforms
    - Research on specific emerging technologies

Working Groups

After the Consortia Committee determines the need for a working group, the committee shall develop and approve a charge for the working group that includes guidelines for membership and the time period. Working group membership need not be limited to Consortia Committee members and need not include representatives from all consortia. Representatives from libraries with standalone integrated library systems may be included when needed based on the working group's charge. RAILS will be represented by at least one ex officio member.

The Consortia Committee chairperson will appoint working group members and designate the group's chairperson. Members serve for the entire period of the working group.