

Rapid Rocks!

Profile: WCM
Williams College

Member Profile
WCM

- > Williams College joined Rapid in 2007
- > WCM is an active participant Rapid's Boston Library Consortium Pod, the Oberlin pod and the Cosmo pod.

A Practitioner's Perspective on RapidR

Dear Current and Future Rapid Users:

I write as someone who has been an ILL practitioner since 1987. Since that time I have personally witnessed and been a part of many changes in Resource Sharing. Having seen the evolution in technology over the past three decades, I can attest that Rapid has produced some of the most ingenious and forward thinking innovations ever experienced in Resource Sharing.

From sharing journal articles and book chapters, to the latest addition of borrowing and lending books with RapidR, Rapid is in the forefront, providing the systems and the vision that enables libraries to exchange library material more effectively.

Five Boston Library Consortium [BLC] libraries: UMass Amherst, University of Connecticut, Northeastern, University of New Hampshire, and Williams College, began a pilot project with Rapid to share books, RapidR. Beginning in late 2013, our libraries used ILLiad, and the mail delivery systems already in place to allow for the exchange of books.

Based on our work with Rapid, particularly during the testing of RapidR, we found:

- Rapid staff are attentive and do their best to understand the needs of our libraries and their users
- Rapid staff are real people: Tom, Mike and Jane, to name a few
- Rapid staff understand ILL, so what they do makes sense
- Rapid products are fairly priced, with reasonable cost increases
- Rapid turnaround is fast and the fill rate hovers at around 90%
- RapidR is AWESOME!
- RapidR, and all things Rapid go through ILLiad, another great resource sharing tool
- RapidR supports unmediated borrowing by sending book requests to Rapid pods without direct staff intervention

RapidR supports real time availability call number lookup, not only for Rapid requests, but for ALL incoming OCLC requests with Rapid Holdings Lookup, so far less staff time is used than with manual Z39.50 searches in ILLiad.

How cool is that?



<http://RapidILL.org>

Contact Rapid Staff

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I could go on and on about the virtues of RapidR and Rapid staff, but a leap of faith is really what is needed here.

I suggest you leave the comfortable and join RapidR for the future of what resource sharing should be:

- Unmediated
- Innovative
- Timely

Feel part of the process and be engaged with Rapid staff as they lead the way to more future innovations in resource sharing.

By the way, the BLC pilot is no longer a pilot, but the real deal, so that must mean that we are satisfied with the product, and we are. Help us move on, cross-podinate, and share with RapidR.

Sincerely,

Alison Roe O'Grady
Interlibrary Loan Supervisor
Williams College Libraries

Stay in touch with RapidILL

Rapid provides many options for you to stay up-to-date with our latest enhancements and announcements.

We have 13 separate listservs: one main list (Rapid-I) which includes the ARL, Academic E, Academic I, Academic M and Cosmo pods' members . There are separate lists for each consortium or private pod. Please let us know if you'd like subscription instructions.

We also have a Facebook page and hope you will follow us there.

You can email the Rapid team any time at:

Rapidstaff@RapidILL.org



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