ALL ABOUT CARLI
Supporting Illinois’ Academic Libraries for more than 40 Years

CARLI is a membership organization for libraries, providing services at scale to Illinois academic and research libraries since 1980.

What is CARLI’s value to libraries and to Illinois higher education?
CARLI frees dollars within each member organization—including each University of Illinois campus—to do mission-critical work. The University of Illinois System supports CARLI and reaffirms the central role that education and higher education can play in promoting the public good for the entire State of Illinois and beyond.

CARLI is unique in the United States, empowering academic research in the state of Illinois and fueling innovation. CARLI gives Illinois students and our state a competitive advantage.

What do CARLI members receive?
- No-cost subscriptions to academic research databases
- Eligible to participate in I-Share, the online catalog
- E-resources price negotiation and contract brokering
- No-cost 24-hour delivery of library materials
- No-cost training for library staff

CARLI serves students from diverse backgrounds, including underrepresented groups and first-generation college students.

CARLI serves 90% of Illinois’ higher education students and faculty.

Who are CARLI members?
- ALL Illinois’ public universities
- ALL Illinois’ community colleges
- 67 of Illinois’ 91 private colleges and universities
- 8 special research libraries like the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, the Illinois State Library, and the Newberry Library

CARLI’s 127 Member Libraries

- 13 Public Universities
- 39 Community Colleges
- 67 Private Colleges and Universities
- 8 Special Research Libraries
CARLI serves as a coordinator for important initiatives like creating open educational resources, assessment of library impact, submitting grant requests, and providing training and education for members.

CARLI helps make Illinois academic and research libraries world-class by providing to students/faculty:
- E-resources (articles, maps, images, books) from all disciplines
- Print materials from all over the world
- Trained staff ready to focus on research needs

What are CARLI’s FY22 revenue sources?
- University of Illinois System Office: $3.5 million
- CARLI Membership Fees and assessments for optional services: $2.3 million
- Pass-through revenue:
  - Subscriptions to databases: $14 million
  - Delivery grant from the Secretary of State/Illinois State Library: $902,420

What do members say about CARLI?
- CARLI links the profession and is depended on to enrich professional lives.
- CARLI helps libraries level the playing field.
- The value of colleagues working together—community colleges, private institutions, public institutions, small and large—is that the collaboration makes so many projects possible and gives members a springboard to shape important library services.
- The relatively modest investment the State of Illinois and members make impacts millions statewide.
- CARLI has tremendous potential to coordinate strategic best practices.
- Members need a healthy CARLI to stay vibrant locally; CARLI’s success is inseparable from member libraries’ success.

I-Share, the Library Services Platform
The I-Share library services platform serves as the online public catalog for 89 CARLI member libraries, including the three University of Illinois libraries.

I-Share is more than a catalog; it enables discovery and sharing of materials among participating libraries. Especially with recent campus reductions to members’ budgets, that sharing is essential to meet student and faculty research needs.

I-Share is named as CARLI’s most valued service by members
- Resource sharing benefits impact all Illinois residents
- The power of the shared catalog
  - 38 million items, a shared collection that ranks among the world's largest research libraries
  - Collections throughout the state delivered in 24 hours
- I-Share libraries could not operate a separate system for a comparable cost
  - Staff, software, administration, staff education
- I-Share familiarity
  - Transferring students move to new Illinois schools with an advantage

Without I-Share
- Students and faculty would be immediately and adversely impacted…
  - Campuses would be forced to buy or borrow needed materials at additional expense.
  - Fulfillment of research needs would take noticeably longer.