

RAILS Report

FY2019 LLSAP Support

In addition to providing a mix of financial and in-kind support to the current RAILS LLSAPs (PrairieCat, RSA, and SWAN), RAILS is able to offer “core services only” LLSAP support to other RAILS consortia for FY2019. The application period is currently underway, and interested consortia that meet the LLSAP requirements will be offered core LLSAP services: the use of RAILS meeting rooms, support for communication and collaboration (including a conference calling account), and the opportunity for prospective new member libraries to apply for LLSAP membership grants.

FY2019 RAILS LLSAP Membership Grants

After a hiatus in FY2018, RAILS is able to offer LLSAP membership grants again for FY2019. We will have two application periods, with deadlines in October 2018 and April 2019. The application form and more information will be posted on the RAILS website in late August.

Consortial Staff In-service Day

This year’s consortial staff in-service day will be on Friday, November 2 at Joliet Junior College from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We’re still developing the schedule for the day, which will focus on discussions of topics and presentations of projects of specific interest to consortial staff in Illinois. Please share any ideas you have for topics or projects you would like to hear about or present about with Anne Slaughter (anne.slaughter@railslibraries.info). More information will be provided via the consortia managers’ email list as the date approaches.

Cataloging Services Coordinator

RAILS has finalized the job description for the new position of Cataloging Services Coordinator and expects to post the job ad in July. Primary responsibilities of the position include training; coordinating specialized cataloging support; ensuring the quality and integrity of records in RAILS-managed platforms such as eRead Illinois and Find More Illinois; and working with RAILS staff, consortium staff, and other organizations to enhance library resource sharing and services to end users within Illinois.

Find More Illinois

Pilot Project

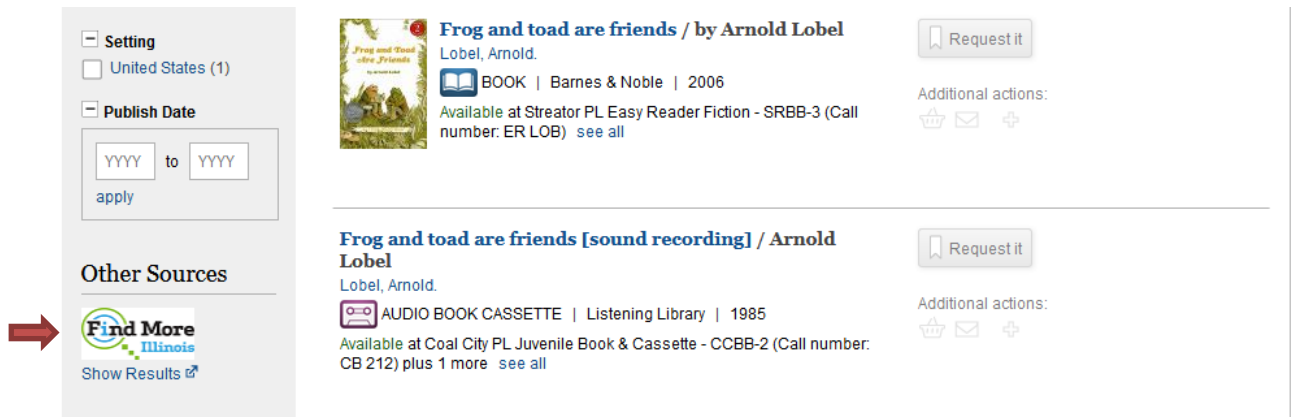
The 21 libraries in the Find More Illinois pilot program began placing staff-initiated interlibrary loan requests in the SHAREit software on April 16 and began introducing the program to their patrons in May.

Between April 16 and June 30, 476 requests were received, of which 331 were filled, for a fill rate of nearly 70%. Given the small size of the pilot, this is a good fill rate.

In addition, the SHAREit software recognized 57 attempted requests as being available in the local ILS and passed those back to the local ILS without placing an interlibrary loan request. (The requestor sees when this happens.) This was 10.7% of all request attempts.

Between May 1 and June 30, approximately 47% of requests were initiated by patrons. Pilot libraries introduced patron-initiated requesting at different times in May, so that percentage may increase in the future.

PrairieCat has also added a redirect from its catalog search results page to Find More Illinois. By clicking on the link, a patron can automatically do a keyword search in Find More Illinois. Here's a sample screenshot from PrairieCat's catalog:



RAILS staff supplied the base URL for the search redirect, but local coding was needed to copy the search terms used in the local catalog to the end of the base URL. RAILS can also provide sample code for a SirsiDynix Enterprise catalog.

Expansion Plans

Because the Find More Illinois pilot program is going well, RAILS plans to begin expansion in fall 2018, after the RAILS Board has an opportunity to review and approve the proposed annual membership fee scale. Initial expansion is planned to occur in three cohorts between fall 2018 and early spring 2019 to accommodate setup and training.

Libraries will join Find More Illinois on an individual basis. However, for libraries in a shared catalog consortium, RAILS will need help from consortial staff in gathering setup information (e.g. library locations, Z39.50, SIP2, NCIP if used, etc.). We're developing setup forms to make this easier and will share those with consortia managers when available.

One-time implementation fees will be pass-throughs of the vendor's charges. These vary by library type and ILS status (consortium or standalone). To assist with expansion, RAILS will pay the ILS implementation fee for shared catalog consortia in RAILS and will offer some incentives for libraries that are early adopters.