

## Chapter 11

# System and ILLINET Membership Responsibilities

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Through the Illinois Library and Information Network (ILLINET), libraries of all types (public, academic, school, and special) are able to offer Illinois residents enhanced, cooperative library services. ILLINET exists on the premise that “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” Illinois library cooperation is multi-faceted and multi-layered. The primary facets of ILLINET include but are not limited to: facilitating the sharing of library materials and information via interlibrary loan, reciprocal borrowing, and other cooperative agreements; providing statewide and regional library system delivery services; offering enhanced services, at the regional library system, consortial, or Illinois State Library levels, which are beyond the scope of services that can be provided locally; and sharing human knowledge, expertise, and skills to enhance existing or create new programs and services for Illinois residents. The various interwoven, multi-layers of ILLINET include but are not limited to cooperation initiated at the local, regional, consortial, state, national, and international levels.

The Illinois State Library and the Illinois regional library systems serve as the catalysts to foster statewide library cooperation, promote library development, and ensure that every Illinois library fulfills its partnership responsibility in the provision of quality library services to all Illinois residents. The commitment and cooperation of every Illinois library creates the foundation for the viability and effectiveness of Illinois regional library systems and ILLINET.

The Illinois regional library systems are annually funded through a formula grant appropriation from the Illinois Office of the Secretary of State’s budget [75 ILCS 10/8(c)]. Illinois regional library systems are governed by representatives from member libraries as detailed in *Illinois Compiled Statutes* [75 ILCS 10/5] and system bylaws.

**Applicable Core Standards**—Please see Core Standards 16, 17, 18, and 22 in Chapter 1.

### System and ILLINET Membership Responsibilities Standards

1. Every public library has a responsibility to offer its citizens quality library services; therefore, any legally established public library that is not currently a regional library system/ILLINET member should develop a three-year plan, in cooperation with its regional library system consulting staff, to become a full participating member.
2. Every public library has a responsibility to offer its citizens quality library services; therefore, any legally established public library that currently does not meet the eligibility requirements for Illinois State Library/Illinois Office of the Secretary of State grants should work in cooperation with its regional library system consulting staff, regarding grant eligibility and compliance.
3. Public library staff and library board members are aware of the services offered by the regional library systems and the Illinois State Library.
4. Public libraries are charged with the responsibility to promote statewide cooperative services in addition to their own local services.
5. As ILLINET participants, all Illinois public libraries agree to make their resources, information, and expertise available via interlibrary loan, reciprocal borrowing, and other formal or informal cooperative agreements; participate in delivery; and facilitate cooperative reference and information assistance.
6. As ILLINET participants, all Illinois public libraries abide by the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Code as well as other formal or informal regional/consortial agreements.