

**CLIFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
PROPOSED AGENDA FOR 2/11/2026  
7:00 PM**

- 1. WELCOME**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- 4. LITTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY FINAL REPORT**
- 5. TREASURER'S REPORT**
- 6. BILLS AND INVOICES**
- 7. LIBRARY UPDATE**
- 8. COMMUNICATIONS – Illinois Heartland Library System**
- 9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - A. Village Board Meeting**
  - B. Library Update**
- 10. NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. LIBRARY REPORT – Tia Varnes**
- 11. UPDATE ACCOUNTS AT FIRST TRUST**
- 12. MISCELLANEOUS**
- 13. ADJOURNMENT**
  - A. Next Tentative Meeting Date March 11, 2026**

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CLIFTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

1/14/2026

**1. Welcome**

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Board Members: Sara Faulkner, Brenda Jensen, Carol LeClaire, Vicky Shell, Liz Wauthier were present at the 1/14/2026 Clifton Public Library Board meeting. Called to order at 7:02 pm. Tia Varnes, Head Library Clerk was also present.

**3. SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Meeting minutes from 11/25/2025 were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Brenda, seconded by Sara. Minutes were approved.

**4. CPL STAFF EVALUATIONS**

Evaluations were completed and reviewed for 2025. A motion was made by Carol and seconded by Liz to approve the staff evaluations and authorize the raises for 2025.

**5. TREASURERS REPORT:**

	<u>11/30/2025</u>	<u>12/31/2025</u>
Checking	\$7,823.99	\$3,531.32
Savings	\$57,181.17	\$73,731.97
CD	\$15,560.45	\$15,684.98
Cash Drawer	\$50.00	\$50.00

Received Iroquois County tax disbursements of \$16,499.96 on 12/19/2025 and \$50.30 on 12/16/2025.

Carol made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Brenda. All approved.

**6. BILLS AND INVOICES:**

Income \$10.00 for lost book

Expense: \$5.00 for lost book, \$422.00 for Workers Compensation, \$750.00 for Liability Insurance, \$2,214.77 for Phone & Internet, and \$8.00 for Barcode fee  
\$3,399.77 Total expenses

A motion was made to approve the Bills and Invoices by Liz and seconded by Carol. Bills and invoices were approved.

**7. LIBRARY UPDATE:**

Library Board met with the owner of the old Mirror Images to see if the building could work as a library.

**8. COMMUNICATIONS:**

Illinois Heartland Library System newsletter sent out via email prior to meeting.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Village Board Meeting – Members of CPL Board will meet with some members of the Village Board to discuss the unpleasant odor in the library on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 9:00am in the library. Brenda moved and Sara approved and motion was carried.

**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Library Report – Tia Varns**

Tia reported that Brenda and Carol need to complete FOIA training.

Tia said she completed sorting the record disposal files and 14 boxes were shredded.

Fun/Fossils in November program cancelled; program Dino Dimensions event on November 24, 2025, at 5:00 pm – 17 adults/20 kids attended.

On December 13, 2025, Carol presented Christmas Crafts. 4 Adults and 7 kids attended.

Mario video game night was held on December 19, 2025, with 1 Adult, 3 kids and 1 teen attending.

January will have a Bluey theme night and February will be a Valentine's Day box decorating night.

Motion to approve the Library Report by Brenda, seconded by Liz, all approved.

**11. UPDATE ACCOUNTS AT FIRST TRUST:**

Tia and Vicky will go to First Trust and update the checking, savings, and CD to make Tia primary contact. Will also renew and update the credit card to Tia.

**12. MISCELLANEOUS:**

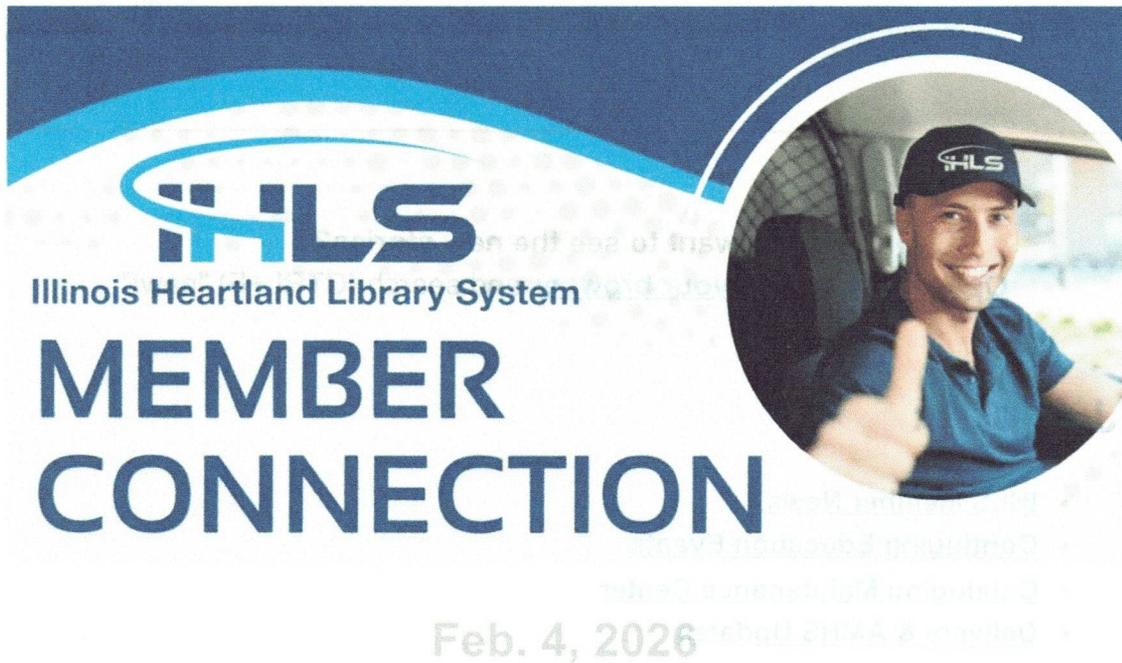
**13. ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm, move to adjourn by Carol, seconded by Brenda. Approved. The next meeting is February 11, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

**Respectfully submitted, Vicky Shell, President**

IHLS e-newsletter

[View in your browser](#)



**IHLS**  
Illinois Heartland Library System

# MEMBER CONNECTION

Feb. 4, 2026



## IHLS Board Nominations Closing Soon

**Time Is Running Out!**

**Deadline: Feb. 15, 2026**

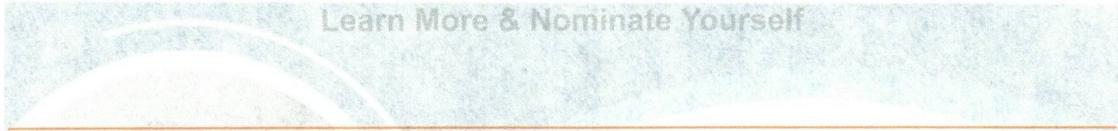
**NEW!**

Don't miss your chance to make a difference in your library system! Run for the IHLS Board of Directors! Whether you're a school library assistant, hospital librarian, archivist, or public library board president, your voice matters.

**We're accepting nominations for these representative types:**

- 1 Academic Library
- 2 Public Library Trustees
- 1 School Library

- 1 Special Library



Only want to see the new stories?

[Open this email in your browser](#) and search (CTRL+F) "new!"

### Jump To:

- [IHLS Member News](#)
- [Continuing Education Events](#)
- [Cataloging Maintenance Center](#)
- [Delivery & AMHS Updates](#)
- [Partner News](#)
- [Recurring Events](#)
- [Grants](#)
- [Discounts](#)
- [Have News to Share?](#)



IHLS Member News



Connect with Illinois library colleagues and IHLS on LinkedIn!

Find this design & more at



Proceeds fund the IHLS Marketing Microgrant for member libraries.

## New Designs in the IHLS Store

### The Youth Librarian – Library Tarot

NEW!

We have **two new designs** available in the IHLS store! We're excited to present line-art and negative-space versions of "**The Youth Librarian**," the latest design in our Library Tarot

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the following new library directors:

**Maleah Duvall**  
Director, Norris City Memorial PLD

series.

**Current Sale: 25% off everything Feb. 4 – 8!**

*Proceeds fund the marketing micro-grant for IHLS member libraries*

Shop the Store

## Mobile Memory Lab Demo: See a Digitization Project in Action

### Mascoutah Public Library

March 14, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

NEW!

See the Mobile Memory Lab in action as we capture high-quality digital images of historical materials. Learn how your library can preserve and share local history through digitization.

Register for the MML Demo



## Thank You to Our Member Day Sponsors!

Please join us in thanking these [sponsors](#) who make [IHLS Member Day](#) possible!

### Travis Givens

Director, Willow Branch Township Library

### Jon Havlin

Librarian, Calhoun CUSD #40

### Kathryn Olson

Librarian, St. Joseph-Ogden High School

### Calla Patton

Director, Tri-City PLD

### Laura Robey

Director, Arcola Public Library District

### Michelle West

Director, Hope Welty Public Library District

*Did we miss you? [Let us know](#), and we'll put you in our next newsletter!*

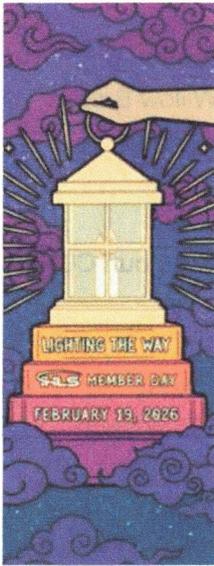
## Recurring Events



## Monthly, Each Third Thursday

Online Only  
10–11 a.m.

Join us online for CE from a guest speaker discussing relevant topics



- Platinum**
- [Lazerware, Inc.](#)
- [LibraryIQ](#)
- Gold**
- [Clarivate](#)
- [CloudLibrary](#), A Division of [OCLC](#)
- [LOTE4Kids](#)
- Silver**
- [HR Source](#)
- [Lyngsoe Systems](#)

in the library community.

No Event in February!

And then stay for...

**IHLS**  
**MEMBERS MATTER**  
 Membership Meeting & Forum

**Online Only**  
**11 a.m.–Noon.**

Join our Members Matter meetings to stay updated on the latest news and connect with peers.

No Event in February!

## SR 104 Advises Trustee Training

### Learn Online with iLEAD

#### Paid for by the Illinois State Library

Recently, the Illinois Senate adopted SR 104, highlighting the **importance of trustee training and support**. Start your free training online with the [iLEAD Trustee Learning Portal](#), sponsored by the Illinois State Library.

Contact [iLEAD Project Manager Leanne Furby](#) to get started!

## IHLS LIBRARY DIRECTORS' CHAT

**Thursdays 1–2 p.m.\***

*\*except each third Thursday*

#### Next Chats:

Feb. 5, 12, 26; March 5

Now hosted on [Campfire](#).

*Registration is required to receive event reminders and cancellation notices.*

## Introducing Scroll School

### Social Media Lessons Series

We're excited to launch [Scroll School](#), our new social media lesson series for libraries. Learn more on our [website](#)!

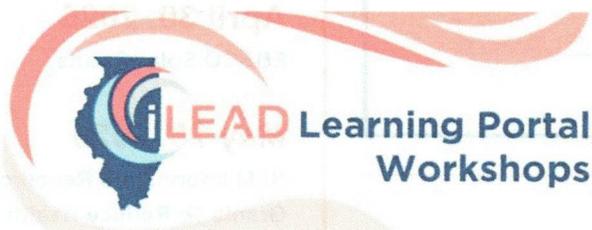
View All  
 Directors Chats

## IHLS Now on TikTok & Instagram

We're excited to announce our new presence on TikTok and Instagram! Learn more on [our website!](#)

## Write the Grant! Participants Accepted Congratulations to the Selected Participants

We are pleased to announce that nine staff members from IHLS member libraries will be participating in our pilot [Write the Grant!](#) virtual workshop facilitated by [Lesley Zavediuk](#). See the list of participants on [our website](#).



### Directors and Trustees: Attend an iLEAD Online Workshop

#### Multiple Dates & Times

#### Online—New Dates Added!

Are you a library trustee or director interested in helping your board reach **new heights of excellence in public service**? The **iLEAD Trustee Learning Portal** is here to help Illinois public library trustees learn the ins and outs of serving in the important government position of

## Grants

**NEW**

## GRANTS *in the* DATABASE

### STEM Action Grants

**Deadline: Feb. 15, 2026**

These grants fund efforts to enhance the public's understanding of science and increase participation in STEM.

### ISHRAB

### Historical

### Records Grant Program

**Deadline: March 13, 2026**

These grants help Illinois archival repositories and government agencies preserve and access historically important records.

## UPCOMING GRANT DEADLINES

**Feb. 5, 2026**

RRF Foundation for Aging – Direct Service Grants  
Dollar General – Adult Literacy Grants  
Dollar General – Family Literacy Grants  
Dollar General – Summer Reading Grants

public library trustee—for free, at their own pace, and on their schedule.

Attend an upcoming workshop to learn more and find out how to begin your iLEAD Trustee journey right away!

[Register for an iLEAD Workshop](#)

**Promote Your Job Openings with Us!**

**For Libraries in & Near Illinois**

Our Job Board is the perfect place to post your library job openings. With over 500 IHLS libraries and affiliates of other library organizations statewide, you can attract top talent to your library team.

[Post to the IHLS Library Job Board](#)

**Continuing Education Events**

**Cybersecurity Basics with Lazerware**

**A Webinar**  
**March 4, 10 a.m.**

**NEW!**  
 Lazerware staff discuss cybersecurity basics.

**Feb. 8, 2026**  
 Snapdragon Book Foundation

**Feb. 15, 2026**  
 STEM Action Grants

**March 1, 2026**  
 The Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced With Adversity

**March 13, 2026**  
 ISHRAB Historical Records Grant Program

**March 31, 2026**  
 T-Mobile Hometown Grants

**April 14, 2026**  
 Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program

**April 15, 2026**  
 Walmart – Spark Good Local Grants

**April 30, 2026**  
 EBSCO Solar Grants

**May 25, 2026**  
 NLM Information Resource Grants To Reduce Health Disparities and Promote Health For All

**June 30, 2026**  
 Mission Telecom – Matching E-Rate Discount/Protecting Affordable Wi-Fi  
 T-Mobile Hometown Grants

**July 15, 2026**  
 Walmart – Spark Good Local Grants

**Sept. 30, 2026**  
 T-Mobile Hometown Grants

Register for Cybersecurity



## Leading Through Change

### A Library HR Webinar

**Monday, March 16, 10 a.m.**

**Register by March 12, 5 p.m.**

NEW!

Lead staff through organizational change efforts with confidence. This webinar focuses on both the planning required to lead successful change and the best strategies for handling each stage of the change process.

*Organized by IHLS & RAILS and led by the experts at HR Source.*

Register for Leading Through Change

## Save the Date: More in the Library HR Series

### Presented by HR Source

**Cost: Free to IHLS & RAILS Members**

NEW!

If you manage other staff, you won't want to miss this! We're partnering with RAILS to sponsor HR Source webinars designed to help participants recruit, train, and retain staff. All members and staff of the regional library systems are invited.

**Oct. 15, 2026**

**Walmart – Spark Good Local Grants**

See the Grants Database

Discounts

## NEW & RENEWED VENDOR DISCOUNTS

### Computers in Libraries Conference

**Group Rates for ILLINET Members**

NEW!

Computers in Libraries 2026 will be held March 17-19, 2026.

### Comics Plus

**IHLS Members Get 15% Off**

With Comics Plus, you'll get unlimited, simultaneous access to 27,000+ titles with no patron limits or collection management required.

State Library, using funds provided by the IMLS under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

Learn More About DU Advanced

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## Continued On-Demand Annual Trainings Via Gallagher Risk Control

### Sexual Harassment Prevention

We're proud to continue offering our members access to free [sexual harassment prevention training](#) to help you stay compliant with [Illinois law](#). Library trustees and all staff, including interns, are **required to participate in this annual training**.

### Bloodborne Pathogens

[Bloodborne Pathogens training](#) is not required by law, but is offered to our members at no cost. This training **meets OSHA requirements**.

*Register anytime to receive the training links within a week!*

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## Cataloging Maintenance Center

## Cataloging Maintenance Center Announces 2026 Webinars

Learn the nuances of cataloging and collection discoverability in 20 minutes when you attend the Cataloging Maintenance Center's *Online with the CMC*. These brief webinars cover a different

cataloging special topic each month. A 40-minute Q&A session follows each presentation.

### **Do You Hear What I Hear?: Cataloging Audio-enabled Books**

Feb. 12, 2026

### **Break it Down Again: The Pieces of Subject Headings**

March 12, 2026

### **Metadata Basics: Dublin Core**

April 9, 2026

### **Illinois and some St. Louis Blues: Music, Musicians, and Miscellanea from Illinois and Neighboring Missouri**

May 14, 2026

Explore Upcoming Webinars

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## **FY2026 Asynchronous Cataloging Courses**

For seasoned librarians interested in exploring new avenues in metadata, and those looking to learn the fundamentals of cataloging, the Cataloging Maintenance Center provides more in-depth cataloging training for library workers across the state of Illinois. **Courses are asynchronous and free to all Illinois library workers!**

### **Focus on Deriving a Record**

March 9 – 22, 2026

### **Focus on Cataloging CDs**

April 6 – 19, 2026

## Cataloging Basics

April 27 – June 7, 2026

Explore Cataloging Courses

## Delivery & AMHS Updates

### Delivery Service

[IHLS Delivery Home](#) | [IHLS Delivery Help Desk](#)

### Have You Tried Delivery On the Go?

NEW!

Have you tried Delivery On the Go (DOG) yet? With this service, qualifying interlibrary loan items can be delivered to your library the very day you request them! Learn more on [our website](#).

### Jan. 7 Special AMHS Members Matter Update: Meeting Highlights

At this meeting, we reviewed key Automated Materials Handling System (AMHS) operational updates, including details on turning off automated transit labels, the Barcode Duplication project, and additional delivery workflow details. Learn more on [our website](#).

### Transit Labels Update – Effective Jan. 1, 2026

Transit labels are no longer required for interlibrary loan between SHARE members, as outlined in the IHLS Delivery Guidelines. Learn more on [our website](#).

## Partner News

# College of DuPage Introduction to Libraries Course

12-Week Course Starts Feb. 24

Meets Tuesdays 9–11:50 a.m. via Zoom

NEW!

It's not too late to join the College of DuPage (COD) LTA program this spring semester! COD has added an online Intro to Libraries course this spring semester. All online students pay in-district tuition.

*Please contact Amanda Musacchio, Program Chair, [musacchioa@cod.edu](mailto:musacchioa@cod.edu), for additional information.*



## Can't Shelve This Podcast

Now Back for Season Two!

A podcast that aims to create a space for **school library workers** to feel seen, entertained, and informed. The series is co-hosted by RAILS Data Analyst Janette Derucki and IHLS Membership & Outreach Director Leah Gregory.

### Latest Episodes

- [Ep. 2.6: Sitting Down with That Librarian](#)
- [Ep. 2.5: Live from AISLE, It's Can't Shelve This!](#)
- [Ep. 2.4: The Tea on Teaching, Budgets, & Burnout](#)

- [Ep. 2.3: Diary of a First-Year School Librarian](#)

*Can't Shelve This* is a production of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) in collaboration with Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS).

[Learn More & Listen to the Podcast](#)

## My Library Is...

### Telling Libraries' Stories of Impact on Communities

Latest additions to the *My Library Is...* blog:

- [Library Logo Breakdown: Addison Public Library](#) NEW!
- [Delivery Diary: Embodying Adaptability with Jasmine Morris](#) NEW!
- [Library Logo Breakdown: Lillie M Evans Library District](#)
- [Library Logo Breakdown: Joliet Public Library](#)

Think you have an idea for a topic or know a writer for the [My Library Is... blog](#)? [Contact Us.](#)

*My Library Is... is a project by the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), supported by IHLS through staff participation and promotion.*

## Conferences

### [IHLS Member Day 2026](#)

Feb. 19, 2026, Online

## [Reaching Forward South 2026](#)

April 10, 2026, O'Fallon, Ill.

### Have News to Share?

Share your organization's news with IHLS and you may see it in a future newsletter!

[Submit a Story.](#)

### Quick Links

[Illinois Heartland Library System](#) | [Cataloging Maintenance Center](#) | [SHARE Consortium](#) | [SHARE Help Desk](#) | [Library Directory & Learning Calendar \(L2\)](#) | [Illinois State Library](#) | [Illinois Library Association](#)



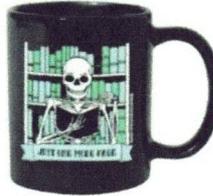
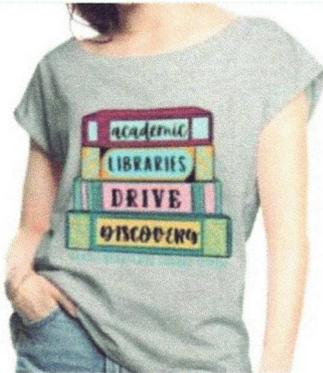
**Illinois Heartland Library System**  
IMAGINING TOMORROW - DELIVERING POSSIBILITIES TODAY

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while you're here, check out  
**the IHLS store**  
 ILLINOIS HEARTLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM

*Proceeds fund a marketing micro-grant for  
 IHLS member libraries.*

[Learn More & Shop](#)

## IHLS Store

Check out the IHLS Store! Make a purchase not only to show your library love, and you'll help fund microgrant for IHLS member libraries!

[Learn More About the Store →](#)

## Who are we?

Illinois Heartland Library System is a state agency that helps 520+ member libraries deliver exceptional service

to their communities.

As one of two multi-type systems in Illinois, we are a support partner for public, school, academic, and special libraries and the library staff and trustees that work for them.

**28,268** Square Miles

IHLS serves over 28,000 square miles and the libraries of 2.16 million Illinois residents!

**520+**

**Member Libraries in Central & Southern Illinois**



Imagining Tomorrow

Delivering Possibilities

Today



[Read more](#)

## Latest News

[See All →](#)



February 4, 2026 **Delivery News**

### Have You Tried Delivery On the Go?

[Read More →](#)

December 5, 2025 **IHL**

### We're Restructuring

[Read More →](#)

## Sign Up for Emergency Alerts

System-wide notifications will be sent to all subscribers. Applicable service provider message rates apply.

### Building/delivery closure text alerts

Text **CARBONDALE**, **CHAMPAIGN**, or **EDWARDSVILLE** to 84483

*To unsubscribe from text alerts, text STOP to 84483*

### Building/delivery closure email alerts

Navigate to [www.rainedout.net](http://www.rainedout.net), search for Illinois Heartland Library System, and follow the prompts

### Polaris Outage text alerts (SHARE members)

Text **POLARIS** to 84483



# Subscribe to IHLS News

Get the latest updates by signing up for our *Member Connection* newsletter, continuing education emails, or one of our other mailing lists

[Sign Up for IHLS Emails →](#)

## Upcoming Events

[See all events →](#)



### IHLS Directors Chat

System Member Networking

*Join library directors and branch leaders across central and southern Illinois for this text-based chat.*



IHLS

A me

**Virtual Location**

Feb 05, 2026  
Thu - 1 pm

[View in L2 →](#)

Feb  
M  
[Vie](#)



## Delivering Possibilities Today

IHLS members are part of a robust interlibrary loan system that spans the entire state—something unique to Illinois! Any Illinois resident with a library card from a system-member library can freely request and obtain materials from any other system-member library in Illinois.

And, because all library patrons deserve to receive their holds quickly, our reliable five-day delivery service is offered to all member libraries.

[Read More](#)



## Illinois Heartland Library System

IMAGINING TOMORROW - DELIVERING POSSIBILITIES TODAY

**Carbondale • Champaign • Edwardsville**

M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ([view holiday hours](#))

**IHLS Edwardsville, Administrative Office**

6725 Goshen Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025

([all locations](#))

### Contact Us

 618.656.3216

 618.656.9401

Quick Links: [Subscribe](#) [Delivery](#) [Delivery Hubs & Routes](#) [AMHS](#) [Grants Database](#) [Report a Website Correction](#)

*Funding for Illinois library systems is provided by the Illinois State Library and the Secretary of State from revenue appropriated by the Illinois General Assembly or provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.*





Illinois Heartland Library System is a  
2024 Top Workplace!  
3 Years Running

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## Upcoming Events

[Home](#) / [Upcoming Events](#)

### Browse and Register for Upcoming Events

Illinois Heartland Library System has several regular and special events, including weekly text-based directors' chats, monthly continuing education webinars, bi-monthly members meetings, mini-webinars and multi-week cataloging courses through the Cataloging Maintenance Center, training for SHARE consortium members, and more. Browse the page and use the filters below to find opportunities that fit your library's needs.

#### Event Type

Discussion

#### Audience

- Any -

#### Topic

- Any -

#### System Program

- Any -

#### Event Title

members matter

Reset



## IHLS Members Matter & Third Thursday CE

Continuing Education, System Member Networking

Join IHLS members and staff for a continuing education program and membership forum in these monthly events.

### Zoom

Mar 19, 2026

Thu - 10 am

[View in L2 →](#)



## IHLS Members Matter & Third Thursday CE

Continuing Education, System Member Networking

Join IHLS members and staff for a continuing education program and membership forum in these monthly events.

### Zoom

Apr 16, 2026

Thu - 10 am

[View in L2 →](#)



### Memorial Day (IHLS closed)

Illinois Heartland Library System will be closed today.

**IHLS Edwardsville 1st Floor Multipurpose Room, IHLS  
Champaign Large Videoconference/Training  
Center, IHLS Carbondale Service Center Room 106F**

May 25, 2026

Mon - 12 am

[View in L2 →](#)



### Juneteenth (IHLS closed)

Illinois Heartland Library System will be closed today.

**IHLS Edwardsville 1st Floor Multipurpose Room, IHLS  
Champaign Large Videoconference/Training  
Center, IHLS Carbondale Service Center Room 106F**

📅 Jun 19, 2026

🕒 Fri - 12 am

[View in L2 →](#)



# Illinois Heartland Library System

IMAGINING TOMORROW - DELIVERING POSSIBILITIES TODAY

**Carbondale • Champaign • Edwardsville**

M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ([view holiday hours](#))

## **IHLS Edwardsville, Administrative Office**

6725 Goshen Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025

([all locations](#))

### Contact Us

📞 618.656.3216

📠 618.656.9401

Quick Links: [Subscribe](#) [Delivery](#) [Delivery Hubs & Routes](#) [AMHS](#) [Grants](#)  
[Database](#) [Report a Website Correction](#)

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Illinois Heartland Library System is a  
2024 Top Workplace!  
3 Years Running

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**Gold**  
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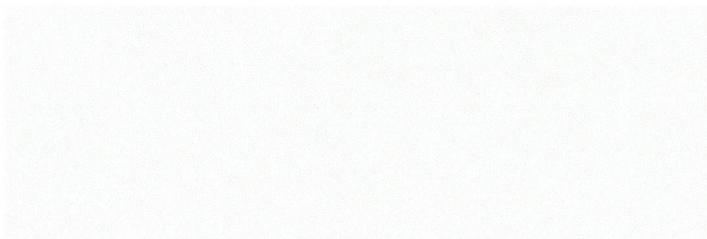
**Silver**  
[HR Source](#)  
[Lyngsoe Systems](#)

**Only want to see the new stories?**  
[Open this email in your browser](#) and search (CTRL+F) "new!"

**Jump To:**

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**IHLS Member News**



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Contact [iLEAD Project Manager Leanne Furby](#) to get started!

## Introducing Scroll School Social Media Lessons Series

We're excited to launch [Scroll School](#), our new social media lesson series for libraries. Learn more on our [website](#)!

## IHLS Now on TikTok & Instagram

We're excited to announce our new presence on TikTok and Instagram! Learn more on [our website](#)!

## Write the Grant! Participants Accepted Congratulations to the Selected Participants

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the following new library directors:

### Laura Robey

Director, Arcola Public Library District

### Michelle West

Director, Hope Welty Public Library District

### Christina Faulkner

Librarian, Shawnee Community College

### Erin Wetterlin

Director, Zeigler Public Library

*Did we miss you? [Let us know](#), and we'll put you in our next newsletter!*

## Recurring Events



## Monthly, Each Third Thursday

**Online Only**

**10–11 a.m.**

Join us online for CE from a guest speaker discussing relevant topics in the library community.

**NEW!**

We are pleased to announce that nine staff members from IHLS member libraries will be participating in our pilot [Write the Grant!](#) virtual workshop facilitated by [Lesley Zavediuk](#). See the list of participants on [our website](#).

## Annual Certification & ILLINET Traffic Survey

**We're Here to Help**

**Due March 31**

**NEW!**

All libraries **must complete** the annual certification and the ILLINET traffic survey to retain system membership. If you need assistance, please [reach out to our membership staff](#). See the updated guide [on our website](#).

## Nominate Yourself for the IHLS Board

**Or Recommend a Colleague!**

**Nominations Open Until Feb. 15, 2026**

Are you ready to make a difference in your library system? Run for the IHLS Board of Directors! Whether you're a school library assistant, adult services specialist, hospital librarian, archivist, or public library board president, your voice matters.

No Event in February!

**And then stay for...**



### MEMBERS MATTER

Membership Meeting & Forum

**Online Only**  
**11 a.m.–Noon.**

Join our Members Matter meetings to stay updated on the latest news and connect with peers.

No Event in February!

## IHLS LIBRARY DIRECTORS' CHAT

**Thursdays 1–2 p.m.\***

*\*except each third Thursday*

**Next Chats:**

Jan. 22, 29; Feb. 5, 12

Now hosted on [Campfire](#).

*Registration is required to receive event reminders and cancellation notices.*

[View All Directors Chats](#)

Learn More & Nominate Yourself

## Updates to FOIA & OMA

### In Effect Since Jan. 1, 2026

Via [P.A. 104-0438](#), a few amendments to the Open Meetings Act and FOIA will take effect Jan. 1, 2026. A brief breakdown of these changes is available in [the Municipal Minute](#).

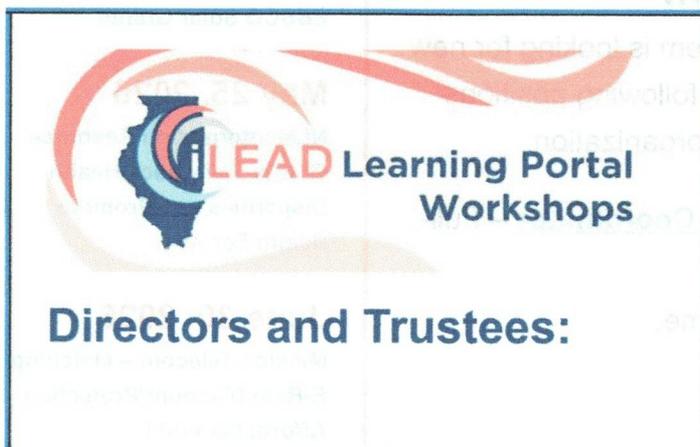
## iLEAD Drop-In Help Desk

### Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5 – 7 p.m.

The iLEAD Portal Team now hosts weekly [Drop-In Help Desk Hours](#) for trustees and directors. Stop by for help with the portal or to locate resources—no registration or appointment is needed.

## We're Restructuring

As we continue to congratulate Ellen Popit on her retirement, we're excited to share how we're restructuring for a new era! Congratulations to Cassandra Thompson, Jennifer Baugh, Leah Gregory, Kate Kite, and Sarah Taylor on their promotions. [More information on our website.](#)



## **NEW** GRANTS *in the* DATABASE

### Dollar General – Adult Literacy Grants

**Deadline: Feb. 5, 2026**

These grants support literacy and education initiatives serving individuals of all ages.

### Dollar General – Family Literacy Grants

**Deadline: Feb. 5, 2026**

These grants support literacy and education initiatives serving individuals of all ages.

### Dollar General – Summer Reading Grants

**Deadline: Feb. 5, 2026**

These grants support the creation or expansion of summer reading programs.

### EBSCO Solar Grants

**Deadline: April 30, 2026**

These grants fund solar installations at libraries worldwide.

## Attend an iLEAD Online Workshop

### Multiple Dates & Times

#### Online—New Dates Added!

Are you a library trustee or director interested in helping your board reach **new heights of excellence in public service**? The **iLEAD Trustee Learning Portal** is here to help Illinois public library trustees learn the ins and outs of serving in the important government position of public library trustee—for free, at their own pace, and on their schedule.

Attend an upcoming workshop to learn more and find out how to begin your iLEAD Trustee journey right away!

[Register for an iLEAD Workshop](#)



## Join the IHLS Team!

Illinois Heartland Library System is looking for new team members! We have the following positions currently available within our organization:

- [Continuing Education Coordinator](#) – Full-time, Edwardsville NEW!
- [Courier Driver](#) – Full-time, Champaign NEW!

## UPCOMING GRANT DEADLINES

### Feb. 5, 2026

RRF Foundation for Aging – Direct Service Grants  
Dollar General – Adult Literacy Grants  
Dollar General – Family Literacy Grants  
Dollar General – Summer Reading Grants

### Feb. 8, 2026

Snapdragon Book Foundation

### March 1, 2026

The Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced With Adversity

### March 31, 2026

T-Mobile Hometown Grants

### April 14, 2026

Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program

### April 15, 2026

Walmart – Spark Good Local Grants

### April 30, 2026

EBSCO Solar Grants

### May 25, 2026

NLM Information Resource Grants To Reduce Health Disparities and Promote Health For All

### June 30, 2026

Mission Telecom – Matching E-Rate Discount/Protecting Affordable Wi-Fi

- [Courier Driver](#) – Part-time, Champaign NEW!

We offer a competitive benefits package and a great work-life balance, both part of our company culture.

**Promote Your Job Openings with Us!**

**For Libraries in & Near Illinois**

Our Job Board is the perfect place to post your library job openings. With over 500 IHLS libraries and affiliates of other library organizations statewide, you can attract top talent to your library team.

[Post to the IHLS Library Job Board](#)

Continuing Education Events

**Apply to DU Advanced!**

**April 27-30 in Grafton, Ill.**

**Registration Deadline: Feb. 10**

**Cost: \$200\***

NEW!

Directors University (DU) brings new library directors together to learn the basics of their role.

**DU Advanced (formerly DU 2.0) offers deeper insights** to around 50 attendees on topics such as budgeting, capital improvements, grant writing, succession planning, and leadership.

*\*Participants will be responsible for their own travel*

**T-Mobile Hometown Grants**

**July 15, 2026**

**Walmart – Spark Good Local Grants**

**Sept. 30, 2026**

**T-Mobile Hometown Grants**

**Oct. 15, 2026**

**Walmart – Spark Good Local Grants**

[See the Grants Database](#)

**Discounts**

**NEW & RENEWED**

**VENDOR DISCOUNTS**

**Comics Plus**

**IHLS Members Get 15% Off**

NEW!

With Comics Plus, you'll get unlimited, simultaneous access to 27,000+ titles with no patron limits or collection management required.

expenses. Materials, lodging, and meals will be covered by the registration fee and by support from the Illinois State Library, using funds provided by the IMLS under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

[Learn More About DU Advanced](#)

## 2026 IPLAR Updates and Reporting Guidance

### A Webinar with Q&A

Jan. 27, 2 p.m.

NEW!

Join Laura Keyes from the Illinois State Library for an update on recent changes to IPLAR. She'll highlight what's new and answer your questions to help make reporting easier and clearer.

*Due to circumstances beyond our control, this session will not be recorded.*

[Register for IPLAR Guidance](#)

## Continued On-Demand Annual Trainings

### Via Gallagher Risk Control

NEW!

#### Sexual Harassment Prevention

We're proud to continue offering our members access to free [sexual harassment prevention training](#) to help you stay compliant with [Illinois law](#). Library trustees and all staff, including interns, are **required to participate in this annual training**.

## Bloodborne Pathogens

[Bloodborne Pathogens training](#) is not required by law, but is offered to our members at no cost. This training **meets OSHA requirements**.

*Register anytime to receive the training links within a week!*

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## Document Accessibility Essentials: A Step-by-Step Guide from Word to PDF

### An Interactive Webinar

**Feb. 3, 1 p.m.**

**NEW!**

Join **IHLS's John Kirchner** for an introduction to key digital accessibility fundamentals and techniques for creating accessible documents.

[Register for Document Accessibility](#)

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## Illinois Employment Law Update Webinar

### With FordHarrison's Kimberly Ross

**Feb. 4, 10 a.m.**

**NEW!**

Join FordHarrison partner [Kimberly Ross](#) to learn what Illinois employment law updates are already in effect, what's coming in 2026, and the steps employers should take now to stay compliant.

Provided by [Illinois Heartland Library System](#) & [Reaching Across Illinois Library System](#).

## Register for Employment Law

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# Where Is AI in 2026 & Where Is It Going?

## An Online Workshop

**Jan. 28, 2026, 10 – 11:30 a.m.**

This interactive workshop introduces librarians to the **core concepts of AI safety**—how to understand emerging risks, evaluate trustworthy AI systems, and support communities navigating an increasingly automated information landscape.

[Register for Where Is AI](#)

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## Cataloging Maintenance Center

# Cataloging Maintenance Center Announces 2026 Webinars

Learn the nuances of cataloging and collection discoverability in 20 minutes when you attend the Cataloging Maintenance Center's *Online with the CMC*. These brief webinars cover a different cataloging special topic each month. A 40-minute Q&A session follows each presentation.

## Do You Hear What I Hear?: Cataloging Audio-enabled Books

Feb. 12, 2026

## Break it Down Again: The Pieces of Subject Headings

March 12, 2026

**Metadata Basics: Dublin Core**

April 9, 2026

**Illinoise and some St. Louis Blues: Music, Musicians, and Miscellanea from Illinois and Neighboring Missouri**

May 14, 2026

Explore Upcoming Webinars

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## FY2026 Asynchronous Cataloging Courses

For seasoned librarians interested in exploring new avenues in metadata, and those looking to learn the fundamentals of cataloging, the Cataloging Maintenance Center provides more in-depth cataloging training for library workers across the state of Illinois. **Courses are asynchronous and free to all Illinois library workers!**

**Subject Analysis**

Jan. 26 – March 8, 2026

**Focus on Deriving a Record**

March 9 – 22, 2026

**Focus on Cataloging CDs**

April 6 – 19, 2026

**Cataloging Basics**

April 27 – June 7, 2026

Explore Cataloging Courses

## Delivery & AMHS Updates

### Delivery Service

[IHLS Delivery Home](#) | [IHLS Delivery Help Desk](#)

### Jan. 7 Special AMHS Members Matter Update: Meeting Highlights

**NEW!**

At this meeting, we reviewed key Automated Materials Handling System (AMHS) operational updates, including details on turning off automated transit labels, the Barcode Duplication project, and additional delivery workflow details. Learn more on [our website](#).

### Transit Labels Update – Effective Jan. 1, 2026

**NEW!**

Transit labels are no longer required for interlibrary loan between SHARE members, as outlined in the IHLS Delivery Guidelines. Learn more on [our website](#).

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## Partner News



### Can't Shelve This Podcast Now Back for Season Two!

A podcast that aims to create a space for **school library workers** to feel seen, entertained, and informed. The series is co-hosted by RAILS Data Analyst Janette Derucki and IHLS Membership & Outreach Director Leah Gregory.

### Latest Episodes

- [Ep. 2.6: Sitting Down with That Librarian](#) NEW!
- [Ep. 2.5: Live from AISLE, It's Can't Shelve This!](#)
- [Ep. 2.4: The Tea on Teaching, Budgets, & Burnout](#)
- [Ep. 2.3: Diary of a First-Year School Librarian](#)

*[Can't Shelve This](#) is a production of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) in collaboration with Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS).*

[Learn More & Listen to the Podcast](#)

## My Library Is...

### Telling Libraries' Stories of Impact on Communities

Latest additions to the *My Library Is...* blog:

- [Library Logo Breakdown: Lillie M Evans Library District](#) NEW!
- [Library Logo Breakdown: Joliet Public Library](#)
- [Delivery Diary: In the Driver's Seat with Tele Kanzaki](#)
- [My Library Is... Supporting Student Learning](#)

Think you have an idea for a topic or know a writer for the [My Library Is... blog](#)? [Contact Us](#).

*My Library Is... is a project by the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS), supported by IHLS through staff participation and promotion.*

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## More Continuing Education

### Free Webinars

#### Selected & Upcoming

**NEW**

**Jan. 22, 10 a.m.**

Beyond the Dashboard: Why 73% of Data Initiatives Fail and How Leaders Build Culture That Lasts

**Jan. 22, Noon.**

Kick-Start Your Mission in the New Year with Google Ad Grants

**Jan. 29, Noon**

Info2Go! Copyright in the Age of Generative AI: Critical Updates for Librarians

**Jan. 29, 2 p.m.**

Embrace Your Inner Unicorn: Navigating Job Transitions and Combating Impostor Syndrome

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*Find these & more on our website with our [monthly Library Learning Roundup!](#)*

[Go to This Month's Roundup](#)

Have suggestions, ideas, or questions about Continuing Education? Contact our [Membership Team](#) at [618.467.8408](tel:618.467.8408).

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## Conferences

### [IHLS Member Day 2026](#)

Feb. 19, 2026, Online

### [Reaching Forward South 2026](#)

April 10, 2026, O'Fallon, Ill.

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## Have News to Share?

Share your organization's news with IHLS and you may see it in a future newsletter!

[Submit a Story](#)

### Quick Links

[Illinois Heartland Library System](#) | [Cataloging Maintenance Center](#) | [SHARE Consortium](#) | [SHARE Help Desk](#) | [Library Directory & Learning Calendar \(L2\)](#) | [Illinois State Library](#) | [Illinois Library Association](#)





# Illinois Heartland Library System

IMAGINING TOMORROW - DELIVERING POSSIBILITIES TODAY

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## Quick Links

- [Illinois Heartland Library System | Governance & Administration](#)
- [Illinois Heartland Library System | Library Operations & Learning](#)
- [Illinois Heartland Library System | Library Services](#)