

SWAN: The Year to Come

Friday, August 21, 2026
Closing session SWAN Expo



What is coming up in
the next year?

SWAN Governing Board Update

Zach Musil, Board
president, Tinley
Park Public Library
Director

Ridgeway Burns,
Board vice-
president, Itasca
Community
Library

- Reviewing policies
- Legal updates on SWAN membership participation & OMA
- Strategic planning process
 - Completed membership events in-person & online
 - Retreat with board

Search for ILS & Analytics solutions

Overseeing Request For Proposals (RFP) process

- Guidance
- Inclusive
- Thoughtful

Planned website updates



Coming soon! Portal to track the ILS Search, including news, demos, timeline, and more



Add to Calendar button, so you can add upcoming meetings straight to your calendar



Enhanced search and filtering

eBook legislation

- Digital Library Protection Act
- House Bill 5236
- Passed 99-0 in House
- Awaiting Senate committee assignment



Illinois bill would stop publishers from charging libraries more than public for e-books and audiobooks



Jeff Bear walks through the audiobooks section at Northbrook Public Library on April 22, 2026. (Josh Boland/Chicago Tribune)



By **JACK O'CONNOR** | jaoconnor@chicagotribune.com | Chicago Tribune

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Third-party vendor database

Vendors currently working with SWAN			
Search third-party vendors			
Apply			
Platform	Parent company	Description	Authentication method
ABC-CLIO	Bloomsbury Publishing	ABC-CLIO is an educational publisher and database provider that offers curriculum-focused reference resources, historical content, and research tools for schools, libraries, and academic institutions.	OpenAthens
ABCmouse	Age of Learning Inc.	ABCMouse delivers research-validated curriculum for preschool through 2nd grade. Features 13,000+ learning activities across reading, math, science, art, and social studies.	TLS-SIP2
AtoZdatabases	DatabaseUSA	Detailed information on 65 million businesses and executives and 2 million new businesses. Includes data on over 240 million residents as well as new movers/ homeowners.	OpenAthens
Biblioboard	Lyrisis	Palace Project Adjacent?	SirsiDynix Web Services
Bibliotheca		Self-Service RFID Material Handling Acquired 3M Library Division	TLS-SIP2
Brainfuse	Brainfuse	HelpNow, JobNow, CollegeNow, VetNow Brainfuse offers resources and live help for homework help, job seekers, veterans and college applicants.	OpenAthens
Capira	OCLC	Mobile App	SirsiDynix Web Services

- **Phase 1** launched this year, in the **Before You Buy** page to help you find vendors already working with SWAN and how they authenticate
- **Phase 2** will allow libraries to check off the vendors they use to help you connect and share

Single sign-on for SWAN Online Learning



- We are getting closer to one login for all SWAN staff resources!
- Currently working with our vendor to implement single sign-on for our online learning management platform.
- Staff will no longer need to make a separate account or wait for approval – new staff will be able to dive right in with their L2 login.

Looking Ahead: Illinois Reliable Information Sources (IRIS) Databases in Aspen

One initiative: IRIS databases are added to Aspen as Web Resources on the shared SWAN catalog, with geo-location controlling access for anyone in Illinois

How it works

- Each IRIS database is added to Aspen as a Web Resource
- Geo-location, set up via the SWAN account, is the access rule: it tells EBSCO when a patron is physically inside Illinois
- These Web Resources aren't scoped to specific member libraries — they exist on the shared SWAN catalog for all Illinoisans
- In-library or in-state patrons get automatic access

Status

1

Configured

IRIS databases set up as Aspen Web Resources on the shared SWAN catalog; geo-location controls access statewide.

2

In testing

Access and the on-screen experience are being validated on the test Aspen instance.

3

Go-live (next)

Move to production — benefiting all Illinoisans, not just member library patrons.

Sneak Peek: Statewide Databases in Aspen

A first look at Illinois State Library databases, configured as Web Resources directly in the Aspen catalog

The screenshot displays the SWAN Library Services website. At the top left is the SWAN logo, featuring a stylized swan head in a teal circle next to the text "SWAN LIBRARY SERVICES". In the top right corner, there is a "Languages & Display" link with a gear icon. Below the header, a navigation bar contains a home icon, "Find Your Library" with a location pin icon, "Online Resources" with a cloud icon, and a "Sign in" button with a right-pointing arrow and a hamburger menu icon. A teal search bar spans the width of the page, containing a magnifying glass icon, a search input field, a "Keyword" dropdown menu, an "in Library Catalog" dropdown menu, and a "Search" button with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, a breadcrumb trail reads "Catalog Home » Home » Resources". The main content area is titled "Research & Learn" and "Featured Resources". It displays four resource tiles: "EBSCO Discovery Service" (teal border), "EBSCO eBooks" (orange border), "NoveList" (red border), and "NoveList K-8" (purple border). At the bottom left, there is a blue button labeled "Resources A to Z" with a link icon. At the bottom right, there is a teal circular button with a white upward-pointing arrow. The section "Resources by Category" is partially visible at the bottom.



MessageBee Enhancements

Upcoming MessageBee features in the next 6-12 months:

- Accessibility Checker for e-mail notices
- Optional Drag-and-Drop e-mail editor
 - Improved self-service control of e-mail look and feel
 - Unlock option to bring Aspen content into communications, such as Lists

ReportsTransactionalMarketingPatron ServicesAdminSMSPublic Library

CampaignsLatest AcquisitionsCommunication - Latest Acquisitions May

Subject
Check out the latest books at your library!

Last sync: 8/19/2026, 10:05:08 AMSend CommunicationSave

ElementLayer

DefaultUniversal

Standard Content

Text

Image

Video

QR code

Button

Divider

Spacer

Navbar

Social

Hero

Table

Calendar Events

Catalog Content

desktopmobile

Catalog Content

Staff Picks: Maple Library

The Most

DON'T OPEN YOUR EYES

KRISTIN HANNAH THE WOMEN

ABBY JIMENEZ Life's too Short

APARTMENT WOMEN

BRING UP THE BODIES

CORMAC MCCARTHY BLOOD MERIDIAN

RICHARD OSMAN The Bullet That Missed

View All Books

Holiday Crafts for Kids

Crafts for Kids

Catalog Content

DesktopMobileDisplay

Catalog Content

Discovery PlatformAspen

Number of Items10

Displays up to 10 items. Fewer may show depending on the source.

List TitleStaff Picks: Maple Library

Show Book Titles

Selected ListStaff Picks: Maple Library7 books in list

Change ListRefresh

Last updated: 8/19/2026, 10:05:18 AM

Content Layout

Book Title Style

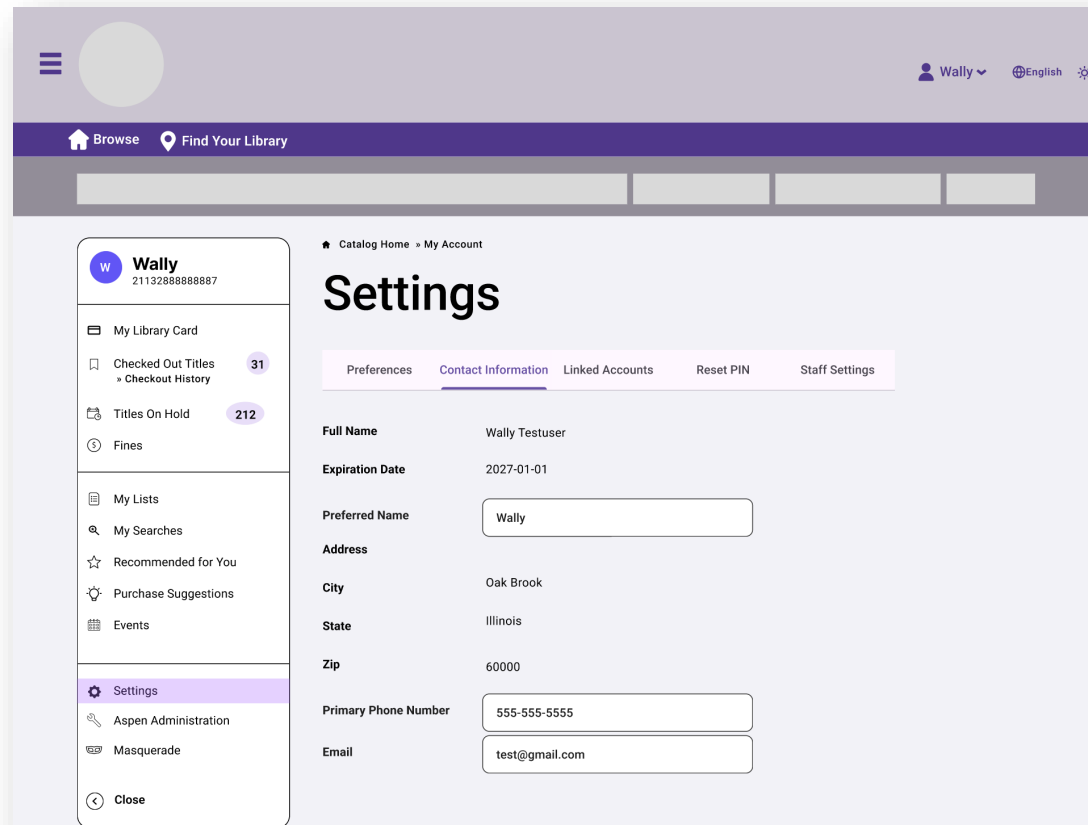
List Title Style

View All Button

BLUEcloud Analytics Private Intelligence Server

- Migration completed in Summer 2026
- Next steps:
 - Standardize user permissions across all libraries
 - Evaluate unused permissions for possible rollout
 - Explore report dashboards for on-the-fly collections and circulation statistics
- Other Private Intelligence Features:
 - Improved back-end subscription management
 - Usage reporting to identify high-demand reports
 - Additional data import capabilities

On the roadmap for Aspen Discovery



- Usability and visual display updates to My Account (DUX)
- Improvements to automatic recommendations based on holds, star ratings, etc.
- Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) for the web catalog and the app
- View a movie preview in the catalog
- And lots more!



LiDA: SWAN Libraries + app updates

- Lots of improvements to app speed and performance.
- Launch scan-and-go, the self-check feature in the app.
- In very early planning for a built-in e-reader in the app.

Awards

Honoring SWAN employees

Angela Pucket

**22 years
7 months
service**

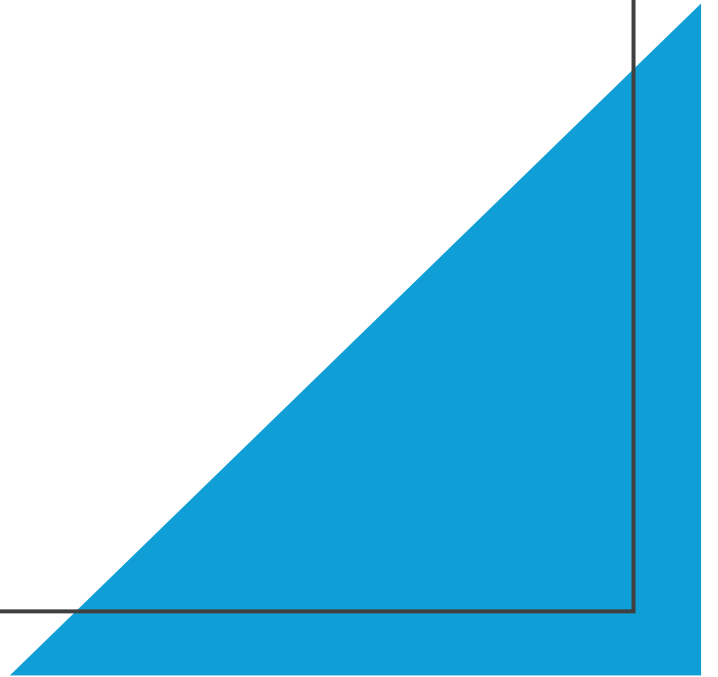
Dave Pacin

**24 years
11
months
service**

Mary Alice
Buckley

**40 years
8 months
service**

Up next...Win
Prizes!



SWAN Expo 2026 Feedback Form

