



## **IHLS Directors' Chat**

March 5, 2015

Chris Dawdy, SHARE Director: Good afternoon, and welcome to the Directors' Chat! What would you like to talk about today?

Ellen Popit/IHLS: We could talk about SPRING!

Kathy Goleman Divernon Township Library: So ready for Spring!

Chris Dawdy, SHARE Director: Oh, yeah!

Shawn- Elwood Township: HELLO

Chris Dawdy, SHARE Director: Does anyone have questions about SHARE, or LEAP, or Delivery, or anything?

Karen, Brighton Memorial Library Dist.: Many thanks to all of our couriers for slogging their way through this awful weather to get our materials back and forth!

Tamela Smith: LEAP....when are we going to have the URL?

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: I wanted to share with you our new text alert system that we have available to alert you to closings or delays on routes. And thank you for the driver compliment! I will relay that.

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: Great news! Over 150 libraries have already signed up for our Text Alert Service! To sign up for the service, you simply need to send a text to 84483 with one of the following keywords: Champaign (for the Champaign hub notifications), DuQuoin (for the Du Quoin hub notifications), Edwardsville (for the Edwardsville hub notifications). If we have a system wide notification, we will send it out to all of the hub locations. Alternatively, you may simply open your browser and go to [www.rainedout.net](http://www.rainedout.net). Once there, search for our organization (Illinois Heartland Library System) and then you are able to sign up. You may sign up for text alerts and/or email alerts.

Chris Dawdy, SHARE Director: Late Friday afternoon, SHARE staff--assisted by the O'Fallon Library circ staff--discovered that printing transit slips for holds was not working. While the screen would show the correct name for the next person to receive the item, the transit slip directed it to the person on the hold list AFTER that.

Brenda Gilpatrick: Love the text alert Susan!

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: Thanks! I am thrilled that it works.

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: We also have a Help Desk coming soon. We are still working out a couple of bugs with the system and thank you libraries that volunteered to test!

Chris Dawdy, SHARE Director: Polaris has developed a patch to fix that problem, and it was installed on our servers last night. We're waiting on word from O'Fallon, who was going to test it this morning, to make sure it is working correctly. If it is, Traci will start sending out the emails with the URL's and other directions.

Tamela Smith: YAY! I am very ready to have it up and running here. I have one older staff member who really struggles registering patrons in Polaris, I think LEAP will be much easier for her to use.

Brenda Gilpatrick: Wonder if the O'Fallon problem was the first time it happened. Have not heard of that before!

Chris Dawdy, SHARE Director: Brenda, it was on LEAP, not the staff side of Polaris.

Brenda Gilpatrick: That answers that question!

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: Watch for a delivery survey. We are asking for feedback on delivery so we can address needs that we may not be aware of. We love suggestions. Feel free to send them to your hub managers and/or myself.

Ellen Popit/IHLS: For anyone who might be interested---only two more days to apply to SPLMI!

Don Pippin, Philo: As a new director and new to the state of Illinois, besides our newsletter, are there some sites or newsletters that you check or receive that could be of help to a newbie?

Ellen Popit/IHLS: The state library's E-News and ILA's newsletter for starters.

Ellen Popit/IHLS: Also, the Administrative Ready Reference and the Trustee Fact File.

Christine Stewart: Please consider SPLMI--It is the most information anyone could give!

Don Pippin, Philo: I have sent in my application for SPLMI and now waiting patiently to hear back.

Don Pippin, Philo: Thanks for the suggestions.

Christine Stewart: That's good!

Ellen Popit/IHLS: Great!

Lacey - Barclay Public Library: I have a question not related to Polaris. Do you allow employees to accrue sick time? Do you put a cap on accrual of sick time? Do part-timers earn sick time?

Scott D-S: Our PT staff do not accrue sick time. FT staff are able to accrue sick time up to a certain cap, but that cap is VERY high.

Don Pippin, Philo: All of our regular staff is part time. But in reviewing contracts some accumulated and others didn't. It is one of the things we need to clear up re:contracts this year.

Ellen Popit/IHLS: Anyone else care to chime in on sick time?

Christine Stewart: Our part time does not get any sick leave, Caseyville

Bernadette: We allow full time staff to accrue up to 720 hours. PT do not get sick time

Susan Edwardsville: Both our PT and FT earn sick time, but at different rates I believe. I don't have the policy here with me. Our tech people set up my and my assistants computers so we can remote into the library from home. Very handy.

Ellen Popit/IHLS: Can't beat the ability to telecommute! I've been at my kitchen table through the day.

Susan Edwardsville: I agree!

Kathy Goleman Divernon Township Library: We get Personal Days which can be used for Vacation, sick time etc They have to be used by our anniversary date or we lose them. They are on a year to year basis and are based on how long we have been here.

Julie Jarman: does anyone know of a great conference like Splmi that doesn't require been away from the library for five days? I hear great things about SPLMI but I just can't afford being away with our part time staff and summer reading programs, etc..

Lacey - Barclay Public Library: Thank you. We've got to make some major changes, and I just wanted to know what other employers do. We don't accrue, but everyone get the same amount of time no matter how many hours are worked.

Julie Jarman: Staunton PTO works the same as Kathy at Divernon--

Lacey - Barclay Public Library: @Julie - there is no replacement from SPLMI. It is not a conference. It is a boot camp and in my opinion is absolutely necessary.

Ellen Popit/IHLS: Julie, I would agree! SPLMI is worth putting other responsibilities on hold for that single week.

Christine Stewart: I regret waiting so long to go, but it is simply amazing & no one would ever regret it. When you get back you will be able to help your staff & library more than ever.

Julie Jarman: Everyone talks about SPLMI -- they absolutely Love IT -- so far I have not been able to clear the schedule for it. I was hoping for an alternative. Thanks for the input.

Ellen Popit/IHLS: Other great learning opportunities would be On THE FRONTLINES and Reaching Forward South

Julie Jarman: I have been to On the Front Lines and really enjoy that conference.

Ellen Popit/IHLS: It is my understanding that it will be offered every other year.

Tamela Smith: I agree about On the Front Lines conference...very informative and extremely affordable

Lacey - Barclay Public Library: knowing how important SPLMI is, I would probably petition my board to close the library if that was the only way I could go, lol

Julie Jarman: It is definitely worth having that discussion about attending Splmi with my board and staff- I only wish we were not require to spend four nights up in Springfield, wish there was more flexibility, etc. I know,, not every situation is perfect. ha ha

Julie Jarman: so is Splmi going to be offered every other year now Ellen?

Ellen Popit/IHLS: I think the piece about SPLMI that is so critical is information shared with directors regarding financial, legal and management matters that are so crucial to public library directors.

Ellen Popit/IHLS: Julie, it is my understanding that SYNERGY and ON THE FRONTLINES will alternate years. I haven't heard anything like that about SPLMI.

Julie Jarman: Oh that does make sense, I am sure it must be very costly for the ISL to subsidize the cost every year.

Ellen Popit/IHLS: It's not only money, it's also staff power for them.

Anita@sherman public: We are officially closed for the day while flooring guys lay new tile. In addition to my regular duties, I am also in charge of delivery bin duty today. I want to give a shout out to the delivery drivers who made it through less than ideal conditions to get here and also to the libraries who took the time to make sure that DVD and audiobook cases were secured with rubberbands. I know it is a bit more but worth it to the lending library to get their material back intact. So THANKS

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: I will pass that on, Anita! I know the drivers really appreciate you as well. It makes their job a bit easier in winter weather when the walks are shoveled and access is clear to the building. We thank you all!

Lacey - Barclay Public Library: I hope you don't mind, but I'm going to take this opportunity to do a little commercial for the Think Outside The Barn Committee. We only need \$214 more to reach our goal for the upcoming, 2015 Farm Show. If any libraries have considered partnering with us, but haven't yet, we just need a little more! Let me know if you want more information. This is a great opportunity to advocate for libraries everywhere.

Christine Stewart: I was hoping the drivers could also bring snowblowers to help us out lol

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: Lol.

Julie Jarman: Lacey- could you send something over the exchange about this -- Think outside the barn for the upcoming Farm Show 2015. I would love to read more about this.

Lacey - Barclay Public Library: @Julie - Yes, I will send out on the director's email list, rather than exchange. I also plan to request it be included in IHLS news again.

Shawn- Elwood Township: I am just now catching up. I have a regular patron who comes every Wednesday. So in chat you sometimes see barcodes. I forget to change screen. Today I remembered :D Anyway, I just wanted to say I also put in my app for SPLMI. I am hoping I was approved. I look forward to meeting some of you there :D

Ellen Popit/IHLS: Great!

Ellen Popit/IHLS: Any fun news to share in all this crummy weather?

Lacey - Barclay Public Library: Here's a little video about what Think Outside The Barn does:  
<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=160055397463977&set=vb.132504790219038&type=2&theater>

Ellen Popit/IHLS: You've collected books for Think Outside the Barn before, will you be doing that again?

Lacey - Barclay Public Library: yes, information will be going out soon about what types of books we need, which is basically paperbacks in good condition for all ages. We do not want Harlequin-type romance, but take other mainstream romantic authors.

Lacey - Barclay Public Library: We have been in touch with IHLS in hopes they will help us collect and deliver the books to Richland Community College during the month of August. The 2015 show is September 1-3. We will also need volunteers to help setup the booth, run the booth and take down.

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: On our end here at IHLS, we are busy cleaning out a back print room in Champaign to help house all the book donations.

Lacey - Barclay Public Library: Yay! Thanks, Susan! I think Rachel at Forsyth will be in touch with you soon.

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: Then we are partnering with you to get the books to Richland Community College. This is a wonderful project that benefits all libraries with promoting the wonderful things that can be found and done at libraries.

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: Rachel is on my list to call today!

Julie Jarman: It sounds great! can not wait to see it at the show this year.

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: I have just one more thing. We were able to use the SHARE software (thank you Traci!) to gather the incoming counts for our quarterly count for ISL. Among SHARE members, you folks shared an amazing 78,373 during the week of February 2 - 6. And when added to the incoming numbers from the non-SHARE libraries, we have a total of 78,373! Fabulous!

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: oops.....my eyes skipped....

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: You folks shared an amazing 52,042 items.

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: and then we added the non-SHARE libraries incoming counts for a total of 78,373. Whew.

Lacey - Barclay Public Library: no wonder I'm always tired

Shawn- Elwood Township: Wow! Great numbers for 5 days

Ellen Popit/IHLS: Ha!

Susan Palmer, Operations Director: I think that those numbers say a lot about how the four systems came together to create such an awesome resource sharing group.

Chris Dawdy, SHARE Director: On that happy note, I'll bid you all adios, since our hour is over....unless anyone has anything else they's like to say!

Julie Jarman: Thanks everyone for sharing!

Shawn- Elwood Township: Thank you, see ya next chat

Ellen Popit/IHLS: Stay warm! Daylight Saving Time is coming and spring isn't too far off!