



Illinois Heartland Library System

Automated Materials Handling System (AMHS)

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Illinois Heartland Library System*

Members Matter – November 16, 2023

Imagining Tomorrow – Delivering Possibilities Today!

What we'll cover

1. What is an AMH/AMHS?
2. Why are we considering one?
3. How can we tell if it's worth it?
 - How much will it cost IHLS?
 - How much will it cost libraries?
 - How will IHLS pay for it?
 - How long will it take to see a ROI?
4. Where we are in the process?
5. What do we need from Members?

A tool, or system of tools, that removes the need for manual interaction to check in, check out, move, catalog, or sort materials

What is an AMHS?



[St. Louis County Library AMH Tour - YouTube](#)

Why are we considering one?



Potential Benefits for Libraries



Long-term cost savings for SHARE member libraries.



Faster delivery turnaround time after weekends and holidays.



More accurate sorting.



Pandemic-resistant sorting.



More accurate data tracking and statistics.



Potential for sorting holds and returns for SHARE member libraries.

Potential Benefits to IHLS



Reduced long-term operating costs



Faster delivery turnaround time after weekends and holidays.



Increased efficiency through increased speed.



Reduced likelihood of chronic injury

But is it worth it?

- How much will it cost IHLS?
- How much will it cost member libraries?
- How long will it take to see an ROI?

How much will it cost IHLS?

RFP

Request for Proposal

- The RFP will allow us to determine exact costs of an AMHS for all three locations.

How much will it cost member libraries?

Fees?

- IHLS Members do not pay fees.
(SHARE is fee-based, IHLS is not.)

No portion will be passed along to libraries by IHLS or SHARE.

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Other costs?

- Only ***possible*** costs: **re-barcoding some items**
 - ▶ ***If (and only if)*** libraries
 - Are SHARE members
 - ***and*** have item barcodes on the inside
 - ***and*** don't have an RFID tag
 - ***and*** those items are circulated outside of your library

How will IHLS pay for it?

Potential funding sources

- General Fund Reserve Balance
- Grants

How long will it take to see a return on investment?

ROI

Will be calculated by IHLS Finance and Operations staff after RFP

- Current estimate is ~7 years
- Machines typically last 10-15 years

Return on Investment

Where are we in the process?

Stage 1

- Staff Research
- Request for Information

Stage 2

- Bring in members
- More research on member needs, machine capabilities
- Decision re: issuing an RFP

Stage 3

- RFP (writing, issuing, collecting responses, analysis)
- Decision re: purchasing a machine

Where are we in the process?

Stage 3

- RFP (writing, issuing, collecting responses, analysis)
- Decision re: purchasing a machine

| | |
|--------------|--|
| October 2023 | Work with consultant to write RFP |
| January 2024 | RFP posted |
| January 2024 | Additional re-barcoding analysis conducted |
| April 2024 | RFP results reviewed IHLS Return on Investment (ROI) analysis completed |
| May 2024 | IHLS Board decision of AMHS plans |

What do we need from Members?



Savings calculator volunteers

Re-barcoding plans

Barcode placement
communications

Container level check-in
determination

What do we need from Members?



If you....

- Are interested in helping
- Have questions
- Have concerns

Please reach out to us!

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www.illinoisheartland.org/delivery

Delivery

- **AMH Project**
- Guidelines
- Help Desk
- Hubs & Routes
- News
- Resources





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Thank you!

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*A strong and vibrant
interlibrary loan system
is like the
interstate highway system
of ideas.*

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