



SWAN Quarterly Meeting

December 4, 2025

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Welcome
2. Public Comment
3. Introduction of new directors
4. Approval of minutes September
5. Online patron registration update

7. Year in Review
8. The Palace Project & eRead Illinois
9. Next year's budget & timeline
10. ISLAC, PPC, & RAILS
11. Announcements

Online patron registration

Scott Brandwein, Assistant Director

Patron Point Verify Statistics



Fully live since August 26th



4,274 card registrations (as of 11/30/2025)



18% of total card registrations (up from 11% in first month)

Success Statistics



Success rate: 48%



1,785 duplicates (20% of attempts)



2,886 rejected for other reasons (32% of attempts)

Rejection Reasons

Reason	Count
Age	135
Identity	1,814 (20% of total attempts*)
Geofence	843 (tracked starting mid-October)
Invalid Address	90 (tracked starting mid-October)
ILS Rejected	4 (due to errors since fixed)

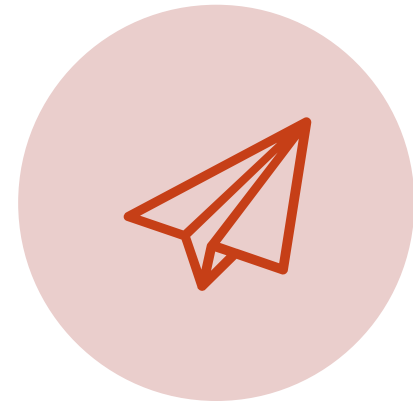
Up Next...



SPANISH AND POLISH REGISTRATION
FORMS AND E-MAILS
(DECEMBER 2025)



ON-DEMAND REPORTS
(LIVE – ON REQUEST)

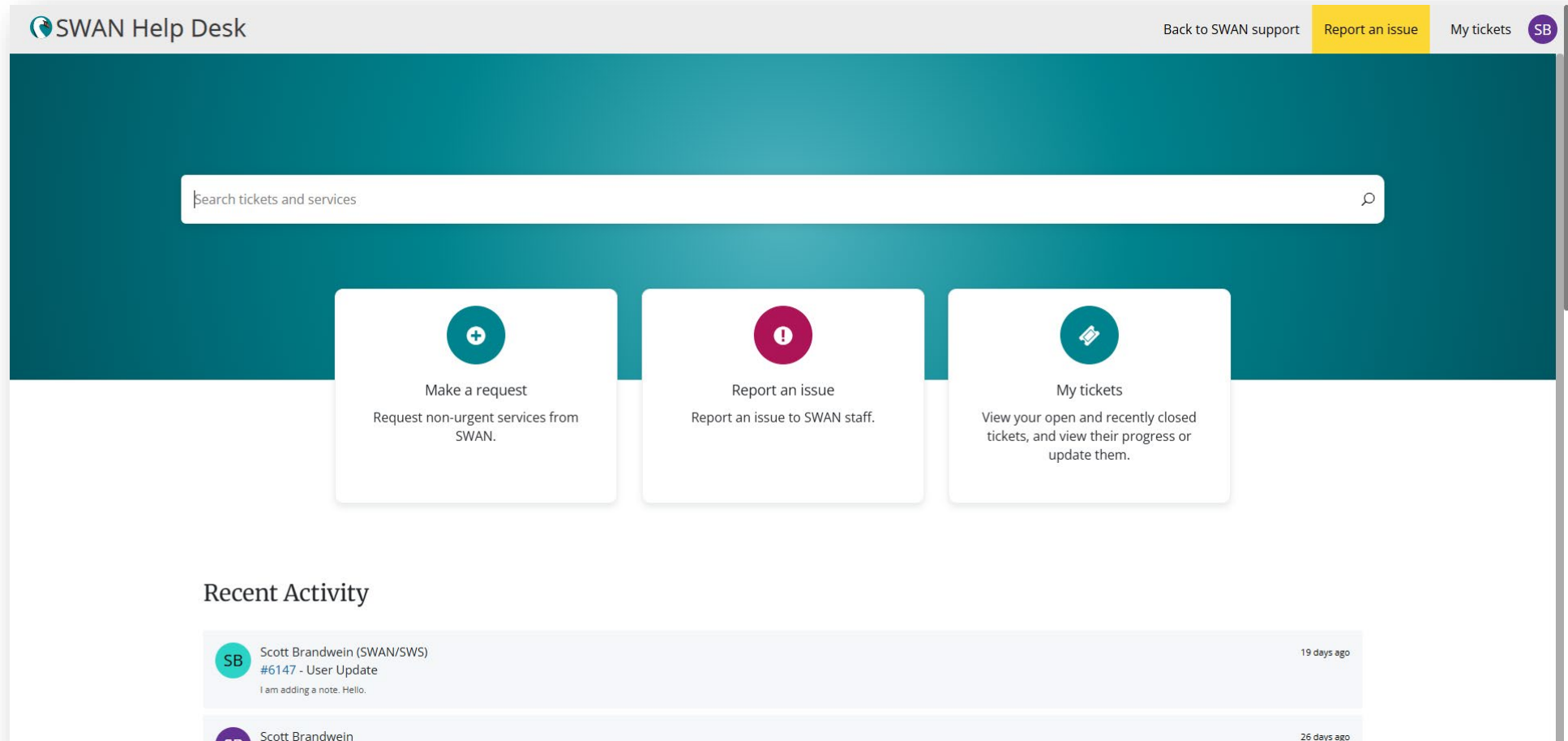


MONITORING OF REGISTRATION
SUCCESS RATE AND E-MAIL CLICK-
THROUGH

Year in Review


Scott Brandwein, SWAN Assistant Director

HaloITSM Launch



Single Sign-on

- Community forums
- Help Desk
- Support site (December 9th!)
- BLUEcloud Staff (TBD)




Hello Scott

Please enter your password below:

...

Password



Sign On


Sign On with L2

[Forgot Password](#)

[Not you? Switch Accounts](#)

Aspen Discovery

- Novelist Select sunsetting
- Aspen Series implementation
- Library of Things scoping

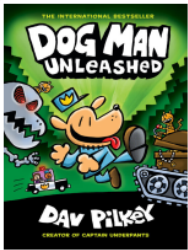


1) **Dog Man**
Author [Pilkey, Dav](#)
Volume 1
Earliest Publication Date 2016

[Graphic Novel](#) [On Shelf](#) [Place Hold](#)
[Show Edition](#) [Where is it?](#)

George and Harold create a new comic book hero in Dog Man, a crimefighter with the head of a police dog and the body of a policeman, who faces off against his archnemesis Petey the cat.

[More Info](#) [Add to List](#)



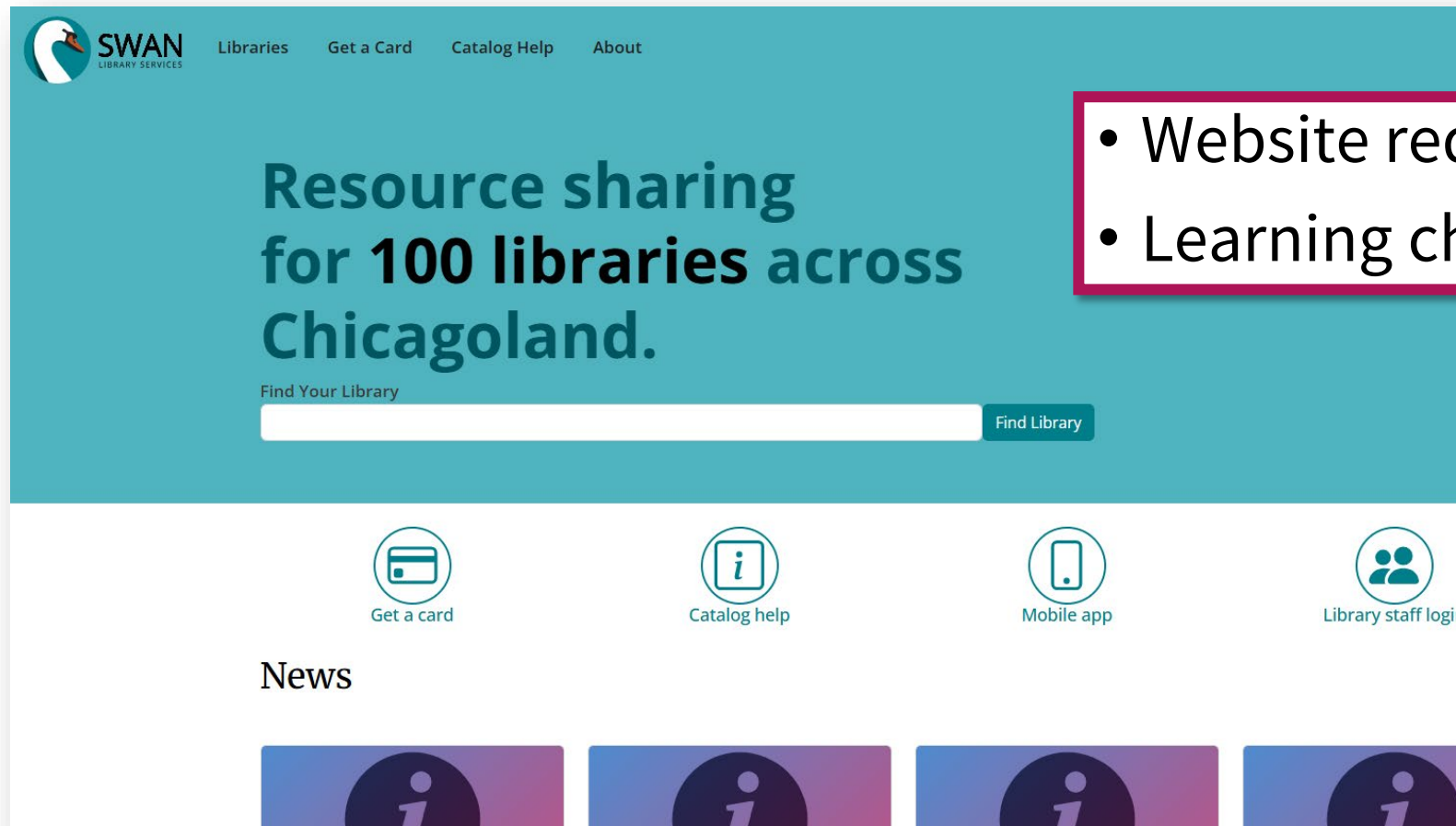
2) **Dog Man unleashed**
Author [Pilkey, Dav](#)
Volume 2
Earliest Publication Date 2016

[Graphic Novel](#) [On Shelf](#) [Place Hold](#)
[Show Edition](#) [Where is it?](#)

Dog Man, a crimefighter with the head of a police dog and the body of a policeman, faces off against his archnemesis Petey the cat.

[More Info](#) [Add to List](#)

Support Site Updates



- Website redesign
- Learning checklist development

Online Patron Registration

Get a Card

Bookmark

View

Edit

Outline

Delete

Add another

Revisions

Sign up for a library card to access books, movies, online resources, and more.

By registering for a card, you agree to all the terms and conditions.

I understand I am responsible for this card and all materials checked out on this card until this card is reported lost or missing. I am further responsible for any charges that may result from late return, loss, or damage of materials borrowed.

Register an adult

Register a child

Complete the information below to apply for a card.

Email Address *

First Name *

Middle Name

Last Name *

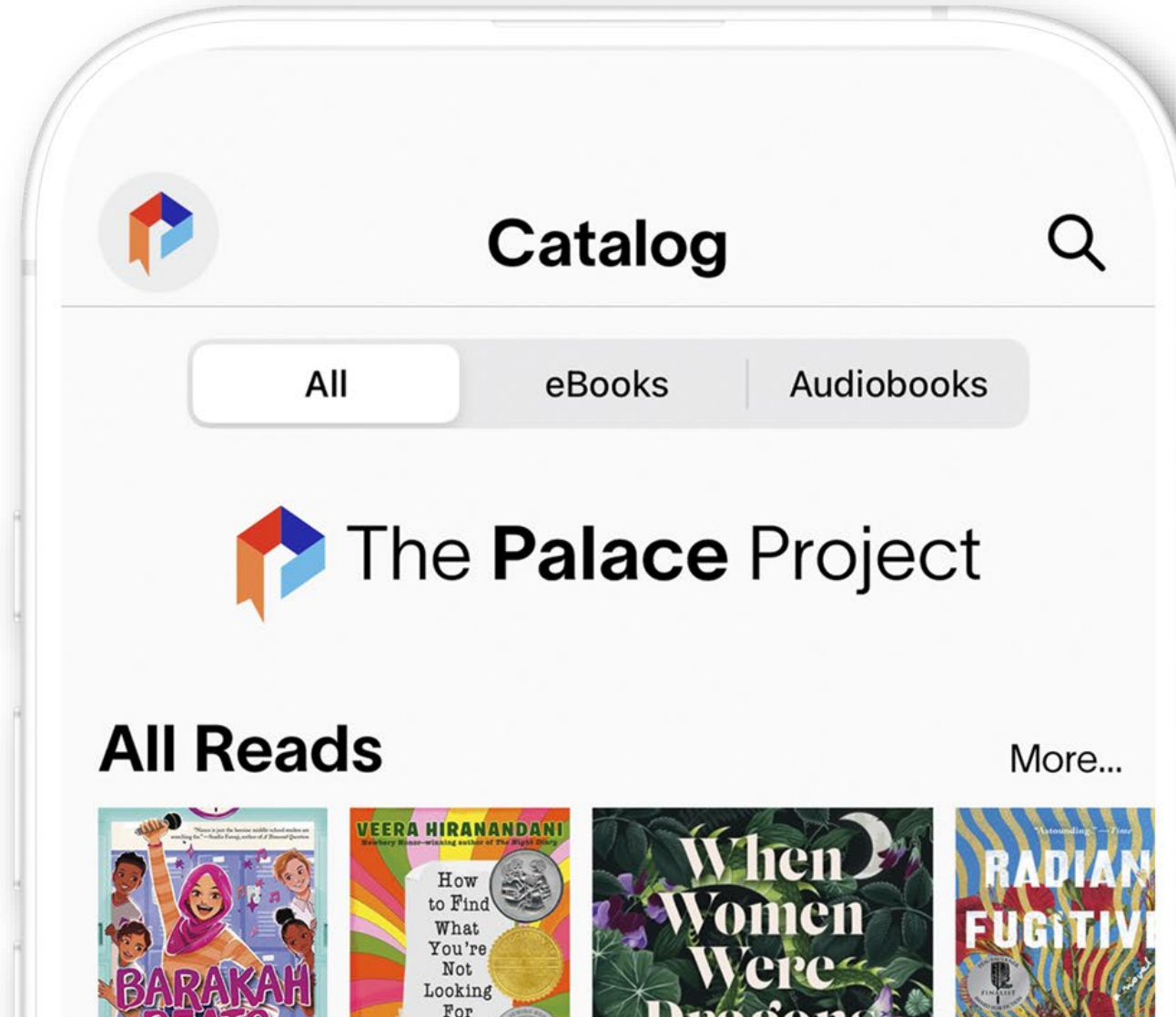
Address *

Residential address required, PO BOX not accepted

MobileStaff Kits



Palace Project Implementation



Internal Projects



Disaster Recovery
Plan



Cybersecurity
Assessment



Environmental
Scan Task Force



Backstage Library
Works



Aspen Support
Migration



Aspen Governance
Task Force

eRead Illinois migration to The Palace Project

Olivia Montolin, SWAN E-Resources Consultant

What is Palace Project?

- The mission is to help strengthen your library's vital role as the digital center of your community with unique programs and software solutions.
- The project vision is to build a digital future for and with libraries
- To support libraries in their missions to maximize access to all econtent, increase literacy, and reduce the equity gap.
- The only not-for-profit, library-driven ebooks marketplace

What is included in with Palace Project?



Mobile application for
iOS and Android



Administrative Portal,
or “Collection
Manager”

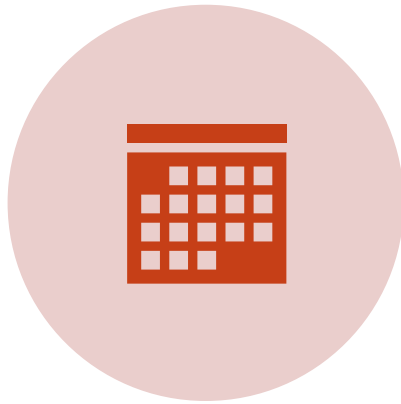


Marketplace



Bookshelf

What problem can Palace Project solve?



ALL-IN-ONE APP



FLEXIBLE LICENSING TERMS
FROM MARKETPLACE



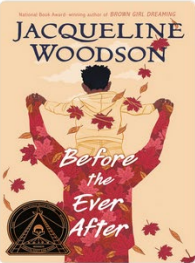
ALLEVIATE HOLD QUEUES

Palace Project Marketplace – Licensing Options

- Perpetual use, one-at-a-time lends
 - Perpetual access means that titles will appear in the library's collection for years to come, a one-time fee with no need to renew the license on an annual or bi-annual basis
- Simultaneous-use, unlimited, and/or perpetual
- Bundles of 40 licenses, with 10 concurrent lends
- Bundles of 5 licenses, with 5 concurrent lends
 - Bite-sized offering
 - Lower overall license cost, with higher cost-per-circ

Palace Project Marketplace - Comparison

OverDrive



Before the Ever After
by Jacqueline Woodson

From **\$17.50**

MA: 12 months (one user)
\$17.50

MA: 24 months (one user)
\$35.00

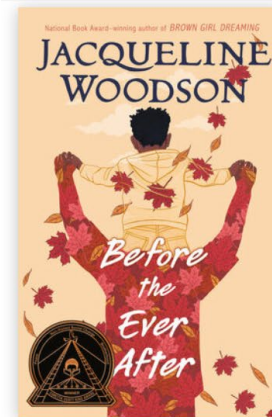
Unit(s): [Add to cart](#) [Future Titles](#)

Also available: [Cost Per Circ \\$3.50](#)

Ebook
Kindle, OverDrive Read, EPUB

5 Reviews

Palace Project



Before the Ever After

by [Jacqueline Woodson](#) (Author)

Fiction Juvenile & young adult Themes Health & daily living
Diseases, illnesses & injuries Sports & recreation Football Family Parents

EPUB	Unlimited loans, 2 years, One at a time	Details	\$USD 35.00	-	0	+
EPUB	Unlimited loans, 1 year, One at a time	Details	\$USD 17.50	-	0	+
EPUB	1 loans, One at a time	Details	\$USD 3.50	-	0	+

Timeline for transition



November 17

Boundless app retired



November 17 – December 2

Migration of eRead content



December 2 – 4

Go live! Libraries will be discoverable in the Palace Project app throughout this week



December 2025

Palace Project integration will be set in library catalogs

Support for Palace Project

SWAN is responsible for the following:



- Patron authentication for the Palace Project app



- Integrating Palace Project (eRead Illinois collection) content into Aspen and in the SWAN Libraries+ app



- Working with Overdrive and Lyrasis for integrating additional e-content in the Palace Project app

Questions and training sessions

- Technical issues with the Palace Project app: support@palaceproject.org
- Questions about the eRead collection: ereadillinois@railslibraries.org
- 2025 Boundless Transition FAQ page: <https://ereadillinois.com/transition>
- Palace Project training sessions: <https://railslibraries.org/news/124645>

Next year's SWAN budget & timeline

Aaron Skog, SWAN Executive Director

Budget timeline

DATE	MEETING TYPE	ACTION ITEMS
Thursday, December 4, 2025	Quarterly	Announce budget process.
Friday, December 12, 2025	Finance Committee Meeting	Review of budget draft
Friday, December 19, 2025	Regular SWAN Board Meeting	Review of budget draft
Friday, January 23, 2026	Regular SWAN Board Meeting	Review and recommend draft of SWAN Budget for Membership presentation. Set COW date for February for membership review.
January 2025 [TBD]	SWANcom	Aaron Skog/Board announcement of draft budget to membership. Announce February COW date and possible location of meeting.
February 3, 2026	COW Membership Meeting	Meeting to discuss budget, fees, and reserves worksheet.
Friday, February 20, 2026	Regular SWAN Board Meeting	Incorporate changes and suggestions to SWAN budget. Create recommendation to membership.
Thursday, March 5, 2026	Quarterly	Roll call vote to approve SWAN budget.

ISLAC, ILA, & RAILS update

Monica Harris, RAILS Executive Director

Ted Bodewes, Thomas Ford Memorial Library & ISLAC representative

Aaron Skog, SWAN Executive Director

ILA Legislative agenda & Illinois public libraries by the numbers



Illinois Library Association
**LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE
MEETUPS**

104th Illinois General Assembly | 2026 Spring Session |

Fund Libraries

Fully fund Fiscal Year 2026 state appropriations for the Illinois Secretary of State's grant programs, equalization grants, and per capita grants for public libraries, school libraries, and library systems. Approve appropriations for the Illinois State Library and higher education institutions including state university and community college academic libraries for the benefit of students, their families, and our communities. Increase the per capita and per student grant rates for public libraries and school libraries, respectively, to keep pace with increased expenses libraries will incur throughout the year.

Library System Area & Per Capita Grants/Public Per Capita & School District Grants Inflationary Adjustments

PPC received a proposal to adjust library and related grants to account for inflationary economic conditions. As noted in the proposal, "without an inflation adjustment, these vital funding mechanisms lose value over time, impacting library operations and services." Grants in these areas have been held flat for the past five fiscal years; we seek appropriate adjustment of grant line funding amounts.



Illinois Library Association
560 W. Washington Blvd, Suite 330
Chicago, IL 60661
e: ila@ila.org w: ila.org

[f @ILLibraryAssoc](https://www.facebook.com/ILLibraryAssoc) [X @illlibraryassoc](https://www.instagram.com/illlibraryassoc) [i illlibraryassoc](https://www.instagram.com/illlibraryassoc) [in Illinois Library Association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/illinois-library-association) [t @illlibraryassoc](https://www.tiktok.com/@illlibraryassoc) [@illlibraryassoc.bsky.social](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk1y1y1y1y1y1y1y1y1y1y1)

Require Public Library Trustee Training

The legislative proposal submitted requires public library trustees to undergo training each year. The PPC found this to be a smart, proactive step for a representative of local government to be best prepared as a trustee. It would set a shared understanding of the role of a public library trustee.

Open Educational Resources Funding Grant

CARLI's Open Educational Resources (OER) Committee presented its proposal for funding OER to address rising textbook costs that are creating an equity gap in higher education. PPC supports the \$3 million proposal to support faculty in creating OER materials. CARLI received a \$2 million US Department of Education Open Textbooks Pilot Grant, 2021-26; and a \$300,000 grant to administer the FY24 \$3 million Secretary of State/Illinois State Library grant. By the Spring 2026 semester, 219 classes have used or will be using the no-cost learning materials created by the two grants. Impact data is still being gathered. The OER funding would be part of the Secretary of State budget, a recurring \$3 million grant, and would be available to all schools in higher education per ILLINET.

Making eBooks Equitable & Accessible

The cost of eBooks to Illinois libraries is an ongoing and growing concern as libraries respond to user demand. PPC recommends taking legislative action to help libraries address the cost and limited terms of e-content.

Illinois Public Libraries by the Numbers FY2024



Illinois has **640** Public libraries with a service area population of **11,807,164**.*

4,019,072 Illinois residents have library cards, about **32%**.



Illinoisans checked out **990,685,270** materials – that's **7** per resident or **23** per card holders.

E-books, e-audiobooks, and e-videos were downloaded **16,763,660** times.



Illinois residents visited libraries **36,260,689** times.

4,096,023 Illinoisans attended **218,009** library programs either in person or virtually.



Illinois residents connected to library Wi-Fi **23,703,627** times.

Illinois libraries do all this for only **\$72** per person!



Illinois Library Association
560 W. Washington Blvd, Suite 330 Chicago, IL 60661
o: 312-644-1897 f: 312-644-1899 w: ila.org

*1 Million Illinois residents do not have public library services.

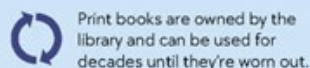
2026 legislative agenda: Making eBooks equitable & affordable

Why can't my library buy more e-books and audiobooks?

e-book and digital audiobook costs are too high for libraries, and access is limited.

It's unsustainable for libraries to continue to purchase digital content this way.

Publishers put limits on library e-books & e-audiobooks



Print books are owned by the library and can be used for decades until they're worn out.

e-Books and digital audiobooks are licensed—libraries don't own them. Plus, publishers put limits on how long the content can be used:

1 or 2 years or 26 or 52 checkouts

Once that limit is reached, libraries need to re-purchase the license at the same inflated price if they want to keep offering it to their community.

e-Content usage is increasing

In 2024, a mid-size, suburban public library saw:

25%

increase in e-book circulation

15%

increase in audiobook circulation

Source: Warren-Newport Public Library

They're free for patrons to use, but not free for libraries to offer.

An average e-book costs a library 3.9x more than what you would pay to buy it on your Kindle.



Source: ReadersFirst

The cost per circulation of an electronic title is 3.7x higher than a physical title.



Source: Fremont Public Library

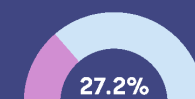
Let's see some real-time examples:

*Library costs reflect single user, 2-year limit agreement

Format	Consumer Cost	Library Cost
	\$32.00	\$32.00
	\$16.99	\$67.99
	\$19.99	\$84.99

Format	Consumer Cost	Library Cost
	\$32.00	\$29.00
	\$14.99	\$55.00
	\$14.99	\$95.00

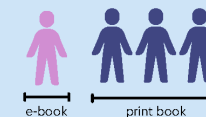
Sources: TS360, The Palace Marketplace, Amazon, and Apple Books



Source: LibraryJournal

Libraries spend nearly one-third of their budget on digital content so their patrons can enjoy these popular titles.

Three people could check out the same print book for less than the cost of a single e-book checkout.



How does this affect my community?

Hold wait lists will get even longer
Your wait times will increase

You'll have limited options
Libraries can't afford to buy the content your community wants

Libraries will reach their budget breaking point
Providing you with less for your tax dollars

Illinois is known for its leadership in support of libraries, but...

if publishers continue to control the terms of digital content for libraries, we'll see an erosion of resource sharing across the state. **We will lose one of the best things that makes Illinois stand out in the national library landscape.**

How you can help



Support future legislative efforts from the Illinois Library Association (ILA) to address the cost and limited terms of e-content.

www.ila.org/advocacy/legislative-issues/illinois-legislative-issues

This document was produced by Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) in cooperation with Illinois Library Association (ILA).

LIBRARIES **WIN IN COURT**

FEDERAL COURT ISSUES
PERMANENT INJUNCTION
IN RHODE ISLAND V. TRUMP,
STOPS THE DISMANTLING
OF THE INSTITUTE OF
MUSEUM AND LIBRARY
SERVICES



- The court ruled that **all actions** taken by the Administration to dismantle IMLS are **nullified**.

- This injunction takes **immediate nationwide effect**: all grants, in every state and territory.

- The Administration is stopped from taking these actions again **in the future**.



- Illinois State Library Advisory Committee

- eBook issues
- Standards & Per Capita forms
- Equalization grants budget increase
- Statewide OCLC contract

- RAILS CE event on libraries & immigration enforcement
- eRead Illinois migration to Palace Project

ILA Public Policy Committee: Study groups

- FOIA
- eBook Legislation
- Library Records Confidentiality Act
- PPRT
- Public Library trustee training

Announcements & Questions