



Resource Sharing Alliance
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RSA Policy Overview Guide

Last Updated: July 17, 2026

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Governance and Administration

[RSA Intergovernmental Agreement](#), July 1, 2024

The Intergovernmental Agreement which established RSA. It must be signed by any new member libraries.

[RSA Bylaws](#), July 1, 2024

The Bylaws which govern the organization and operation of RSA were established July 1, 2024. In addition, the [RSA Membership Regions and Members by Region](#) lists all members and their distribution across RSA's Governance Regions, effective July 1, 2025. On August 7, 2025, the RSA Board created the [RSA Day Committee](#).

[RSA Expectations & Responsibilities](#), June 5, 2025

This explains RSA's Core Principles of Reciprocity, Discoverability, Convenience, Privacy, Communication, Engagement, Responsiveness, Effectiveness. It is designed to provide an overview of expectations derived from those core principles and provides a rationale for why policies and standards are in place and how they should be implemented to aid resource sharing.

[RSA Fiscal Accountability Policy](#), July 17, 2024

This provides a framework for the fiscal operations of RSA, to ensure sound fiscal management and to outline responsibilities for management of RSA's funds.

[RSA Freedom of Information Policy](#), August 7, 2025

This policy outlines how to make a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request and provides information responsive to general requests in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act of the State of Illinois.

[RSA Board Electronic Attendance Policy](#), July 17, 2024

Outlines the ways members of the RSA Board of Directors may be allowed to attend Board Meetings electronically in compliance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois.

[Public Comments at Meeting Policy](#), July 17, 2024

Outlines rules for Public Comments at RSA Board and other governance meetings in compliance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois.

[Ensuring Compliance by Member Libraries Policy](#), March 6, 2025

If a member library does not comply with RSA's bylaws, policies, rules, or requests to participate in mandatory projects, this policy lays out the steps to ensure compliance.

Billing

[Fine Block Limits](#), May 9, 2024

This policy discusses the standard cumulative fine block limit. Since the purpose of fines is to “facilitate the free flow of information” and not as a punitive measure or source of income, all RSA libraries shall agree to a standard cumulative fine block limit of no more than \$20.00 for all borrower types, except those that are excluded from blocks.

Database

[Database Records Deletion](#), January 8, 2026

This policy replaces the Retention Schedule for Expired Patron Cards Policy and is expanded to include other types of record contained in RSA’s circulation and Bibliographic database. These include bill records, hold records, item records, and user records.

Lost, Missing, and Damaged

[Damaged Materials](#), April 4, 2025

This policy lays out expectations for dealing with damaged items. replaces both the Receipt of Damaged Materials Policy and the Notification and Billing Policy for transited RSA Member Library Items.

[Lost Materials](#), June 5, 2025

This policy lays out expectations for dealing with lost items belonging to another RSA member library.

Privacy

[Personally Identifiable Information](#), September 4, 2025

The policy for how libraries should handle printed documents which include patron PII. It includes requirements for information that should not be included on WorkFlows printed receipts and requires libraries and staff to adhere to the PII Protection Agreements.

[RSACat Mobile Catalog App Privacy](#), June 5, 2025

This policy applies to the mobile application, “RSACat Mobile Catalog,” developed by SirsiDynix in collaboration with the Resource Sharing Alliance (RSA) which are available in the Google Play and Apple App Store stores.

Sharing and Holds

[Sharing and Holds](#), August 7, 2025

This policy lays out the expectations member libraries should meet regarding sharing items among them and how holds facilitate that sharing. It combines four previous RSA policies: the Reciprocity Policy, the In-Transit Item Policy, the Clean Hold Shelf List Policy, and the Item Renewal & Hold Shelf Limits Policy.

Users

[User Accounts](#), November 6, 2025

This policy discusses patron card policies for the following individuals: staff, teachers and students, residents, and non-residents. This policy replaces RSA User Card policy. The policy governs how patron notes must be entered into the RSA database. This policy covers registering a patron for a library card in RSA. It specifically covers how new patrons must be entered into the RSA database. The policy also outlines potential issues, like duplicate cards or statuses, that may need to be resolved before registering a library card. This policy replaces both the Patron Registration policy and the New Patron Policy.

Cataloging

[Bibliographic Database](#), January 8, 2026

It is the policy of the RSA Board of Directors that RSA Member Libraries adhere to the RSA Bibliographic Database Standards.

[Homosaurus Cataloging](#), August 1, 2024

This policy authorizes the use of the [Homosaurus](#) linked data vocabulary in RSA's bibliographic database.

[New Materials Item Types](#), January 8, 2026

This policy retired 20 legacy new item types and replaced them with a standardized, more focused set of item types for new materials. This policy also established maximum time limits for how long an item may be considered new by public and school libraries.

[Prohibited Items](#), September 4, 2025

This policy outlines specific types of items that shall not be cataloged, circulated, or interlibrary loaned in the RSA database due to the legal liability for both the library and RSA.

RSA Policy Review Schedule

Policy Title	Topic	Last Updated	Review Schedule
RSA Employee Handbook	Employment	2/5/2026	Annual Feb
RSA Freedom of Information	Governance	8/7/2025	Annual Aug
Fine Block Limits	Billing	5/9/2024	Year 1 Sep
RSA Bylaws	Governance	7/1/2024	Year 1 Nov
RSA Intergovernmental Agreement	Governance	7/1/2024	Year 1 Jan
Board Electronic Attendance	Governance	7/17/2024	Year 1 Feb
Public Comments at Meetings	Governance	7/17/2024	Year 1 Apr
Fiscal Accountability	Governance	7/17/2024	Year 1 May
Homosaurus Cataloging	Cataloging Handbook	8/1/2024	Year 1 Jun
Ensuring Compliance by Member Libraries	Governance	3/6/2025	Year 2 Sep
Damaged Materials	Lost, Missing & Damaged	4/3/2025	Year 2 Nov
Bibliographic Database	Cataloging Handbook	6/5/2025	Year 2 Jan
RSACat Mobile Catalog App Privacy	Legal Compliance	6/5/2025	Year 2 Feb
Lost Materials	Lost, Missing & Damaged	6/5/2025	Year 2 Apr
RSA Expectations & Responsibilities	Governance	6/5/2025	Year 2 May
Sharing and Holds	Sharing and Holds	8/7/2025	Year 3 Sep
Personally Identifiable Information	PII	9/4/2025	Year 3 Nov
User Accounts	Users	11/6/2025	Year 3 Jan
Prohibited Items	Cataloging Handbook	1/8/2026	Year 3 Feb
New Material Item Types	Cataloging Handbook	1/8/2026	Year 3 Apr
Database Records Deletion	Database Records Deletion	1/8/2026	Year 3 May

Year 1: FY 2027 (July 2026-June 2027)

Year 2: FY 2028

Year 3: FY 2029

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding RSA's policies, please feel free to contact the RSA Help Desk at help@librariesofrsa.org or 866-940-4083.