Your Library Card. The smartest card in your wallet.

Illinois Heartland Library System

Your NETWORK TO A BRIGHT NEW WORLD.

Reciprocal Borrowing

Your library card gives you power! It unlocks the doors to every public library in your area, making the most of your tax dollars. You can use your public library card at Illinois public libraries across the State, from Chicago Public to Cairo Public Library District.

Reciprocal Borrowing is an excellent way to access and take advantage of the materials found in the outstanding libraries in your area and across the State. That’s the power of your library card!

BENEFITS

Through the Reciprocal Borrowing program facilitated by your library and the Illinois Heartland Library System, your card allows you access to most books, DVD’s, CDs, and magazines at any public library in the System. If you want something that’s not available at your local library, instead of waiting for the material to be sent to your library, use the power of your card at any other public library in your area to check out the material and begin enjoying it that same day. When you’re done, return the item to whichever library is most convenient for you. Your library card allows you to be in control. You decide where to get your desired books, movies, audiobooks, and music, and where to return them.

Avoid disappointment by remembering to call ahead or by looking at the online catalog available on most libraries’ websites. Not every library will have the materials you want. Also, libraries may have restrictions on new releases or limit the number of items in certain formats that can be borrowed. A phone call will ensure that an item is available and that you can check it out.

Prevent paying fines and late fees when returning materials by leaving enough time (3-4 days is usually sufficient) for materials to get back to the library from which they were checked out. Materials borrowed are not considered returned until they reach their “home” library.

Unlock the power of your library card! The Reciprocal Borrowing program makes everyone’s tax dollars go further and helps you get the information you need quickly and conveniently.