



Membership Considerations

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After the certification process ended on May 15, 2021, no Illinois Heartland Library System member libraries are recommended for suspension.

However, three special libraries have requested that they be withdrawn from System Membership. Those libraries are:

- SSM/Good Samaritan Hospital (Mt. Vernon)
- St. Mary's Hospital (Springfield)
- VA Illinois Healthcare System Library (Danville)

Library programs in all the above agencies have dissolved. Good Samaritan and St. Mary's notified us early in the fiscal year, and we learned of the VA hospital's situation during the process of certification.

All three agencies went through the formal process of requesting withdrawal as part of the annual certification.

We had two libraries that were flagged as "Pending Review" during certification. They were:

- Giant City CCSD #130 (Carbondale)
- Hanson Professional Services (Springfield)

The Giant City School District's library was closed this year due to COVID-related issues and staffing shortages; they are anticipated to be functioning more normally in the 2021-2022 school year. Hanson's library program is in transition. They are pulling out of SHARE, and how they will participate within the system is unclear at this time. Because it is anticipated that the Giant City School District will have a library program through the next academic year and because Hanson Professional Services is in transition at this time, it is the IHLS staff recommendation that their membership status not change.

With the withdrawal of three special libraries, our membership numbers moving into the upcoming fiscal year are as follows:

<i>Academic Libraries:</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>School Libraries:</i>	<i>235</i>
<i>Public Libraries:</i>	<i>227</i>	<i>Special Libraries:</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Total Libraries: 521</i>			

As things continue to open in Illinois, we will revisit the correctional center libraries that expressed interest in system membership pre-COVID. There have also been inquiries from the board at the library in Olmsted, Illinois, (Pulaski County) regarding reinstating system membership.

Submitted by Ellen Popit, IHLS Associate Director