



Department Updates

SHARE Update

The first round of Aspen implementations has gone live with a second group starting the process. Third-party services such as Biblio+ and Kanopy, as well as the Illinois Digital Archives, are now able to be sideloaded or otherwise integrated with Aspen. New libraries are beginning the SHARE implementation process. Staff from Bibliographic Services and the CMC have been active in creating a new cataloging mentorship program, called iCAMP. A partnership has been formed with Library IQ for a group purchase for IHLS members and an agreement has been reached to offer IHLS members a group discount for Magic Desktop. It is anticipated that work with MessageBee will begin in August. Finally, the Administrative Services Department has been working to enhance database security with a special focus on student accounts.

ADMIN Update

Accounting and Human Resources

Accounting staff have closed expenses, revenues, and journal entries for FY2024 in preparation for the audit. Quarterly grant reports have been completed and submitted to the Illinois State Library. Annual billing has been completed for IHLS, SHARE, and OCLC and documents have been prepared for the FY2024 audit. After being down a position, the Human Resources department onboarded a new employee on Aug. 5. Seven positions were open in July, so there has been much recruiting to be done. Consulting with members has steadily risen for the Human Resources department.

IT

A proposal was submitted to the Illinois Library Association's Public Policy committee to extend free high-speed internet to all Illinois Public libraries and has made it through the first round of evaluations. Our data analyst is making great progress on simplifying the annual report and IPLAR data for libraries in SHARE. The hope is to create a web dashboard of all the relevant data points to collect to enable member libraries to easily find the information for their annual reports. As API (Application Programming Interface) calls are being used for third-party vendor communication, IHLS has proactively been troubleshooting to ensure smooth operation and as of Aug. 7, issues appear to have been resolved.

Facilities and Operations

A special AMHS meeting was held with IHLS members to review the next steps for the AMHS project, and a meeting was held on-site with Lyngsoe staff in Edwardsville to discuss the AMHS design specifics and review the terms of the contract. Staff took advantage of a free Ameren Energy analysis to reduce usage at the Edwardsville location. A meeting was held with colleagues from RAILS and the Normal Public Library to prepare for a presentation for the Illinois Library Association.

Membership and Grants

The second year of the grant for the iLEAD Trustee Training Portal concluded with plans well underway for Year Three. Eighteen IHLS library directors participated in Directors U between July 30 and Aug. 1 with Kate Kite and other IHLS library directors serving on the committee and as mentors.

Administration

Work on the Strategic Plan development continued in July with three focus groups held; two that included public library representatives and one that included representatives from special and academic libraries. In addition, an orientation was held for new IHLS trustees at the Hillsboro Public Library.