Yours for the Taking: Freely Available Statewide Services

Reaching Forward South Friday, April 8, 2022
Introductions

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Presentation Goals

- Learn about freely available statewide services provided to Illinois libraries by RAILS
- Learn how these services can complement your existing services and collections
- Learn who to contact at RAILS for information and support
What is inkie.org?

Inkie.org is a suite of resources that

- Supports Illinois authors with online book creation and publishing tools
  - Pressbooks
- Provides Illinois authors with an avenues to share their work
  - Indie Author Project
- Allows readers to access locally-produced content
  - The Inkie.org Library

Available at no cost to anyone in Illinois
Via the local library!
Online Book Creation and Publishing Tools

Pressbooks

● Online software that allows writers to create e-book files
● Create an e-book in 5 steps
  ○ Register for a Pressbooks account
  ○ Add your book information
  ○ Add and organize your text
  ○ Select a design theme
  ○ Export your e-book!
● Access Pressbooks training resources and more via inkie.org
Avenues to Share Work

Indie Author Project

- Indie Author Project Select
  - Submission portal available via inkie.org
- Indie Illinois
  - Via the Inkie.org Library and available to everyone in Illinois
- Soon to Be Famous Illinois Author Project contests
  - Novel contests
  - De la Página a la Fama
  - Manuscript contest
Access Locally Produced Content

Inkie.org Library

- Indie Illinois
- RAILS Community Collections
- Available to everyone in Illinois
  - No login or library card required
Website Tour

Inkie.ORG
To recap, inkie.org is a suite of resources that enables users to:

- Create e-books
- Share e-books with readers
- Discover local authors, e-books, and creators

Available at no cost to anyone in Illinois
Via your the library!
Ways to get inkie.org into the library:

- Add this link to your website → https://www.inkie.org/
- Outreach to local writers groups
- Host an **Intro to Inkie.org** program for staff and/or patrons
- Host local authors, tie into NaNoWriMo, promote on social media, etc.
  - Visit https://www.inkie.org/libraries
What is Explore More Illinois?

Explore More Illinois is an online cultural and recreational pass for Illinois libraries.

- 320 RAILS and IHLS libraries currently participate in Explore More Illinois
- Users can make reservations 24/7 from any online device
- Attractions include museums, botanical gardens, performing arts centers, park districts, and minor league baseball teams
- Offers include free and discounted admission, discounts on gift store purchases, parking, and annual memberships
- RAILS pays the annual licensing fee for the software
Explore More Illinois
Libraries and Cultural Attractions
Working Together
Explore More Illinois Attractions

The most popular attractions in 2021 were the following locations:

- Peoria Riverfront Museum
- Chicago Children’s Museum
- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (Springfield)
- Anderson Japanese Gardens (Rockford)
- Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art (Oak Brook)
Explore More Illinois Contest

- Submit an attraction between now and May 31, 2022. If the attraction joins Explore More Illinois, your library receives a raffle entry to win lunch for your staff.
- Entry form and complete rules can be found on the Explore More Illinois website under the “For Libraries” tab
- Contest sponsored by The Quipu Group
Explore More Illinois Community College Pilot Program

- RAILS, CARLI, and Illinois Central College are working together on testing Explore More Illinois to community colleges
- Community colleges will also add attractions to Explore More Illinois
- Help expand the program to areas not served by public libraries
Explore More Illinois at Your Library

- Promote Explore More Illinois in your library marketing
  - Website has marketing materials
- Book displays
- Bookmarks in travel section
- Mentions in programming
- Reminder that the library is more than the four walls of the building
- Share information with community partners
Even More RAILS Statewide Services

● My Library Is ...
  ○ Blog
  ○ Talking Points
  ○ Sharing Showcase

● Find More Illinois
  ○ No one-time costs if you sign up by March 2023
  ○ No annual fees until July 2023
  ○ More information at Find More Illinois website

● Career Online High School
  ○ COHS information
Questions?

inkie.org