



Membership Considerations

The annual certification process ended on Friday, March 31, 2023.

One special library has requested to withdraw from the system. That library is Memorial Hospital in Springfield. There is no longer any librarian, and the hospital only provides materials that are streamed to the staff. A phone discussion was held with hospital staff on March 28, 2023.

One school district, Shiloh Village School District #85 (St. Clair County), failed to certify after numerous and ongoing attempts to communicate with them via e-mail and phone. There will be a follow-up via certified mail informing the district administration that failure to certify will result in a recommendation for suspension to this committee and ultimately, the Illinois Heartland Library System Board of Directors. If there continues to be no response from the district, that will be the recommendation to this committee at a later meeting.

One school district, Illini Central CUSD #189 (Mason County), has entirely outsourced the school library program by contracting with the Mason City Public Library District. The two agencies have worked cooperatively for years. However, this year the school district has turned over the entire operation.

Several of our members find themselves in a type of limbo. They are libraries that currently do not meet the membership criteria outlined in the Illinois Administrative Code, but they are SHARE members who are discerning how their agencies are to move forward.

They are:

- Litchfield CUSD #12: They currently have no library staff. Leah Gregory and Cassandra Thompson are attempting to set up a meeting and determine their plan for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Asian Educational Media Services (University of Illinois): They have been closed since COVID. While their collection is unique, users are requesting items that can be streamed. A decision is anticipated to be made by the fall on the future of this agency. A site visit was done on Feb. 17, 2023.
- Giertz Education Center at Krannert (University of Illinois): This agency has also been closed since COVID. They are rethinking everything about how the center works and are very interested in offering curricular support for the items they share. If that is the case, it would be very beneficial to have that collection remain in SHARE. They just need some time to determine how to make that happen. A site visit was done on Feb. 17, 2023, with a follow-up phone discussion on March 20, 2023.

Leah Gregory, Ellen Popit, Pamela Thomas, and Cassandra Thompson have all been involved in discussions regarding these libraries and the SHARE libraries in particular. After a follow-up with Shiloh Village School District #85 and a meeting with representatives of the Litchfield School District, we will have a final recommendation of action to be taken by this committee and brought forward to the board as a whole.