



Cooperative Undertakings

Purpose

The Nippersink Public Library District (“Library”) recognizes that cooperation among libraries enhances access to resources and improves the quality of services available to the public. In alignment with Illinois law and membership agreements, the Library actively participates in cooperative programs, partnerships, and shared services to strengthen Library offerings and ensure equitable access for all residents.

Policy Statement

The Library is an active member of the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) and adheres to the principles of resource sharing, collaboration, and mutual support among Illinois libraries. The Library also participates in the Illinois Intersystem Reciprocal Borrowing Covenant (IIRBC), which allows Illinois residents to access materials and services at participating libraries statewide.

All cooperative undertakings and partnerships will be conducted in accordance with applicable laws, Library Board policies, and formal system membership agreements. When appropriate, written contracts and legal safeguards will be required to protect the Library’s interests and ensure accountability. Cooperative activities will be subject to periodic review to assess their value and continued relevance.

Guidelines for Cooperative Services

1. Library System Participation

- The Library shall maintain active membership in RAILS in accordance with 75 ILCS 10/7 of the Illinois Library System Act.
 - As a RAILS member, the Library supports and participates in:
 - Delivery services for interlibrary loans,
 - Continuing education and training opportunities,
 - Shared catalog and automation systems (e.g., PrairieCat),
 - Group purchasing and resource-sharing programs, and
 - Cooperative initiatives that enhance access to information and technology.

2. Reciprocal Borrowing

- Borrowing privileges are extended to any person holding a valid library card from
- another Illinois library that participates in RAILS or the Illinois Intersystem Reciprocal Borrowing Covenant (IIRBC).
- Illinois residents with a primary residence in the state may borrow materials from the Nippersink Public Library through reciprocal borrowing privileges.
- Reciprocal borrowers must comply with all Nippersink Public Library circulation
- policies, including loan periods, fines, fees, and material limits.



- Materials will not be loaned directly to individuals residing outside Illinois. Out-of state residents must initiate requests through their home library's interlibrary loan system.

3. Cooperative Agreements and Partnerships

- The Library may enter into cooperative agreements with local schools, government agencies, consortia, or other libraries to provide shared services or programs that benefit the community.
- Each cooperative agreement must include clearly defined terms regarding responsibilities, funding, and duration.
- Agreements shall be reviewed periodically by the Library Director and Board of Trustees to ensure continued benefit and compliance with applicable regulations