



Illinois Heartland Library System

April 2019

After the certification process ended on March 31, 2019, no IHLS libraries need to be recommended for suspension.

One special library has made a formal application for system membership

Vienna Correctional Center in Johnson County. A site visit was done in February 2019 to assess the agency's eligibility for membership. An application for membership has been submitted and it is recommended for full membership as a special library.

The membership status of one library agency needs to be revised.

The SIUE East St. Louis Learning Resource Center (LRC). During the current fiscal year, there has been much confusion about what type of library this agency truly is. It is listed on SIUE's website, but funding is through the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). This winter, our colleagues at the Illinois State Library have stepped in to help us resolve the issue. Their determination, based on conversations with SIUE and ICCB and a deep study of the Administrative Code is that this is not an academic library, but a special library.

To be considered an academic library, an agency must be recognized by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The Learning Resource Center is funded through a grant from the ICCB and the ICCB is not an entity recognized by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, nor is the Learning Center. Without that specific recognition by the ICCB, the Learning Resource Center cannot be considered an academic library, but rather fits into the special library category. They have been asked to submit a new membership application and they do qualify for system membership as a stand-alone library.

The Policy and Membership Committee reviewed this information at their April 10th meeting and are moving these applications for the IHLS Board for full approval.

With these changes included, the IHLS current membership count stands at:

Academic Libraries: 30	School Districts: 235
Public Libraries: 227	Special Libraries: 31

Membership Total: 523

And because these numbers are ever-changing, we anticipate an application from an additional special library at the May board meeting!

Submitted by Ellen Popit
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