



Membership Criteria

Membership in the Illinois Heartland Library System shall be offered to libraries that meet the following definitions.

"Library": Unless otherwise defined as a public library by statute, an entity that serves the basic information and library needs of its constituents through a bibliographically organized collection of library materials and has at least one employee who works at least 15 hours per week as the librarian. The collection must have permanent financial support, be accessible centrally, and occupy identifiable quarters in one principal location. These requirements can be met through contractual services provided by another library.

"Public Library": A tax-supported public library established by or as a governmental unit that either is authorized to levy a tax for library purposes, or supports the library at least in part from local tax revenues other than federal revenue sharing. Such a library is established by a city, village, incorporated town, township, county or library district under the Illinois Local Library Act [75 ILCS 5], the Village Library Act [75 ILCS 40], Division 5-38 of the Counties Code (Public County Library Service) [55 ILCS 5/Div. 5-38], the Village Library Conversion Act [75 ILCS 45], the Library Property Sale Act [75 ILCS 55], and the Public Library District Act of 1991 [75 ILCS 16]. This definition excludes free public libraries established by villages but not supported at least in part from local tax revenues, and incorporated free public libraries not established by a governmental unit.

Libraries may make application for membership in a library system when the library is located within the geographic boundaries of the library system and meets the criteria for full membership:

1. The library will meet any additional membership requirements specified by the library system.
2. A full member is entitled to the library system services for which it meets system requirements and must follow the ILLINET Interlibrary Loan Code (1991, Office of the Secretary of State, Illinois State Library, Room 505, 300 S. Second Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1796). The material incorporated by reference includes no later amendments or editions. A full member is also eligible for voting representation on the Board of Directors. The full member shall also provide reciprocal borrowing to resident patrons of other public libraries that are full members of the library system and shall also honor library cards issued to non-residents of the system area if the library does not opt out of the non-resident card program.

To remain a member in good standing, member libraries must abide by the System's Plan of

Service and Policies. In addition, every system member library will need to certify annually with the Illinois State Library in order to retain system membership.

Membership criteria is subject to prior approval of the State Librarian who will review the criteria to make sure that the criteria addresses state legislation and rules and is equitable among different types of libraries. Library system members may not be charged fees for membership in the library system.

Approved by the Illinois Heartland Library System Board of Directors on July 5, 2011

Amended by the Illinois Heartland Library System Board of Directors on October 23, 2012

Amended by the Illinois Heartland Library System Board of Directors on April 26, 2016