



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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**Library Associations, Library Systems, and State Library Selected as 2024 Recipients
of the Illinois Library Association Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award
for Interlibrary Cooperation**

The Association for Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE), Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS), Illinois Library Association (ILA), Illinois State Library (ISL), and Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) are the recipients of the Illinois Library Association's 2024 Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award for Interlibrary Cooperation, which is awarded annually for sustained activity and contributions having a lasting impact on librarianship in regard to resource sharing and/or library cooperation. The award is supported by the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Fund and by the Valerie J. Wilford Memorial Fund established in recognition of contributions to multi-type cooperation and resource sharing.

The Illinois School Library Workers Symposium (ISLWS) was designed for individuals working in school libraries with no formal library education, certified or non-certified, paraprofessionals, and those considering getting a school library endorsement. This event took place on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, and was held entirely online via Zoom. More than 300 people registered and more than 250 people participated live.

On the day of the event, participants attended four keynote sessions and four education sessions (in one of three tracks). There were three small group breakout sessions and one large group session. PDH credits were available to those who requested them.

Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) issued more than 300 hours of credit. All presentations were recorded and are now available for free from the RAILS YouTube page. As part of the follow-up of the event, attendees were encouraged to sign up for a newly created email list. The email list is open to ISLWS for any participant, presenter, or organizer.

This event is not a one-off with the planning team currently planning the 2024 version, which is intended to be bigger and better. Improvements for 2024 include a new schedule of events, a focus on practical skills, and a new platform for engagement.

The Illinois Library Association Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award for Interlibrary Cooperation will be presented at an awards ceremony during the 2024 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference. The conference will take place October 8-10, 2024, in Peoria, Illinois.

For more information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

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About the Illinois Library Association

The Illinois Library Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization that represents Illinois libraries and the millions who depend on them. Founded in 1896, it is the third-largest state library association and serves as a chapter within the American Library Association. ILA is comprised of 2,000 personal and more than 500 institutional members, made up of public, academic, school, and special libraries, as well as librarians, library staff, trustees, students, and library vendors.