



April 2026 Newsletter

Updates

IT Department

In preparation for launching RSA's new firewall we are asking that staff at libraries update their WorkFlows IP address configuration using the instructions in this cheat sheet: [Updating the WorkFlows IP Address Configuration](#). If you update the IP address configuration to workflows.librariesofrsa.org now you will have seamless access to WorkFlows once RSA launches its new firewall. If you do not update the configuration, you may temporarily lose access to WorkFlows once we change the firewall as the new firewall will have a new IP address.

In addition, if you have self-check outs or other devices that have connections to SIP you should update the IP address setting to sip.librariesofrsa.org

Third party vendors such as Hoopla, Palace Project, Overdrive, Find More Illinois and Freegal have already been contacted by RSA and have already updated their settings.

If you have any questions about changing these settings, contact the RSA Help Desk at 866-940-4083 and ask for James.

Independence Project

We're wrapping up the few remaining loose ends now. Over the last couple weeks we've just about completed the last remaining punch list items.

- **Monitors, Webcams, Headsets:** We've completed the project to replace the last of the RAILS owned equipment. We've installed new monitors and are in the process of sending the RAILS monitors back to Burr Ridge. We also replaced our 15 year old webcams and got new headsets for phone calls and noise reduction in the staff room.
- **After hours and external office support data SIMs:** We have 2 RSA owned iPads with RAILS provided data sims. We've worked with Verizon to add RSA to the State-wide Government Verizon contract and get new data SIMs.
- **The Firewall in the Springfield Hosting Center:** This contract is in RAILS name and it will end on 30 June. By that date we'll have moved the firewall into the cloud, with a physical backup here in our office. Once that's done, we'll remove the remaining RSA hardware from the hosting center.
- **Various old email addresses hosted at railslibraries.org:** Heads up, if you are still emailing RSA staff or the RSA help desk at a @railslibraries.org or .info email address, we probably aren't seeing it. We stopped using the rsahelp@railslibr..... email address in 2020 but it still gets the occasional question. Most all of the RAILS email accounts will be turned off by June. We will keep a couple that are tied to vendor accounts until all the contracts and contact points have been updated.

For all practical purposes, the Independence Project is now complete. In October of 2018 RAILS told the RSA Board to "...begin planning for the funding and employment of its own staff, following a model similar to the efforts undertaken by PrairieCat and SWAN to discontinue the use of RAILS for hiring, payroll, benefits administration, and other employment-related services." That request was formalized in the with the LLSAP Support Grant to RSA in Oct 2020 with a deadline to complete the staffing and IT transition between July 2024 and June 2026. RAILS has provided great support to RSA since its inception on 1 July 2011, provided help and guidance for the staffing transition, and continues to provide RSA support via contracts for Financial Services and office space. While our organizations are now completely separate, we continue to mutually support each other as well as the other consortia in Illinois via resource and information sharing.

Post project cleanup. As you all know, there is always something to do, revise, update, replace, or document! We'll continue the process of this work to create the best 'new' RSA organization possible. Mostly we're excited to have this 6 year project finished so we can return our focus to support our member libraries.

Filger Public Library



Announcements

RSA Day

Date: 4/8/2026 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Event Location:** Spoon River College Outreach Center, 2500 E. Jackson, Macomb, IL 61455

Event day schedule:

9:30-10:00 Registration

10:00-11:00 Keynote Speaker, Renee Grassi

11:05-12:05 Breakout 1

12:10-12:55 LUNCH

1:00-2:00 Breakout 2

2:00-3:00 Breakout 3

Breakout session 1 programs: IMRF; Book Clubs & More; Accessible Library Programs; All Your Art Gallery Questions Answered; Sirsi-Dynix: Future Products; Crafty Catalogers; and Reinventing Reports.

Breakout session 2 programs: IMRF; Finding Free Programming; A Million Illinoisans Without Libraries? Let's Change That!; Help! My Customer Wants to Research Family History; Sirsi-Dynix: Future Products; AI and the Library World; and Delivery Q & A.

Breakout session 3 programs: IMRF; Roundtable Topics; A Million Illinoisans Without Libraries? Let's Change That!; Senior Programming Panel; Sirsi-Dynix: Future Products; and Introduction to RSA Standards.

Applications for Open RSA Board of Directors Positions are due April 30, 2026

It's time for RSA's annual Board of Directors election. We are looking for volunteers to fill the following positions. **We are accepting volunteer statements/bios through COB Thursday, April 30, 2026.**

- **Western Region**
 - Eligibility: all members of any type or size in the Western region
- **At Large Seat #2**
 - Eligibility: all members of any type or size
- **Public Library (10K+ population served)**
 - Eligibility: Any of the 16 Public Libraries with more than 10,000 in their population served

Each position will serve a term of 4 years, starting on 1 July 2026 - 30 June 2030.

Eligible Candidates for the Board must be a director of a member library or hold a supervisor level position and be nominated by their Library Director, or be a School, Academic, or Special Librarian.

Libraries with a staff member serving on the RSA Board earn a \$1,000 rebate check for the library to help offset the costs of serving on the Board. The library may use this money for anything except giving it to the Board member.

With an At Large seat open, anyone can volunteer to serve! Western and Public Over 10K volunteers will be assigned to those slots first.

Please consider serving your fellow librarians and all of RSA on our Board of Directors!

To volunteer, please email Jenny Jackson at jjackson.mhlibrary@gmail.com with the following information:

- You name and email address
- Your position in the library. If not the Director, please ensure you have the endorsement of your Director. You can include their endorsement in your email to Jenny Jackson, or we can

contact them to ensure your eligibility.

- Your library's name
- Your phone number
- A Candidate Biography - This will be shown on the online election ballot to help folks learn more about what makes you the ideal candidate to serve on the RSA Board of Directors.
- Your Library's Biography - This will also be shown on the online election ballot to help anyone unfamiliar with your library learn more about what makes it special.

Election Timeline:

- Applications for open positions on the Board are due on or before COB 30 April 2026
- Online election starts in mid-May
- Candidates will be notified of the election outcome no later than mid-June, with full RSA-wide announcement shortly after
- New Board members begin their duties as of 1 July
- First Board meeting for the new Board will most likely be in early August

Expected Time Commitment to Serve on Board:

- Board terms are four years in length.
- The Board will meet in-person not less than 8 times per year. Barring 'exciting things' we expect to hold 8 scheduled meetings a year from now on. These meetings require an in-person quorum and are subject to the Open Meetings Act. Typical meetings last between two and two and a half hours, plus the time required to travel to different meeting locations. Meetings are held on a rotating basis in each of the five RSA member regions.
- Prepare for meetings by reading the packet, asking for clarification in advance when possible, and bringing comments, questions, and concerns to the meeting.

Board Background Info:

The following documents answer questions about RSA's Board of Directors:

- [RSA Board of Directors Makeup](#) for details about the new Board.
- [RSA Board of Directors Code of Ethics](#).
- [RSA Board of Directors Roles and Responsibilities](#) outlines the role you would be filling, the time commitment, and the \$1,000 rebate to each Board Member's library for serving on the Board.
- [RSA Bylaws, Article 4](#) provides further details on the Board's powers and procedures.
- [RSA Membership Regions and Members by Region](#) shows each member's region. Each of the five RSA Regions has one representative on the Board. Any member library in the region can fill this position. Please verify your region before volunteering to fill a regional Board seat!

If you have additional questions, about these positions or what it's like to serve on the Board, contact a member of the RSA Board (<https://support.librariesofrsa.org/about/board-of-directors>)

May Newsletter Request: Share your stories with us!

The May newsletter will be featuring stories from member libraries about their outreach services: this can include stories about bookmobile teams, home delivery programs, and any other outreach service programs you want to share with us. We want to hear how you stay connected to your communities in this way!

Delavan CUSD



Palace Project

The Palace Project replaced Baker & Taylor as the eRead Illinois digital library vendor in mid-December. As patrons move to the new app and vendor, we wanted to take a look at the historical circulation numbers for 2026 so far.

Total Checkouts: 14,555

Ebook count: 5,840 or 40.14% of checkouts

Audiobook count: 8,715 or 59.86% of checkouts

Total Holds: 3,793

Ebook count: 1,247 or 44.65% of holds

Audiobook count: 2,546 or 55.35% of holds

Checkouts by Audience:

86% Adults

7% Children

5% Young Adults

2% Unspecified

Checkouts by Genre:

41% Other
12% Suspense/Thriller
6% Suspense/Thriller, Mystery
6% Romance
6% Romance, Humorous Fiction
4% Historical Fiction
3% Humorous Fiction, Romance
3% Mystery
2% Fantasy
2% Literary Fiction
2% Humorous Fiction
2% Mystery, Suspense/Thriller
2% Suspense/Thriller, Romance
1%'s several other variations of the above genres

Book Club FAQs

Whether you are reading historical fiction, fantasy, or biography, RSA best practices for book clubs shouldn't be a mystery. Let's take a look!

What profile should I use for my book club in WorkFlows?

BKCLUB-NRC is the recommended profile for book clubs. Check to make sure you're using BKCLUB-NRC (and not BOOKCLUB*)

Check the books out to your book club card first. Then check the items out to the individual patrons.

***Why is there a BOOKCLUB profile if we are supposed to use BKCLUB-NRC?**

BOOKCLUB is a legacy profile that was set up to be recirculating. Recirculating allows books to be checked out twice (once to the book club profile, and then a second time to a patron.) In theory, this sounds convenient. But in real life, it didn't work out to have a recirculating profile where you must check out a book twice AND return it twice (recirculating = too many ways to make mistakes!). Nowadays we don't recommend using BOOKCLUB. Use BKCLUB-NRC instead!

How can I make sure there are enough books in the system, and at the right time, for all my book club members?

First, check WorkFlows to make sure there are enough copies in the system to fill all your club's holds. Second, make sure it's not a new book or an especially popular book, because high demand may prevent you from being able to fill all the holds.

Finally, check to see if another library is using the same book club selection in the same month. Two or more libraries placing holds on the same book in the same month might mean there's not enough to go around.

Luckily, there is a member-made tool for seeing what other RSA libraries are doing for their bookclubs: the [RSA Book Groups wiki board](#), which was founded and is administered by RSA member Beth Duttlinger. We highly recommend joining the wiki if you haven't already and updating it with your own book club information.

By using the wiki, you can ensure your own book club always has enough copies of your chosen book and be a good citizen to other RSA libraries, so they know what book your library has selected as well.

I've been putting each book on hold individually for my book club. Is there a faster way?

Yes!!! There is a faster and easier way than making each hold individually. Did you know you can make blanket holds? Learn the procedures here: [Placing-Book-Club-Classroom-or-Research-Holds-Guide-2024-12-02.pdf](#)

Towanda District Library



[New or Updated Documents in the Index](#)

Title	Type	Last Updated
Item Group Editor	Procedure	3/30/2026
Search Strategy Guide for the WorkFlows Call Number and Item Maintenance Wizard	Guide	3/6/2026
WorkFlows Version 4.2.0 Features and Updates	Guide	3/10/2026
WorkFlows Cataloging Set-Up	Guide	3/24/2026
Cataloging At-A-Glance	Cheat Sheet	3/6/2026
RSA Contact List	Cheat Sheet	3/18/2026
Modifying Pickup Library for an Available Hold	Cheat Sheet	3/18/2026
Tips for Selecting WorkFlows Item Category 4 and 5 Codes	Cheat Sheet	3/30/3026
Replacing a Lost Library Card	Video	4/1/2026
Item Category 3 list*	Parameter	3/16/2026
Item Category 4 list*	Parameter	3/20/2026
Item Category 5 list*	Parameter	3/20/2026

Beardstown CUSD Library



Systems: Item Categories Added Since 3/01/2026

ITEMCAT4 GENRE

3/05/2026	GMABC	Good Morning America Book Club
3/20/2026	EARLYREAD	Early Reader
3/20/2026	HOL-INDPEO	Holiday - Indigenous Peoples' Day
3/20/2026	HOL-PIDAY	Holiday - Pi Day

ITEMCAT5 SUB-GENRE

3/20/2026	HOL-INDPEO	Holiday - Indigenous Peoples' Day
3/20/2026	HOL-PIDAY	Holiday - Pi Day

Alwood CUSD Library



March 2026 Site Visits

Alpha Park Library 3/11/2026
Beardstown CUSD 3/23/2026 and 3/31/2026
Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing 3/24/2026
Chenoa PL 3/20/2026
Clover PLD 3/12/2026
Danvers Township Library 3/3/2026
Delavan SD #703 3/16/2026
Galva CUSD #224 3/12/2026
Galva PLD 3/12/2026
Mercer County SD #404 3/9/2026
Peoria PL 3/26/2026
Quincy Notre Dame HS 3/24/2026
Roanoke-Benson CUSD #60 3/11/2026
Unity High CUSD #4 Mendon 3/10/2026
Virginia Community Unit #64 3/20/2026
Winchester CUSD #1 HS and ES 3/10/2026

Mercer County H.S.



Getting to Know an RSA Staff Member: Antony

1. Antony is the Assistant Executive Director for RSA. He has been with the agency since 2023.
2. If he were stranded on a deserted island, he would want the following items for entertainment: Olivia Manning's Fortune of War series. Antony commented, "These books tell the stories of various people as they navigate the events of World War Two happening around them and often happening to them. Events start in Rumania and move onto Greece and Egypt. The author paints vivid pictures of the people she meets and the events she witnesses in a very thinly veiled fictionalized autobiography. I read them all a few years ago and would like the time to go back to them. TV: I hope I packed my Doctor Who DVDs and that the desert island has electricity and a Blu-ray player. I have enough to keep me busy for a good few days. Audio: My favorite comedian, Alexei Sayle (you might remember him from The Young Ones), has a podcast I have been meaning to get into and being on the desert island would give me the time."
3. His dream vacation would be to revisit Iceland. His first visit was on a family vacation in 1985, and he shared, "I was blown away by the wildness of the landscape."
4. The best advice he has received is: It probably isn't worth an ulcer. Antony explained when he was younger, a teacher told him to pick and choose his battles because the stress he put himself under was going to make him sick.

5. RSA's Mission Statement and Core Principles get to the heart of what brought him into public service. He said, "I love being able to help our member libraries provide service to their patrons and users and I feel privileged to work at an organization that helps libraries. I have often said that libraries are the bulwark that allow us to uphold the First Amendment as a society."

Midwest Central Schools



What RSA Staff Are Enjoying Now

Kendal: watching season 3 of the tv series Dark Winds

Laura: Reading: Richard Feynman's Mental Models by Peter Hollins and Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders; watching: Abbott Elementary and Top Chef

Erica: enjoying warmer weather

Lisa: reading King Sorrow by Joe Hill and watching Resident Alien

Jen: watching college basketball and the tv series Death in Paradise

Zac: reading *Now I Surrender*, by Álvaro Enrigue, and *The Eternal Forest: A Memoir of the Cuban Diaspora*, by Elena Maria Sheppard and listening to Neko Case and PJ Harvey.

Patty: watching: *The Pitt*, reading: *Accountable* by Dashka Slater, and looking forward to outdoor spring activities

Sara: reading *Of Ink and Alchemy* by Sloane St. James and listening to *Your Knife, My Heart* by K.M. Moronova

Mason: re-watching *Parks & Recreation*

Maria: re-watching *Farscape* and re-reading *Everything is Tuberculosis* by John Green

Washington Community H.S. Library



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please bug us!



Resource Sharing Alliance

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