

FY2025

ILLINOIS HEARTLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM

ANNUAL PROGRESS & IMPACT REPORT



PUBLISHED BY
Illinois Heartland Library System
www.illinoisheartland.org
618.656.3216

Carbondale • Champaign • Edwardsville
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LEADERSHIP FY2025
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MISSION
To support member libraries of all types in providing quality library services. IHLS facilitates access to shared resources, advocates for libraries, promotes innovation and develops community partnerships.

VISION
Imagining tomorrow, delivering today.

BOARD MEETINGS
Meetings of the IHLS Board of Directors are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month (except December) at 5 p.m. at all three hubs, the Illinois State Library, select member library locations, and online. Find the full list of dates and locations at www.illinoisheartland.org/board.

QUESTIONS
Email membership@illinoisheartland.org or call 618.656.3216 and ask to speak to the Membership Team.

From the Director

In FY2025, our libraries continued to help their communities steer through a flood of disinformation from high levels of government and support communities during a worsening financial crisis. Our libraries offer unmatched value to their patrons. At IHLS, we are dedicated to enhancing our members' capacity to provide such high levels of service.

This commitment guided us in a year of long-term planning, project implementation, and responsive advocacy. We worked with our staff and listened to our members to create a new, impact-driven strategic plan. We kept promises as we proceeded with the automated material handling system (AMHS) implementation at our hubs. We offered financial value to our libraries with two IHLS-sponsored grants: the HR Source Grant and the Marketing Microgrant. And we jumped into action when funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) came under extreme threat, supporting and guiding our members in IMLS advocacy efforts.

In short, the entire IHLS team remained dedicated, nimble, and hopeful in FY2025, and I'm proud to show you how we did it.

Sincerely,

Leslie M. Bednar, Executive Director



Illinois Heartland Library System

Table of Contents

- 02 Introduction**
- 03 Membership**
- 04 Services & Impact**
- 06 Administration & Financial Health**
- 08 Annual Meeting**

IHLS in Focus

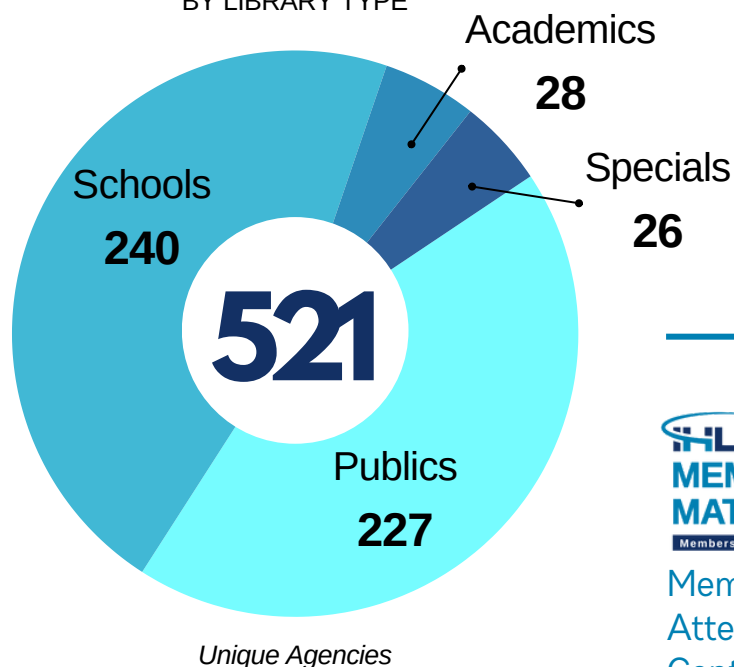
IHLS is excited to share the second year of the condensed format of our Annual Report, inspired by long-time staff member Stacie Bushong. This shorter version provides a clear, engaging overview of IHLS's key accomplishments, initiatives, and impact, making it easier for members to see the value IHLS brings to their libraries and communities. Both the concise report and the full-length version will be available on our website this October.

The IHLS Marketing & Communications Team

Membership

COMPOSITION

BY LIBRARY TYPE



CHANGE

FY2024 TO FY2025



Membership Meetings: **9**
Attendees: **342**
Contact Hours: **684**

Library Visits

Academic: **2**
Public: **159**
School: **23**
Special: **5**

Serving Our Members

Our Membership Team provides support to member libraries regardless of type, size, or location. We assist libraries with bread-and-butter issues, like cleaning up a listing in L2 or registering for an event, and with major happenings, like a serious intellectual freedom challenge or walking a trustee through the unexpected departure of their director.

Our Membership Team also makes regular library site visits, some initiated by our staff and some requested by member libraries.

Our Membership Team is just a click or call away

📞 618.656.3216

✉️ membership@illinoisheartland.org

👥 **Available to help:**
Ellen Popit, Kate Kite, Leah Gregory

Highlights from the Membership Department's work this year include:

- The growth of our robust continuing education program.
- Increased member engagement.
- Expanded representation for our libraries.
- Growth of the iLEAD Trustee Learning Portal.
- Participation in the Can't Shelve This school librarian podcast.

Services

IHLS is tasked by the State of Illinois to:

- facilitate and encourage resource sharing and foster interlibrary loan partnerships;
- provide efficient, effective, and timely delivery service;
- provide staff for member consultations;
- provide regular continuing education opportunities;

Sources: Illinois Library Statutes and Administrative Rules & 2024 Illinois Library Laws & Rules

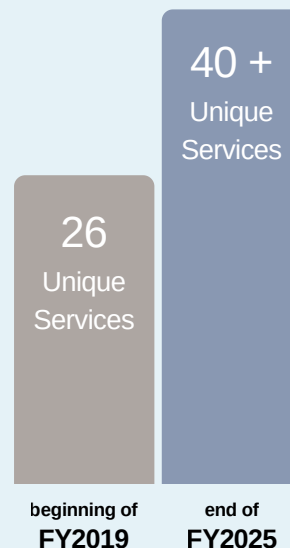
As such, IHLS has developed a rich expanse of services in the areas of resource sharing, interlibrary loan (ILL) delivery, consulting, and continuing education. We've added a significant number of these services over the last five years, making it even easier for member libraries to provide their communities with excellent library service.

NEW IN FY2025



In Partnership
with
RAILS

6-YEAR COMPARISON



Resource Sharing

ILL Delivery
SHARE Consortium
SHARE Bib Services
Cataloging Maintenance Center

ILL Delivery Service

Functional 5-Day Delivery
Delivery On the Go
Online Delivery Help Desk
& Resource Pages

Consulting

Booking with Staff
Site Visits
Online Consultations
Phone & Email Support

Continuing Education

3rd Thursdays CE
HR Webinar Series
Staff Presentations
SHARE Training
CMC Cataloging
Resource Guides
iLEAD

Other

Advocacy
Grants Database
Vendor Discounts
Mobile Memory Lab
Access to Partner Services
Networking Events
Member Listservs
E-Newsletters ... & more



ILL Delivery Service

We provide libraries of all sizes and types with **Functional 5-Day Delivery**, providing *access to 5-day-a-week pickup and delivery, either pre-scheduled or on-demand*. This service provides patrons with quick access to lending materials across the entire state of Illinois. Libraries need not spend a penny on shipping costs.

1,061,307
MILES DRIVEN

69,674
STOPS MADE

3,319,109
ITEMS MOVED



**PER ITEM
DELIVERED**

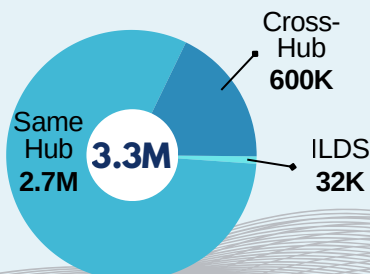
Access to Functional 5-Day Delivery

Delivery allows us to be so much more than what we could be on our own. We don't FEEL like a small library because of all the resources available to our patrons with delivery.

anonymous FY2025 delivery survey respondent

ILL DELIVERIES

BY TYPE



Interlibrary loan remains a core pillar of IHLS's mission, and delivery is the engine that makes this possible. In FY2025, IHLS Delivery continued to focus on timely, efficient service while expanding efforts to improve operations through innovation and technology. The most significant project this year was the development and phased implementation of automated sorting machines at all three IHLS delivery hubs. This major undertaking will improve turnaround times and provide a range of internal operational benefits.

Resource Sharing

IHLS has three interlocking core services that facilitate resource sharing among member libraries in Illinois:



ILL
Delivery

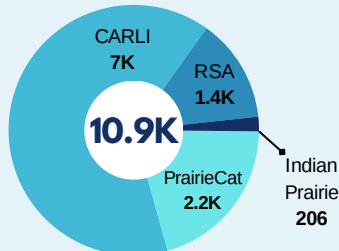
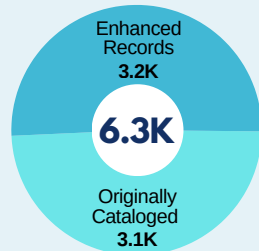
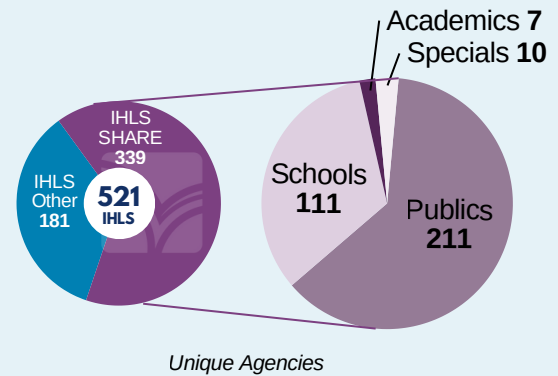


Bibliographic
Services



SHARE
Consortium

SERVED BY SHARE



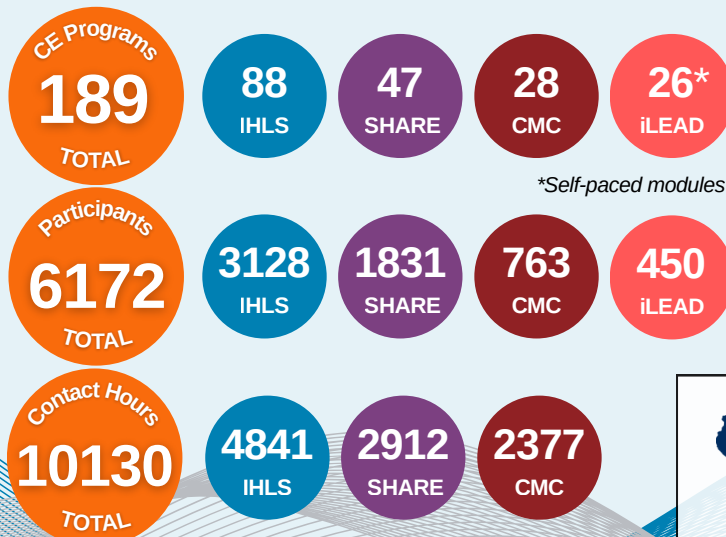
DATABASE CLEANUP

Cataloging

Bibliographic services, or cataloging support, enable resource sharing and use. Effective cataloging maintains order and consistency in the description of library items, ensuring patrons can readily locate the items they need in the public access catalog. IHLS has two bibliographic service departments. The **Cataloging Maintenance Center** serves libraries statewide, while **SHARE Bibliographic Services** is specifically for SHARE members. Both offer cataloging services and training opportunities.



Continuing Education & Consulting



Directors
Chat

Library HR
Webinar Series



AND
MORE!



The iLEAD Trustee Learning Portal launched in February 2024 and has increased from 288 users to 400 users in 2025.

Administration

Staffing

This fiscal year, the philosophy has been to leverage our resources to automate processes by “doing more with less.” We’ve strategically leveraged technology to streamline previously manual processes, boosting efficiency and empowering our existing talent.



Continued Paylocity Implementation

HR staff continued to work on improvements to the system established in FY2024.



New Hire Packet Enhancements

Time-saving new hire onboarding process.



Applicant Tracking System

Easy access to recruitment stages, protection of candidate data, and tracking of the interview process.



96 Staff Positions

Recruiting and retaining top talent.



Top Workplace
4 years running

Facilities & Technology Infrastructure

In addition to ongoing maintenance efforts, several special projects helped ensure a safe environment for IHLS staff, tenants, and guests while ensuring our technology infrastructure continues to meet our needs for years to come.



LED Lighting Update

Upgrading lighting fixtures at the Champaign hub.



Cataloging Statistics Program

Development of web-based program to help catalogers track statistics.



Server Room Relocation

Successful server room relocation at the Carbondale hub lowers costs and consolidates operations.



Broadband Expansion

Promoted statewide broadband opportunities and grants for member libraries while consulting on their technology needs.



Tuckpointing Project

Finished major tuckpointing project in Edwardsville facility to fix masonry.



Creation of New Data Dashboards

Implementation of  **MESSAGE BEE**

Financial Overview

The Finance staff prepared for and worked with Scheffel Boyle auditors to complete the FY2025 audit. We received an unmodified or clean opinion on our audit, demonstrating our dedication to responsible and careful financial management as stewards of public funds.

In 2025, our Finance Director, Rhonda Johnisee, continued to offer 30-minute online consultations! You can still book a time with her or with a member of one of our other departments, including Marketing and Cataloging!

www.illinoisheartland.org/consulting

FY2025 Statement of Revenues & Expenses

IHLS General Fund

	FY2024 Actuals (Prior Year)	FY2025 Budgeted	FY2025 Actuals
Revenues	\$ 4,600,099.00	\$ 4,509,106.00	\$ 4,670,116.00
Expenses	\$ (4,077,726.00)	\$ (5,142,466.00)	\$ (4,569,483.00)
Proceeds from Sale of Asset	\$ 20,225.00	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer In (Out)	\$ (793,928.00)	\$ (1,075,000.00)	\$ (1,073,514.00)
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (251,330.00)	\$ (1,708,360.00)	\$ (972,881.00)

IHLS Capital Projects Fund

	FY2024 Actuals (Prior Year)	FY2025 Budgeted	FY2025 Actuals
Revenues	\$ 64,975.00	\$ 17,846.00	\$ 37,969.00
Expenses	\$ (595,569.00)	\$ (1,122,500.00)	\$ (1,024,424.00)
Proceeds from Sale of Asset	\$ 37,770.00	\$ -	\$ 6,544.00
Transfer In (Out)	\$ 443,928.00	\$ 725,000.00	\$ 723,514.00
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (48,896.00)	\$ (379,654.00)	\$ (256,397.00)

SHARE Fund

	FY2024 Actuals (Prior Year)	FY2025 Budgeted	FY2025 Actuals*
Operating Revenue	\$ 1,664,938.00	\$ 1,757,239.00	\$ 1,897,968.00
Operating Expenses	\$ (1,692,583.00)	\$ (2,074,955.00)	\$ (2,287,108.00)
Non-Operating Revenue (Expense)	\$ 102,474.00	\$ 34,456.00	\$ 106,812.00
Transfers In (Out)	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 424,829.00	\$ 66,740.00	\$ 67,672.00

*Includes audited non-operating adjusting entries

CMC Fund

	FY2024 Actuals (Prior Year)	FY2025 Budgeted	FY2025 Actuals
Revenues	\$ 665,700.00	\$ 709,016.00	\$ 665,076.00
Expenses	\$ (665,700.00)	\$ (709,016.00)	\$ (665,076.00)
Total Revenue Over/(Under)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

iLEAD Fund (Trustee Training)

	FY2024 Actuals (Prior Year)	FY2025 Budgeted	FY2025 Actuals
Revenues	\$ 269,900.00	\$ 166,321.00	\$ 166,321.00
Expenses	\$ (269,900.00)	\$ (166,321.00)	\$ (166,321.00)
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

OCLC Fund

	FY2024 Actuals (Prior Year)	FY2025 Budgeted	FY2025 Actuals
Revenues	\$ 168,532.00	\$ 175,573.00	\$ 175,573.00
Expenses	\$ (168,532.00)	\$ (175,573.00)	\$ (175,573.00)
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

FY2025 Balance Sheets

	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	SHARE Fund	CMC Fund	iLEAD Fund (Trustee Training)	OCLC Fund
Assets	\$ 4,408,641.00	\$ 785,077.00	\$ 4,851,549.00	\$ 58,274.00	\$ 40,431.00	\$ 11,040.00
Liabilities	\$ 169,887.00	\$ 144,963.00	\$ 264,339.00	\$ 32,072.00	\$ 40,431.00	\$ 11,683.00
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 844,459.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Fund Balances/Net Position (Deficit)	\$ 4,238,754.00	\$ 640,114.00	\$ 3,742,751.00	\$ 26,202.00	\$ -	\$ (643.00)
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances/Net Position	\$ 4,408,641.00	\$ 785,077.00	\$ 4,851,549.00	\$ 58,274.00	\$ 40,431.00	\$ 11,040.00



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Have your
public library trustees
registered for the
iLEAD Learning Portal yet?

Start your journey at www.ileadtrustee.org

Looking Ahead FY2026

Unveiling of the **updated** **IHLS** **Strategic** **Plan**

Improved
delivery efficiency
with the
installation of an

AMHS

Automated Material Handling System

Annual Meeting and Membership Celebration

Automatic Materials Handling System Tour
Ribbon Cutting + Name Reveal
Networking • Food
Speakers • Attendance Gifts
Meet IHLS Board and Staff



Tuesday
October 28, 2025



3:00 - 5:00 PM



1840 Innovation Drive, Carbondale

Followed by Board Meeting @ 5:00 PM

Free! In-person only; seating is limited.

RSVPs needed by October 21, 2025, at

<https://librarylearning.org/event/2025-10-28/ihls-annual-meeting-celebration-amhs-tour>