



Illinois Heartland Library System

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## Report to the Policy and Membership Committee

April 10, 2019

Submitted by Ellen Popit, IHLS Staff

This report can cover the three items under New Business for the April Policy and Membership Committee Meeting

### Summary of 2019 Annual Certification Process:

As of March 29, 2019, all 521 of the IHLS libraries had completed the certification. The process was made easier this year by the presence of a second staff member, Anna Yackle, to work on the project. However, this annual occurrence always brings some last minute drama and angst, and this year was no different. Thanks to our colleagues at the State Library for working with us so closely on this project!

### Reclassification of the East St. Louis Learning Resource Center:

The East St. Louis Learning Resource Center has been the focus of much discussion this year. Originally a member of the Shawnee Library System, it was under the wing of the Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM) and was classified as an academic. It merged into IHLS with the same classification. At some point, SICCM stepped away and SIU-E came in to manage the Learning Resource Center. Budget issues hit the agency hard and it was closed for a period of months. There were myriad staff changes through recent years and it has finally seemed to settle down. What has risen to the surface is much confusion about what type of library it truly is. It is listed on [SIU-E's website](#), but is funded by the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). This winter, our colleagues at the Illinois State Library stepped in to help us resolve the issue. At the end of the day, the determination of the state library staff based on conversations with SIU-E and ICCB and deep study of the Administrative Code is that this is not an academic library, but a special library.

The Learning Resource Center is funded through a grant from the ICCB. The ICCB is not an entity recognized by the Illinois Board of High Education, nor is the learning center. In the administrative code, it states that an academic library must be recognized by IBHE, so that was the tipping point.

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To make this official and to create the proper records, we have asked the East St. Louis Learning Resource Center to reapply as a special library and that documentation will be submitted before the April 30<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. There is no question regarding their eligibility for membership. They are sufficiently staffed and are members of SHARE.

Application from the Vienna Correctional Center

This winter we received an inquiry from the Department of Corrections regarding potential membership for the Vienna Correctional Center. I did a site visit on February 20<sup>th</sup> and they do qualify for membership. An application has been submitted to IHLS.