

X. SYSTEM AND ILLINET MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

Systems and Illinet-Description

Public libraries, along with academic, school, and special libraries, comprise the 18 library systems in Illinois. These 18 systems and their members, 4 Research and Reference Centers, and designated Resource Centers make up ILLINET. (Appendix F). Any library which is a member of a system is automatically a member of ILLINET. There are currently over 2,300 ILLINET members.

The dual purpose of this network is to share library resources, both human and material, and to provide residents of the state with information and materials unavailable at the local level. Library systems act as vital mechanisms to connect people and resources. Illinois library systems develop and coordinate the strengths of libraries so that they can do collectively that which they cannot easily do individually. Systems are funded by the state of Illinois and are governed by local libraries through area library representatives. The system is a cooperative maintained only by the commitment of libraries to resource sharing. Each library's commitment is critical.

Governance

Library Board members and library staff shall volunteer for system advisory councils and committees and, whenever possible, for system governing boards. Anyone who agrees to be a system board member must keep in mind the additional commitment of time and energy. Representatives who accept the responsibility of system board membership must be willing to represent their expanded constituency, which covers the entire system area's population.

1. Library Boards shall annually review their opportunities for representation on the system board.

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Resource Sharing

As members of regional library systems, all Illinois public libraries agree to make their resources, both human and material, available to persons needing access to them through reference assistance, interlibrary loan, reciprocal borrowing, and other local arrangements. This is done in recognition of the reciprocal expansion of resources that is available to the library's own users.

2. The library offers interlibrary loan to its patrons.

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3. The library follows the Illinois Interlibrary Loan Code.

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4. Library Boards agree to participate in both intra-system and inter-system reciprocal borrowing and to abide by established regulations.

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Untaxed Areas

Though primarily a system responsibility, every public library shares with the system the responsibility for promoting statewide tax-supported public library service.

5. Library Boards shall annually review the various possibilities for promoting and/or extending services to untaxed areas on a permanent basis.

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Use of System Services

The library board and staff shall be aware of the services offered by the system and avail themselves of these services. System services shall be actively promoted to library patrons of all ages and libraries shall publicize them as they do their own services.

Other Responsibilities with Regard to Systems

6. The library board and administrator shall annually review the system's plan of service and policies; they shall also provide suggestions for improvements in system services.

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7. The library board and staff, in conjunction with system staff, shall actively explore cooperative arrangements with other libraries.

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SYSTEM AND ILLINET RESPONSIBILITIES BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Murphy, Harriet and Alice B. McKinley. Belonging To A Library System. Trustee Facts File. Chicago, IL: ILA, 1986.

FOR FURTHER READING

Survey of Public Libraries Use of and Experience With Illinois Library System Services. Illinois Library Statistical Report No. 17. Springfield, IL: Illinois State Library, 1985.