

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 172 different library locations, including public, schools, academics, and special libraries.

RSA covers over 13,500 square miles of Illinois.

[RAILS Resource Sharing Map](#)

RSA provides a support staff of 12 full-time professionals.

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

RAILS vs RSA

How are these Organizations Different?



What are the differences?

RAILS is a regional library system, a government agency that provides services to libraries in the northern and west-central areas of the state of Illinois.

RAILS is one of three state-funded regional library agencies in Illinois (the other two are the Illinois Heartland Library System and Chicago Public Library).



RSA is a library automation consortium. Effective July 1st, 2024, it will become a government agency. It will continue to provide shared ILS services to libraries in central and west central Illinois.

RSA is one of six LLSAP (Local Library System Automation Project) consortia which receive grant support from RAILS.

RAILS is governed by a 12-member board, elected by member libraries.



RSA is governed by a 12-member board, made up of Directors and Supervisors from RSA libraries. They are elected by RSA member libraries.

RAILS is a multitype library system serving more than 1,250 libraries, including academic, public, school, and specialized libraries.



RSA is a multitype library automation consortium serving 142 member libraries at 188 sites, including academic, public, school, and specialized libraries.

All member libraries must comply with requirements as defined by Administrative Code Rules, Illinois Library System Act ([23 Ill.Admin. Code 3030.200](#)).



All members must sign the IGA establishing RSA, and abide by the bylaws and policies adopted by the RSA Board of Directors. They must also pay applicable membership dues and optional per-library service fees.

RAILS receives most of its budget through the Illinois State Library, a part of the Illinois Secretary of State's Office.



RSA receives funding from its member libraries and from the annual RAILS LLSAP Support Grant.

RAILS members do not pay dues to be part of the system.



RSA members pay annual fees to be part of the consortium. Fees are used to pay staff, automation vendors, for database services, and other associated fees.

RAILS has around 80 staff members based out of five locations around northern Illinois. Around half of RAILS' staff members are involved with interlibrary loan delivery services.



RSA has 12 staff members currently employed by RAILS through the LLSAP Support Grant agreement. RSA will begin employing staff directly starting in July 2025.

Contacting RSA

Phone
866-940-4083
or
309-315-9123

Email
help@librariesofrsa.org

After-hours support
provided for system-
down issues

Phone
866-940-4083
or
309-315-9123

email
help@librariesofrsa.org

Monday - Friday | 8am - 5pm

[Help Desk Ticket](#)

[Report Request](#)

[Visit Request](#)

RSA Governance and Communication

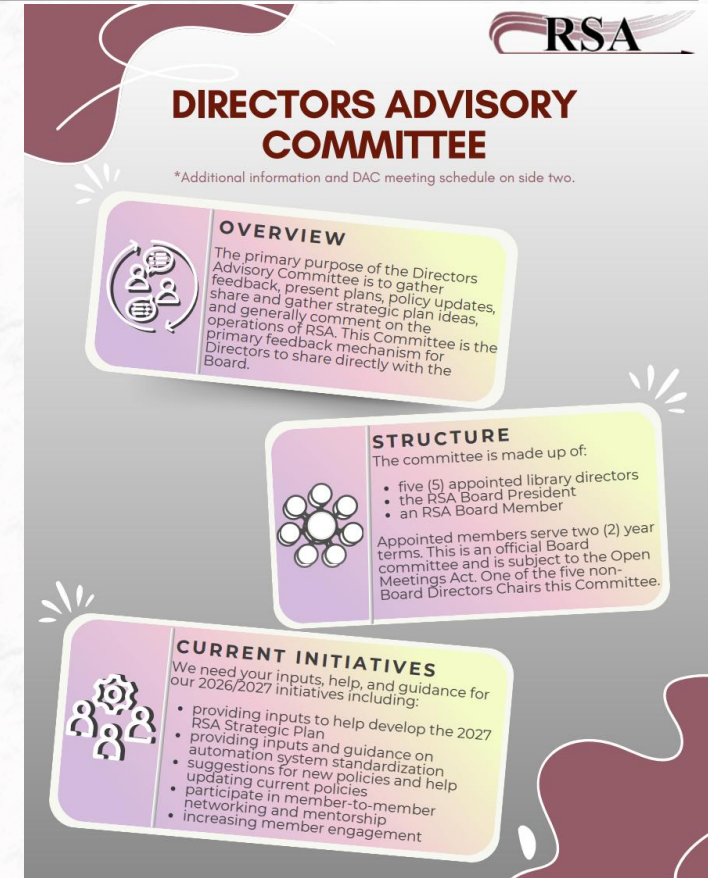
Directors Advisory Committee (DAC)

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.

Email Forums

Dedicated RSA email - RSA controlled and owned email accounts.

Monthly E-Newsletter



DIRECTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Additional information and DAC meeting schedule on side two.

OVERVIEW

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STRUCTURE

The committee is made up of:

- five (5) appointed library directors
- the RSA Board President
- an RSA Board Member

Appointed members serve two (2) year terms. This is an official Board committee and is subject to the Open Meetings Act. One of the five non-Board Directors Chairs this Committee.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

We need your inputs, help, and guidance for our 2026/2027 initiatives including:

- providing inputs to help develop the 2027 RSA Strategic Plan
- providing inputs and guidance on automation system standardization
- suggestions for new policies and help updating current policies
- participate in member-to-member networking and mentorship
- increasing member engagement

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
- [BLUEcloud Circulation](#) Web-based circulation software suited for off-site services
- [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 included with your RSA membership fee: [The Palace Project](#) digital books app
- Syncs to Workflows
 - Libby, Kanopy, Hoopla, Envisionware etc.
- [Data, stats, and instructions for board and state reporting](#) also sent to the RSA provided email
- [Custom and interactive data](#) through BLUEcloud Analytics
 - [Report request](#)
- [Open Access Resources](#) through RSACat
- [Automated patron email notices and text notifications](#)
- [MobileStaff app](#) for staff use on library-owned mobile device
- [Syndetics readers advisory resources](#)

Helpful Websites

RSA Support Site	RAILS RAILS New Director checklist	L2 Library Directory and Learning Calendar	IPLAR/ILLINET
Illinois Library Service Area Map	Illinois State Library Illinois Reliable Information Sources	Illinois Library Association	Overdrive Marketplace (login required)
Media Literacy Resources	WorldCat First Search (login required)	RAILS Continuing Education	KDL What's Next Books in Series
Unite Against Book Bans	eRead Illinois – The Palace Project	The Palace Project Resources	RA For All
	EBSCO database package information	IMLS Data	Book Riot
Learn Free 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 – RSA offers bulk entry of students by graduation year

[School-specific Operations Handbook](#)

[RAILS School Resources](#)

[SLATE School Data Dashboard](#)

[Can't Shelve This school library podcast](#)

[EBSCO databases](#)

[What schools need to know about book bans and grants](#)

*Notes on The Palace Project for schools

Is the Palace Project SOPPA Compliant?

Yes, The Palace Project's vendor, Lyrisis, has completed an originating NDPA with a school district in Illinois. To access the IL NDPA Exhibit E, please visit the [SDPC website](#).

What authentication methods are available to school libraries?

School libraries that are part of a catalog consortium like RSA can authenticate via their ILS. User barcode and PIN is required for login.

Does The Palace Project work on Chromebooks?

Yes, ebook and eaudiobook content can be read on a Chromebook.