



Illinois Heartland Library System

Membership Considerations

April 2022

The certification work is completed for IHLS libraries. Our final library certified on Friday, April 1. The results of the certification and recent developments are as follows:

Academic Libraries:

All 30 of our Academic libraries successfully certified. However, the [announcement of the closing of Lincoln College was made on March 31](#). Going into FY2023, it appears that IHLS will lose one academic library.

Public Libraries

With one exception, all IHLS public libraries had successfully completed the certification process.

That one exception was the Cutler Public Library in Perry County. This is a very small library under the direction of a solo librarian, open only the minimum (15) number of hours per week. System staff learned last week that the director is facing serious health concerns and that the board is determining how to move forward. IHLS will work through the process with them, and as of now certification is not the priority.

School Libraries:

All school districts successfully completed certification. One school did admit to a staffing issue due to a January retirement, but that is expected to be resolved for the 2022-2023 school year. In addition, we have asked to consider an application from the [Grand Prairie School District](#) in Jefferson County. We have also been asked to explore the membership of a [Cooperative High School](#) as an offshoot of the Bismarck Henning School District. Site visits will be scheduled at both of those agencies.

Once certification is completed statewide, follow-up on the data collection on staffing, budgets, and collection sizes will begin.

Special Libraries:

Two libraries have requested to withdraw from system membership. They are:

Hansen Professional Services Incorporated (Springfield): Discussions were held during FY2021 about the transition of this library's function, and they pulled out of SHARE. It was determined that FY2022 would be the year to determine how this library will move forward and the director has determined that they no longer qualify for system membership.

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U.S. Army ERDC Library (Champaign): During the certification process, this library also requested to be withdrawn from system membership. Through phone conversations and an e-mail to our Champaign delivery staff, we learned that new security measures and personnel protocols made delivery and interlibrary loan too difficult. The volume for this library was only sporadic.

A third special library is in transition:

Memorial Medical Center (Springfield): This library is dealing with staffing changes that are expected to resolve in the short term.