

SERVING OUR PUBLIC 4.0

# STANDARDS FOR ILLINOIS PUBLIC LIBRARIES

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION 2020

*Serving Our Public 4.0*

*Standards for Illinois Public Libraries*

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# Introduction

*Serving Our Public 4.0: Standards for Illinois Public Libraries* has been completely revised by a group of library professionals convened in 2017 by the ILA Executive Board. Months of task force work, input from public hearings, and feedback resulted in a newly designed document that is current to the changing needs of libraries and users.

To complete the revision, task force members reached out to subject matter experts for review of specific chapters. Core standards and checklists were reviewed, revised, and amended to be in line with the *Serving Our Public 4.0* standards. Draft standards were shared via survey to various on-line public library director electronic discussion lists in both the Reaching Across Illinois Library System and the Illinois Heartland Library System, and this feedback was incorporated. A hearing of the proposed standards took place at the 2018 ILA Annual Conference in Peoria, and finally, the draft was shared with the Illinois State Library for review and input. The revised standards were approved by the ILA Executive Board in June 2019.

*Serving Our Public 4.0* contains 13 chapters, including new ones for Youth and Young Adult Services, Building Infrastructure and Maintenance, and Illinois Public Library Resource Sharing Responsibility; and three new appendices.

*Serving Our Public 4.0* is not meant to be a one-size-fits-all document. Task force members struggled to find a balance between those libraries serving hundreds of people to those serving thousands and all of the library communities in between. Input from the Illinois library community and stakeholders served as the driving force that shaped this document.

# Acknowledgements

## Members of the Task Force

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# How to Use *Serving Our Public 4.0*

## Overview

Statewide public library standards are designed to serve as a catalyst from which local planning can take place. The *Serving Our Public 4.0* standards are seen as a guide for librarians, library staff, and boards of trustees' discussions during budget preparation and strategic planning. The regular review of the standards helps the library evaluate its progress over several years toward becoming an ideal library for its community. As the library staff and trustees discuss the Core Standards and individual chapters, the library's strengths and weaknesses are revealed, allowing celebration of the strengths and plans to build on them; and plans to eliminate or improve the weaknesses.

### **There are multiple ways to use *Serving Our Public 4.0***

1. During board meetings, in-depth discussions of individual chapters provide a review, reflection, and refinement of the library's service philosophy and strategically guide library planning.
2. Each month, as part of the librarian's report, the administrator reviews a chapter checklist, sharing the library's progress, as well as recommendations for changes, with discussion and input from the board.
3. A board committee is appointed to compare the library's advancement toward achieving the standards, and a report is shared with the full board on a regular basis. As needed, the committee, with input and insight from the library administrator, proposes changes to the library's goals.
4. Library staff meetings focus on the chapter standards, allowing incorporation of *Serving Our Public* into the staff's understanding of the library's service philosophy.

## Core Standards

The Core Standards are considered essential to the foundation of quality library service to Illinois residents. The Core Standards are grouped together in Chapter 1 and applicable Core Standards are repeated with each chapter. The Core Standards can be discussed as a unit or in conjunction with the chapter standards.

## Chapter Standards

Chapter specific standards provide a detailed blueprint for developing, improving, or enhancing areas of library activity. While the Core Standards provide the foundation, the chapter standards provide a superstructure for the library's advancement.

## Checklists

Many librarians and trustees are interested in a way to formally compare progress from year to year. A board committee, the library director, and/or the staff can complete the checklist. When a checklist is completed, it should be dated and signed. Adding related comments and notes to personalize the checklist is encouraged.