



Illinois Library Association

ILA Forum and Committee Reports

This form is to be completed by committee chairs/forum managers in collaboration with board liaisons. The ILA Executive Board will have meetings on the following dates in 2021-22: 9/23/21, 11/18/21, 1/13/22 (mid-year “mini meeting;” no report necessary unless you are requesting board action), 3/17/22, 5/19/22. Reports should be submitted two weeks before each board meeting to the board liaison and the ILA office, 33 W. Grand Ave., Ste. 401, Chicago, IL 60654-6799; fax: 312-644-1899; email: ila@ila.org.

Forum or Committee: **Public Policy Committee**

Report completed by: Sam Adams-Lanham

Date: Nov 4, 2021

Activities underway or completed since the last report:

- Received direction from Executive Board to pursue two significant legislative proposals
 - Broadband—focus on ensuring every public library in Illinois can access high-speed broadband through the Illinois Century Network, at no cost to the library; similar to service currently available for K-12 schools
 - E-book—seek to ensure that libraries are offered reasonable terms on the purchase of digital materials for circulation; similar legislation has passed in Maryland, and is being pursued in New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.
 - Formed subcommittees within PPC to work on these proposals; their first charge is to create draft legislation by the end of November that our legislative consultant can use in discussion with legislators.
 - Troy Brown of Illinois Heartland Library System proposed and is managing the Broadband team, and will also interface with necessary stakeholders, e.g., Illinois Century Network, Illinois Office of Broadband, as well as ILA Executive Director, PPC Chair, and Board President.
 - Ryan Livergood, PPC member, proposed and is managing the E-book team, anticipating similar outreach to potential supporters and other interested parties.
- Heard from PPC members about two issues of interest
 - Voting member Monica Dombrowski related a discussion amongst library directors about the rising cost of placing state-mandated newspaper notices and the decreasing reach of the same. Several committee members confirmed that this was their experience as well, with costs more than doubling in some cases, and local newspapers closing or going to an online-only format. We agreed to

share practical tips to reduce costs and to approach the Best Practices Committee for other suggestions. **This issue is one to keep an eye on.** If other units of government seek legislative relief from these mandates, we want to be certain that libraries are included; failing that, it may be a topic for a legislative proposal in subsequent years.

- Ex-officio member & RAILS director Deirdre Brennan shared the [RAILS Board Statement on Universal Service](#), for our information.

Projected activities during the upcoming months:

- Broadband and E-book proposal teams will meet to prepare draft legislation; they expect to pass this along to our consultant by the end of November.
- Once draft legislation is complete, the subcommittees will begin working on researching material (statistics and stories) in support of an advocacy plan.
- Monitor proposed bills in legislature for those that may impact libraries or our area of practice.

Questions or concerns that need to be addressed by the ILA Board:

- Nothing specific at this time.