



ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Because Libraries Matter

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Press Release

The Rock River Consortia, consisting of the Dixon Public Library, Milledgeville Public Library, Rock Falls Public Library District, and Sterling Public Library, is the recipient of the Illinois Library Association’s 2020 Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award, which is awarded annually for sustained activity and contributions having a lasting impact on librarianship. The award is supported by the Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Fund and by the Valerie J. Wilford Memorial Fund established in recognition of her enormous contributions to multi-type cooperation and resource sharing.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Illinois and libraries began closing their doors, the Rock River Consortia worked to get materials transferred back to their home libraries, as well as transiting items between their four libraries. In May, they transferred approximately 570 items between their libraries, with library staff meeting in a central location to exchange bins. All items were quarantined for a 7-day period prior to transit. The libraries began curbside pick-up in May for their patrons.

These libraries found ways to return items to home libraries, continue resource sharing between partner libraries, and maintain the safety of items through appropriate quarantine procedures.

In the nomination letter, Thomas Novinski, Board President of Shorewood-Troy Public Library, wrote, “The four libraries and their staff serve as models to other libraries about how ingenuity and cooperation between libraries can continue even in unthinkable times.”

The Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award will be presented at a ceremony that will be held in conjunction with the 2020 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference, which will take place virtually in October.

For further information, contact the Illinois Library Association.

For Immediate Release