New Director

WELCOME TO AN RSA LIBRARY!

What is RSA?

Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA) is a consortium formed in the early 1980's by libraries in central and west central Illinois to share a common library automation system.

RSA facilitates sharing of materials among its member libraries, providing patrons with access to materials from approximately 170 different library branches.

RSA covers over 13,500 square miles of Illinois.

RAILS Resource Sharing Map

RSA provides a support staff of 12 full time professionals as of 2026 January 5.

From: https://support.librariesofrsa.org/about/

RAILS vs RSA

How are these Organizations Different?

RAILS provides services such as:

Delivery of interlibrary loan materials – System members can get interlibrary loan materials delivered to and from any other Illinois library for free. This includes books, movies, music, and more.

Continuing education – RAILS holds frequent low cost/no cost webinars and workshops specifically on topics related to libraries (i.e. library programming, collection development, increasing circulation). Most events are archived and available for watching at any time.

Grants – RAILS offers a number of grants for members including: 1) a Continuing Education Event Grant, which allows members to host their own professional development at no cost, 2) a My Library Is... Grant which helps fund programs that promote library services like videos, social media, infographics, and more.

Deals & discounts – RAILS offers members a number of cooperative purchasing programs and vendor discounts at no cost.

Support for e-books – Any system member can participate in a fee-based program called eRead Illinois which offers affordable access to Baker & Taylor's Boundless platform.

Email lists & networking groups – Members also enjoy the opportunity to connect and discussion new ideas and best practices. Any staff from any library can join one of our 40+ email lists or meet up with a networking group in their area.

RSA provides services such as:

- In person and online training
- In person and online library visits
- Automation system related consulting
- General automation system troubleshooting and support
- System-wide holds between members for +90% of all consortia holdings
- Original and Copy Cataloging support
- Circulation and holds support
- Database editing and cleanup support
- Statistical reports
- Notice reports for patrons
- Detailed documentation for the shared ILS
- Group purchases for e-books
- Online Catalogs for patrons
- Direct access to e-books, advanced author/series/title information, access to 55+ million online articles and more as part of RSA membership
- Opportunities for networking and peer learning
- Governance and leadership opportunities

For a full listing of all RSA products and services, please visit the RSA support site at https://support.librariesofrsa.org or email the RSA Help Desk at help@rsanfp.org

Contacting RSA

Please note that as of 1 JANUARY 2026, RSA is changing our Help Desk email address to help@librariesofrsa.org

Call
866-940-4083

Email
help@rsanfp.org

Address
715 Sabrina Drive
East Peoria, IL 61611

Fax
630-734-5051

Monday - Friday | 8am - 5pm

Critical After Hours Support
309-369-6422
System down, can't connect?
For Member Library Staff.

Help Desk Ticket

Report Request

Visit Request

RSA Governance and Communication

Directors Advisory Committee (DAC)

The primary purpose of the Directors Advisory Committee is to gather feedback, present plans, policy updates, share and gather strategic plan ideas, and generally comment on the operations of RSA. This Committee is the primary feedback mechanism for Directors to share directly with the Board. We want your involvement!

Email Forums

Dedicated RSA email

E-Newsletter

RSA Member Expectations

Ensuring Compliance by Member Libraries Policy

RSA Expectations & Responsibilities
- Inform RSA of staff changes
- In-person visits from RSA staff

RSA System Functionality and Bylaws

Directors & Admin Handbook

RSA Provides…

- Workflows Technical Support
- Patron-facing online catalog RSAcat
- Patron mobile catalog app RSAcat Mobile
- Workflows back-end maintenance
- Workflows shared database maintenance
- Training workshops – in-person and virtual
- Library staff support site
- YouTube training videos
- Library visits – training, operations, consultation
- Remote desktop support
- RSA provided email

- Email forums and newsletter
- Connection to Networking Groups
- eRead Illinois: The Palace Project digital books app (replaces Boundless)*
- Syncs to Workflows
  - Libby, Kanopy, Hoopla, Envisionware etc.
- Data and stats for board and state reporting also sent to the RSA provided email
- Custom and interactive data through Bluecloud Analytics
  - Report request
- Open Access Resources
- Automated patron notices and text notifications through Shoutbomb
- Mobile circulation app for staff use on library-owned mobile device (MobileStaff)
- Syndetics readers advisory resources

Helpful Websites

IONOS email login	RSA Support Site	RAILS	L2 Library Directory and Learning Calendar
Illinois Library Service Area Map	IPLAR/ILLINET	Illinois State Library	Illinois Library Association
Unite Against Book Bans	eRead Illinois – The Palace Project	The Palace Project Resources	Overdrive Marketplace (login required)
First Search (login required)	EBSCO database package information	IMLS Data	Book Riot
GCF Training resources	Fantastic Fiction	Canva	DVD Release Dates
Engaged Patrons	Weebly	Explore More Illinois	Tech Soup

School Library Support

The Palace Project ebooks *

User registration – bulk entry of students by graduation year

School-specific Operations Handbook

RAILS School Resources

EBSCO databases

What schools need to know about book bans and grants

*Notes on The Palace Project for schools

As of December 2025:

Is the Palace Project SOPPA Compliant?

Yes, The Palace Project's vendor, Lyrasis, has completed an originating NDPA with a school district in Illinois. To access the IL NDPA Exhibit E, please visit the SPDC website.

What authentication methods are available to school libraries?

School libraries that are part of a catalog consortium can authenticate via their ILS.

Does The Palace Project work on Chromebooks?

Students can access the eRead Illinois collection on their devices via The Palace Project app.

Can students access The Palace Project via web browser?

No, but a web-based version of the Palace Project is currently in development.

When will Palace be available to schools?

We are targeting January 2026 for school library onboarding. More information will be forthcoming.